AFTER CHURCH DEV

BY REBUILD

Topic: Renewing Our Covenant

Opening Prayer:

Psalm 51:10-12

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Read: Joshua 5

Imagine preparing to step into a new season of promise after years of wandering. Joshua 5 finds the Israelites at the brink of such a transition, standing on the plains of Jericho, ready to conquer the Promised Land. But before the battles began, God required a renewal of covenant commitment.

In Joshua 5, two significant events occur: the circumcision of the new generation and the celebration of Passover. These acts were more than mere rituals; they were profound reminders of God's faithfulness and the people's identity as His chosen ones.

Circumcision, instituted with Abraham (Genesis 17), was a physical mark of the covenant between God and His people. For the Israelites born in the wilderness, this act symbolized a renewal of their identity and commitment to God. It was a moment of recommitment to follow God's ways, preparing them spiritually for the challenges ahead.

Celebrating Passover in the Promised Land (Joshua 5:10-12) was equally symbolic. It reminded the Israelites of their deliverance from Egypt, highlighting God's salvation and provision. This feast marked a transition from manna, the bread from heaven, to the produce of Canaan, symbolizing a new phase of sustenance and blessing. In our walk with God, there are times we need to renew our covenant with Him. This might involve recommitting to spiritual disciplines, seeking repentance, or realigning our lives with God's purposes. These acts are not about earning God's favor but about reminding ourselves of His grace and our identity in Him.

Conclusion:

Joshua 5 teaches us the importance of spiritual preparation and renewal. As we face new challenges and opportunities, let's take time to recommit to our covenant with God, remembering His faithfulness and our identity in Him.

Discussion Questions:

For Students:

- 1. What are some ways you can renew your commitment to God in your daily life?
- 2. How does remembering God's past faithfulness help you face current challenges?
- 3. What spiritual disciplines can you incorporate to strengthen your relationship with God?

For Parents:

- 1. How can you lead your family in renewing their commitment to God?
- 2. What traditions or practices can you establish to remind your family of God's faithfulness?
- 3. How can you use your family's history with God to encourage your children?

For Professionals:

- 1. How can you integrate moments of spiritual renewal into your busy work schedule?
- 2. In what ways can you remind yourself of God's faithfulness during stressful times?
- 3. How can your commitment to God influence your work ethic and interactions with colleagues?

This week, take a moment each day to reflect on God's faithfulness in your life. Write down specific instances of His provision and guidance, and use these reflections to renew your commitment to follow Him wholeheartedly.