

"COVENANT TERMS FOR TRIUMPHANT  
LIVING" JEREMIAH 11:1-5

C0051

For the reading of the Word this morning, we turn to

MATTHEW 7:7-11

ASK AND IT WILL BE GIVEN TO YOU. SEEK AND YOU WILL FIND. KNOCK AND THE DOOR WILL BE OPENED TO YOU. FOR EVERYONE WHO ASK, RECEIVES AND HE WHO SEEKS FINDS AND TO HIM WHO KNOCKS, THE DOOR WILL OPENED. WHICH OF YOU OF HIS SON ASK FOR BREAD, WILL HE GIVE HIM A STONE. OR IF HE ASK FOR A FISH, WILL HE GIVE HIM A SNAKE? IF YOU THEN, THOUGH YOU ARE EVIL, KNOW HOW TO GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO YOUR CHILDREN, HOW MUCH MORE WILL YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN GIVE GOOD GIFTS TO THOSE WHO ASK HIM? (Lord Make Me An Instrument)

I'd just like you, in your own hearts, with your heads bowed and your eyes closed as we sing I will shout Hallelujah, just to think over an answered prayer. Think over a victory. There's so many things in the world to bow us down these days and to hinder us and to cause us to have a lot of perplexity. These aren't easy days. These are uncertain times. And so often, we get caught in the flow of the uncertainty. But when we come together in a worship, let's just think of the good things for a moment or two. Let's think of the accomplishments and the achievements. Let's think of the miracles and the goodness and the grace and the glory

God's given us, particularly compared to most of the world today. I will shout hallelujah, I will shout hallelujah. Sing it with a note of victory, I will shout hallelujah. (music)

Father, we just take time now to praise you because you do set us free. We think over in our own minds and we visualize the many blessings that you have given us. We thank you for the miracles. We thank you for the ministries. We thank you for the missions. We thank you for the maintenance and the sustenance, even in the midst of the storm. We thank you because even though often we are handicapped, we're never in despair. Often we may be puzzled, we never are frustrated. We thank you because even though sometimes we go through persecution, we never stand it alone. And we thank you because even though we may be knocked down, we're never knocked out. The reason that we are able to really stand is because you renew us with fresh strength daily. And in your Spirit, we have the answer to every need. Lord, right now, we just reaffirm and we reconfirm, we reestablish that you are the same yesterday, today and forever. Circumstances change, situations change, times change, economic levels change, society change, governments change, politics change, but you never change. Hallelujah. And we stand firm on that knowledge that if you be for us, who can be against us? And we just receive by faith now, new strength to meet every crisis of our personal lives and we come against all doubt, all fear, all worry, all stress, all strain, all disillusionment, disappointment and depression. We command Satan to be gone and we claim the victory that is ours through your Son

Jesus Christ. And in Him, we live and move and have our being. And we do that now in Jesus name, amen, amen and amen. Well praise the Lord in this place, would you? (applause) Just praise the Lord, hallelujah. Magnify His name. Glory be to God. Hallelujah. Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Now would you just turn around and shake hands with somebody and say, this is a great gloomy day, (laughter) and your a great gloomy day. Let's go back to F. Then you may be seated. Amen. (music)

I have a feeling that that song touched someone's heart this morning. (message in tongues) (intrepetation) Be strong my little children. Know that I am the Lord your God. That I will never leave you nor forsake you but would walk with you through the valley of the shadow of decision. And I will show you the way and open the door. Indeed not trust in the arm of flesh nor the arm of your own wisdom or understanding. But trust in the arm of my righteousness and power and holiness. And I, the Lord, will defeat your enemies and will open the way and you shall walk as on a highway, with grace and goodness and my glory. And you need not be afraid by that which you see round about you. For I, the Lord, will give you the strength to overcome. Therefore, lift up your heads. Rejoice and I the Lord will be your strength. Saith the Spirit of God. Hallelujah. (I Love You Lord)

