

## The Oath of God

(As you read the verses notice the 'I wills')

We have taken note that all covenants in Bible times were sealed with an oath taken by both parties before God. When God makes an oath He swears by Himself for there is none greater to swear by.

### **Read Hebrews 6:13-14**

All of the announcements of the new covenant through the prophets came with the same solemn, unilateral commitment by God to do what He promised. All promises depended solely upon God.

## It All Hangs on God

### **Read John 3:19**

We see here that man had nothing to offer. If humankind was to be saved and become friends with God then He had to do it with no help from humanity. This He swore by Himself to do.

### **Read Genesis 3:15, Genesis 22:17-18, Jeremiah 31:33-34, Ezekiel 36:25-27, Daniel 9:24**

These are the things God has guaranteed:

- Remove our guilt and shame, freeing us from the authority of sin and death
- Give us the motive, desire, and enabling power to live in love for God and our neighbors
- Cause us to belong to Him, bringing us into the covenant family of God
- Free us from bondage to Satan and all the power of darkness
- Grant us the knowledge that God is with us, blessing us and all we do
- Bring us into union with Himself, placing His Spirit within us

## The Faithfulness of God

The root Hebrew word for 'faithfulness' is aman, which means 'to be certain, enduring, to trust or believe.'

From this root we have three words:

- Amen - so it is
- Emet - truth or true
- Emunah - faithfulness

**Read 2 Timothy 2:13, Malachi 3:6, James 1:17, Psalm 18:2, Isaiah 55:11,  
1 Kings 8:56, John 14:6**

## The Nature of Faith

The world's idea of faith and God's idea of faith are two different things. What faith is not:

- Faith is not an energy that resides within the believer. It is not a power that, when built up and focused, the believer has the ability to use to make things happen, even to the point of forcing God's hand.
- Faith is not a work, a struggle to arrive at a state of mind where the hoped-for blessing can be seen or felt as being possessed.
- Faith is not a magic spell. We cannot manipulate God by repeating His Words over and over again.

Faith is not directed at the words of a promise but rests in the One who made the promise. It is not found within us but in beholding and responding to His faithfulness to His covenant oath. We trust in His character that what He has spoken, He will do.

Faith is likened to the eye of the spirit. The physical eye is not aware of itself unless something is wrong. The eye functions by seeing and recording an object. If it becomes self-conscious and is ever looking at itself to see how good an eye it is, then it ceases to function as an eye. Likewise, faith cannot morbidly check on itself to gauge its strength, but is continually looking at its object, God revealed in the Lord Jesus.

**Read Hebrews 12:2, Romans 10:17, Genesis 15:6, Hebrews 11:11**

The Christian life is not approached with gritted teeth summoning willpower and determination to obey God. Nor is the Christian life a shared effort between God and the believer. God does not lend a hand to help our efforts to achieve the impossible. We are utterly helpless, and the life described in the covenant is brought to pass by God alone on the basis of His oath.

It is in the oath of God that we discover the uniqueness of the Gospel. The key words of the Gospel are not "struggle", "try", and "try harder" but "surrender to", "yield to", "rest in", and "believer on the Lord Jesus". We must come to the end of our struggles and stake our hope on who He is.

## Living in Reliance Upon His Oath

We never graduate from a state of helpless dependence upon Him. We will never be able to achieve the promises of the covenant in our own strength or willpower. We invoke the God who has made covenant, swearing by Himself, to achieve all of this in

our lives. We thank Him for His mercy in giving us the covenant but now call upon His faithfulness to keep it.

**Read 1 John 1:9**

We do not attempt to cleanse ourselves but lay before Him the case of our sins and weaknesses and call on Him to do what we never can achieve by our promises.

**Read Philippians 1:6, 1 Corinthians 1:9, Hebrews 10:23, 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**

It is He who must write the law upon our minds and hearts, place His Spirit within us, and cause us to walk in His ways. We lay our weakness and the pull of the flesh before Him and say plainly, "This is Your work to draw me into Your ways." The entire Christian life is lived out on the sure foundation of His faithfulness to His covenant word that He will do in us what He set out to do.