I just feel like the Lord would have us just to worship Him for a moment or two. It struck me, while Peter was singing that song, that there are those people who are in this congregation this

morning, you're living in a perpetual night. You've never really come into day for a long time. It's been that serious of grind for you. And the thing I'm learning more and more about God is, is that He is really mindful of our needs and is with us. It doesn't mean that we always get on the fast track. It doesn't mean that everything always works out exactly like we've got in mind. But more and more, I am seeing that in the long haul,

ROMANS 8:28

has a great meaning when it tells us that ALL THINGS WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, WHO ARE THE CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE. FOR THOSE WHOM HE DID FOREKNOW, HE DID PREDESTINE TO BE CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE THE FIRST BORN OF ALL BRETHERN. WITH THOSE WHOM HE DID FORKNOW, THOSE WHOM HE DID PREDESTINATE THEM, HE DID ALSO JUSTIFY THOSE AND THOSE HE JUSTIFIED, HE CALLED. And then the next statement is, IF GOD BE FOR US, WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

You're standing here this morning and you're going through the fire and you feel like you're walking in the night and it's been a long time since the daystar seems to have shown in your life. And you are here this morning but you're not real sure that you're here. You're just kind of moving through life, quote, zombi-like. It's lost it's luster. It's lost it's meaning. It's lost it's purpose. And you want and you need the sense of God with me. Emanuel, God with me. And you say, Pastor, I really need prayer this morning, let me see your hand please. Amen, God bless your heart. God bless your hearts.

I just feel the need to minister somehow this morning in a way that would somehow break through to you to give you a new sense of destiny, a new sense of enthusiasm and a new sense of hope and a new sense of faith and a new sense of power, that whatever valley you're walking through, whatever problem you're dealing with, that can be solved right now. And God dwells in the praises of His people. Let's just take a moment here to put ourselves in a vacuum. There's no other meeting just like this anywhere in the world because this is the meaning of God's people, coming together in the name of Jesus Christ. Let's go to three flats please again if we may. (We Exalt Thee) Hallelujah. Praise the name of Jesus. Now resolve the need as we sing We Exat Thee. (music)

Would you just quietly worshiply be seated. I know you've been standing for a while. (He Was Wounded For Our Transgressions) Personalize it, He was wounded for my transgressions. (music) Sing it one more time please. Personalize it. (music)

We're going to take communion in just a few moments and I want to pray with you and minister to you in just a few moments. nI

#### JEREMIAH 11:1-5

we get a real picture of a God of the Covenant who gives us Covenant terms for triumphant living. And Jeremiah seemed to have a feel for the Covenant God, more so then any prophet in the Bible. He seemed to have an understanding and an insight into the God of the Covenant and He was very concerned because Israel had broken away from the Covenant. Israel had as many gods and following

after heathen gods as they had cities, he tells us later in the chapter, verse 22, I think. He also says that Israel had so many alters after Bael that there were more alters then there were streets in their cities. And they had broken their covenant with God. And so what Jeremiah does is call Israel back to the covenant. And I don't mean this morning that may we be away from the covenant as much as we need to reaffirm it today. And all this week, I've been thinking about this covenant God and what He means in our lives. And in verse 1 of chapter 11 in the Book of Jeremiah, the Prophet, it says, THIS IS THE WORD THAT CAME TO JEREMIAH FROM THE LORD.

I would that you could kind of put yourself in that first statement this morning. And you could say, this is the Word that came to me from the Lord. This is the Word on February 4th, 1990, in the nine o'clock service at Mt. Paran Church of God Central, this is the Word that came to me from the Lord. Jeremiah was a weeping prophet because he had a real feel, because he could see profedically that Babylonian, Nebekenezzer were going to capture Israel in just a few years. And they were going to be taken into captivity. And they said, this is the Word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord. This is the Word that came to me from the Lord. And he starts out, LISTEN TO THE TERMS OF THIS COVENANT AND TELL THEM TO THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH AND TO THOSE WHO LIVE IN JERUSALEM.

Now the word listen here as we use it is more then just hearing sounds. To listen means to process intelectally and emotionally with the intent of purpose. It's New Testament

counterpart is the word believe. To believe is to trust and to have confidence. So what he's really saying is to trust and have confidence in the terms of the covenant.

This is what it means in

MARK 11:24

when it says, WHATSOEVER THINGS YOU DESIRE, WHEN YOU PRAY, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE THEM AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE THEM.

This is what He's talking about in

JOHN 14:12

when Christ says, VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YE, HE THAT BELIEVETH ON ME, THE WORKS THAT I DO SHALL HE DO ALSO. EVEN GREATER WORKS THEN THESE SHALL HE DO BECAUSE I GO TO MY FATHER.

This is what He was talking about in

JOHN 1:12

when He said, FOXES HAVE HOLES AND BIRDS HAVE THEIR NEST, BUT THE SON OF MAN HAS NO PLACE TO LAY HIS HEAD. BUT AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM GAVE THEE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, EVEN AS MANY AS BELIEVED ON HIS NAME.

So when He says, listen, it's not just hearing sounds, but it's an emotional intellectual processing of belief and faith and trust. Listen to the terms of this covenant.

Now the word covenant is the most important word in all of the Bible. In the Old Testament, it is bereth. In the New Testament it is ovidsetusthey. And what it really means when it tells us that in the New Testament and the Old Testament is, more than agreement, it is more than a legal contract, it is really a

loyal oath to perform that which has been promised, pledged or comitted. And God is saying, I have made a loyal oath to fulfill what I've promised and pledge and comitted to you.

Now if we don't see the God of covenant, then we miss the whole idea of the Bible. It's divided into Old Covenant and New Covenant. And He says, LISTEN TO THE TERMS OF THE LOYAL OATH THAT I'VE GIVEN TO YOU AS A PLEDGE AND COMITTMET AND PROMISE TO PERFORM. BELIEVE AND TRUST AND HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MY LOYAL OATH OF PROMISE AND PLEDGE AND COMITTMET TO PERFORM THAT WHICH I'VE SAID TO YOU IN MY WORD. And He starts right out there with that's the first covenant term, to listen and to tell, to process it and then to make it a part of our vocabulary. So we talk about this covenant God wherever we go and whatever we do. So that He becomes a part of totality of what our life is all about. And this is where we've got to start. Listen, what's God speaking to you? What's the Word of the Lord He's given to you? What covenant terms has He given to you?

He made a covenant with Adam and He told Adam, He said, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU ETERNAL LIFE AND WHAT YOU'VE GOT TO DO, YOU'VE GOT TO BE FRUITFUL. YOU'VE GOT TO MULTIPLY. YOU'VE GOT TO REPLENISH THE EARTH. YOU'VE GOT TO SUBDUE IT. AND YOU'VE GOT TO CULTIVATE IT SO IT WILL PRODUCE IT'S HIGHEST. And we talk about the attimite covenant. And then when Adam sinned and Eve sinned, then we know that He gave them the hope of redemption in Jesus Christ in

GENESIS 3:15

God made a covenant with Noah when He looked and He saw that the earth was all evil everywhere that He looked and He destroyed it with water, other than those who were in the ark, and the pairs of all of the animals so that he could start it all over again. In

GENESIS 6:

He established that covenant. He set it in order.

And what needs to be set in order in your house? What needs to be established in your place? And what can you do to set in order that covenant in your own life? And then in chapter 9, He told Noah, I'M PUTTING A RAINBOW IN THE SKY AND THAT RAINBOW IN THE SKY IS GOING TO BE A SYMBOL THAT I'LL NEVER AGAIN DESTROY THE EARTH BY WATER. I'LL NEVER AGAIN DESTROY IT LIKE I'VE DESTROYED IT AND YOU CAN HAVE THAT ESTABLISHED AND YOU CAN HAVE IT ORDERED. IT'S THERE FOR YOU TO SEE AND IT'S A CONSTANT REMINDER OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS. And everytime you see a rainbow, it's a reminder of this covenant with Noah. He said, I made a covenant with you.

God made a covenant with Abraham in

GENESIS 12:

He called him out of the air of Caldes and said, I'M GOING TO BLESS YOU. I'M GOING TO MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT. YOU'RE GOING TO BE A BLESSING. I'M GOING TO BLESS THE NATIONS THAT BLESSED YOU AND I'M GOING TO CURSE THE NATIONS THAT CURSED YOU AND THE NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED BECAUSE OF YOU. And He made a covenant with Abraham and He made him the father of the faithful and He made a covenant with Him.

He made a covenant with Moses in

EXODUS 3:

He called him with a burning bush. Then as you remember in

EXODUS 20:

He gave them the Ten Commandments with the terms of that covenant. And He gave to Moses that power to understand what that covenant was all about and the meaning of what that covenant all had.

And God made a covenant with David in

II SAMUEL 2:

and

PSALM 89:

you see the terms of the covenant and He said, DAVID, I'M GOING TO GIVE YOU AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM. IT WILL NEVER END AND THE WAY IT'S GOING TO CONTINUE IS IN THE NEW COVENANT WITH CHRIST JESUS. And in that new covenant with Christ Jesus, we see it in

ISAIAH 9:6

FOR UNTO US, A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US, A SON IS GIVEN. AND THE GOVERNMENT SHALL BE UPON HIS SHOULDERS. AN INCREASE OF HIS GOVERNMENT, THERE WILL BE NO END. HE SHALL REIGN UPON THE THRONE OF DAVID TO ESTABLISH IT AND TO BRING IT JUSTICE FOREVER. And the zeal of the Lord of Host will perform this, that Kingdom of David wouldn't enter in because it would come into the new covenant.

Now Jeremiah tells us in

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

that the new terms of the covenant, that He puts the law in our minds and He writes it on our hearts. He's our God and we're His

people. He saves us from our sins and He remembers them no more and He gives us the knowledge that He'll never leave us nor forsake us, but He'll go with us to the end of the world. And the new covenant that comes in in Christ is, that we no longer have an earthly priesthood, we have an eternal priesthood. We no longer have to trust in the blood of animals. We have the blood of Jesus Christ. We no longer have to trust in multiple sacrifices. We have one great sacrifice. We no longer have to trust in the temporary, we have the timeless. And Jesus Christ is at the right hand of the Father, the majesty of the throne, making intercession for us. Therefore, we can come boldly into the throne of grace and find mercy and receive help in the time of need. And how many of you really believe that this morning? (applause) Do you really believe that? Do you really believe that? Do you really believe that? Well praise God. Hallelujah. It says, listen to those terms of the covenant. But you go on, and then He says, TELL THEM THAT THIS IS WHAT THE LORD, THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYS. CURSED IS THE MAN WHO DOES NOT OBEY THE TERMS OF THIS COVENANT. THE TERMS I COMMANDED YOUR FOREFATHERS WHEN I BROUGHT THEM OUT OF EGYPT AND THE IRON SWELTING FURNACE, I SAID, and this is the second part. First is listen, then second is obey. I SAID, OBEY ME AND DO EVERYTHING I COMMAND YOU AND YOU WILL BE MY PEOPLE AND I WILL BE YOUR GOD. THEN I WILL FULFILL THE OATH I SWORE TO YOUR FOREFATHERS TO GIVE THEM A LAND FLOWING WITH MILK AND HONEY, THE LAND YOU POSSESS TODAY. AND I ANSWERED, AMEN LORD.

Now the second part of this of this second term for this

triumphant living is after we have really listened, after we've believed, we've trusted, we've had confidence, is to obey. Now that's not an easy word for us to handle. It's not easy for us to put ourselves under someone else's domination. Rugged individualism of American and the things that have built our businesses great have been that sense of independancy. The thing that is probably the most uniqueness about our culture is, the fact that we've had that independancy. But you see, there comes a time when it has to be directed. It has to be connected and it has to have an object. It has to have a meaning. And to obey is to submit. It's a submit my will to another's will. It's a submit my attitudes, belief's and values to another's attitudes, belief's and values. It's a submit my character, my temperment and mood to another's character, temperment and mood. It's to submit my relationship . . .

I read the testimony just this past week of a woman by the name of Marci Acling. Marci lives in Chattanooga. She was the director and the main personality in a children's program on television. She was an excellent solist and singer that sang everywhere for the Lord and sang in her choir. She developed some problems in her mouth, went to the doctor and found out she had cancer. It was going to mean an operation and she probably would never talk or sing again. That was the worst news that could ever come to her because it threatened her career and it threatened her very meaning for life. And the doctor said, "What we're going to have to do is cut it out and it won't effect your voice box any,

but your tongue is the problem. We've got to cut out the back of your tongue. We'll tie your tongue to your voice box, but we doubt that you'll ever talk or you'll ever sing.

Well, then was the long wait to get ready for the operation. And she said one night, as she was thinking and praying before the Lord, the Lord just seemed to come to her and say to her, Marci, you are my child. You do not need to be afraid. Look at all the blessings that you have. You have a loving family. You have a caring husband who's given you the right to become all that you can become in your career. You have dedicated children and you have caring friends. And I promised to never leave you nor to forsake you and it gave her a sense of affirmation. And then one night, as she was awakened in the night, startled, worried about the operation to come and what was going to happen, as you can imagine. It was as though that auroea from the Messiah, from Handel's Messiah came that Christ, just like a refiner's fire. And somehow, she got the vision and the picture of that refiner's fire just doing the work in her life and that Christ, the Messiah, like a refiner's fire just working through her whole body and through her whole being.

And then the night before she got ready to go to the operation and she was in the hospital and they came in to give her a sedative. But she said, "I don't want the sedative, don't need the sedative, because I'm calm". They said, "How can you be calm?" Said, "Well, I was just praying a moment ago and the Lord gave me a song but I thought it would be some great song. I thought it

would be some great traditional hymn, but God gave me that little spiritual that said, Christ had to travel the lonesome valley and had to travel it all by Himself." But she said, "I got out of that spiritual, the fact that He traveled it for me. And so wherever I'm going tomorrow, He's been there already. And He's going for me."

She went to sleep and slept. They had the operation. They cut a square inch out of the back of her tongue, tied it to her voicebox. She had to lie perfectly still with sandbags on her so she couldn't move for several days for it to heal. Then the day came where she had to try it out. And the first person she called was long distance to her mother and she sounded, she says, like Jimmy Durante, a guttural little sound. But it began to heal. Now, 15 years later, she's the director of Exzillery Services for that station and still does that children's program. Sings in the choir, back to her solo work, because of the covenant God that she was willing to obey and to allow Him to work in her life and in her being.

Now when you take this element this morning and you eat the bread and you drink the cup, you're involved in the covenant. The covenant God is represented here. And He says, listen to me and obey me.

Now whatever your need is, if you will listen to Him, with understanding of belief and trust and confidence, the understanding of faith, and if you'll obey Him with the understanding of submitting to His will, then we can expect the miracle of God to

happen in our lives. And I just have a feeling of faith that is surging through my being that this morning can be a breakthrough time for you individually and that your life can be changed right now.

As our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed and the brethren are coming please. (message in tongues) (interpretation) Seek my face and trust in me and know that I am the Lord your God, that I will never leave you, nor forsake you, but go with you even to the end of the world. Therefore, you need not be afraid of that which is round about you. But trust completely in me. I, the Lord, have given you a covenant. And I am faithful to perform that which I have promised in that covenant and you need not be desuaded by the circumstances of your life. I, the Lord, this day, give you the understanding that if I be for you, noone can be against you. And I have beared my right arm and I give to you this day the victory, saith the spirit of the living God. Hallelujah. Amen. Amen.

Father, we just raise these elements up to you now in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. And I pray that you would make them to be catalytic forces, motivational forces that are signs and seals of your Spirit so that sign and seal can touch our hearts. May we be renewed. May we be revitalized. May we be restrengthened. May we be motivated forward. And we'll thank you for that and we'll praise you for that. And then Lord, as we take these elements and we eat this bread and we drink this cup, may there be a miracle occur. May they become the points of contact for our renewed

miracle of the mind, the heart, the soul, the spirit, and above all, the body. May healing take place physically right here this morning, hallelujah. Lord, we just feel a surge of faith that goes through our being. May healing take place this morning, emotionally, for those persons who are perplexed, trying to make decisions about business, about family, about all the cares of this life. May there just be a breakthrough of wisdom and knowledge and discernment. But more than that, a calmness, assurance, a confidence, because the God of covenant is working in their lives. May we see that that you are faithful to yourself. And you're the highest authority. And you've given to us your Son who ministers that covenant. And we become a part of that covenant today. So we listen and we obey. And we do that right now, in Jesus name. May that happen in our lives, we pray, for His sake.

Would you remain in an attitude of prayer and meditation please. Hold the elements until everyone is served. We'll take them together. This is an open communion, open to all believers. Give me C please. (We Are Standing On Holy Ground)

Then Jesus took bread and blessed it and gave it to His disciples and said, TAKE EAT, THIS IS MY BODY. Let us partake of the bread. And He took the cup and gave thanks and gave it to them saying, DRINK YE, ALL OF IT. FOR THIS IS MY BLOOD OF THE NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH IS SHED FOR MANY, FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS. Let us partake of the cup. Amen.

But I say unto you and I will not drink of this fruit of the vine again until I drink it new with you, in my Father's Kingdom.

And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Shall we pray?

Now what I want to do, I want to take some time to allow the Holy Spirit just to minister in your heart.

You know, everybody runs awful fast. We all go at torred paces. For most of us here today, it's a rat race to keep the schedules and to meet all the deadlines and tie up all the loose ends. Now we're in a place here this morning where we can get renewal, refreshing. And that comes out of silence and quietness. It comes out of meditation.

You know, the Budist didn't event meditation. Zenbudism and transendental meditation didn't event the Word. It's a biblical concept, only we have a different object in meditation. And that object is Jesus Christ, Himself.

I'd like you in your own heart and your own mind to just see the solution to your problem happening as Christ works in your heart. That's no magic. It's not some kind of transcendental power. It's a motivational point for you to trust. As you begin to see the solution to your problem taking place through the powers that God releases in you through Jesus Christ, just begin to see that happening in your life. If you've got it all together, there's somebody else you're praying about and you're concerned about. Just visualize that taken place right now and believing it's going to be done.

Father, your Holy Spirit is just moving in our hearts right this very moment. And we thank you for that in Jesus name. And

in this solitude and in this quietness, we're opening our hearts to you to receive largely that which you've given to us in your covenant. We're listening and we're obeying. We're believeing. We're trusting. We're exerting confidence. We're hearing you to tell us that you're like a refiner's fire. And that you walked the lonesome valley that we walk and you walked it by yourself so that when we walk it, we have you with us. And you never leave us. And you never forsake us. And your're ministrying by your grace right now and you're bringing healing to hearts. You're bringing healing to minds. You're bringing healing to spirits and you're bringing healing to bodies. And we thank you for that now. And we praise you for it, in Jesus name, amen and amen.

How many of you believe this morning that the covenant God is in covenant with you personally? Let me see your hand. You believe that? Alright. Amen. Now, if you believe that with all of your heart, let's just stand together right now and let's sing to that covenant God that He is a Holy God, Holy Holy. Will you sing it please? (Holy, Holy) Let's sing Hallelujah, in victory now. (music)

Now, there are two terms to this covenant. The first term is, (listen). The second term is, (obey) Well hallelujah, at least five of you got that. (laughter) Alright now, the first term is, (listen). The second term is, (obey). Now we got about 750 of you got it that time. Now, the first term is, (listen). Now we're doing better. And the second term is, (obey). Now let's just praise God for that, shall we? (applause) Go to three flats.

Just praise Him all over this building. Praise Him all over the building. Amen. (We Bring the Sacrifice of Praise) Sing it again.

(music)