

**Nyack Heritage**

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**Solemn Covenant:**

**Rewritten in Today's English**

"Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of the universe, you who created this world and me, your creature on it, you who see everything and know all my thoughts. I know that my deepest thoughts are known to you, and you know why I have come to you now. I pray to you, the one who knows the hearts, that my motives are not worldly, but I recognize that my heart can be deceitful and wicked. I don't trust myself, but you know that I have a desire to dedicate myself to you for all time and eternity. I come to you as a sinner, ruined by the fall and by my actions, as one of the most vile of all your creatures. When I reflect on my past, I feel shame and confusion. I am rude and ignorant, and in your eyes a beast. You made Adam holy and happy, but he disobeyed your holy law and suffered death, and I, as his descendant, have inherited his depravity and death. I acknowledge the justice of your sentence and submit to you.

How can you, Lord, pay attention to me, a vile creature? It's an incredible act of kindness to notice me, but your love is infinite and has always existed. You sent your son, who was like us in every way, to be the mediator of the new covenant. Through him, we can approach you through the same spirit. I come to you now, Lord, through Jesus, my only mediator, and trusting in his merits and mediation, I approach your throne of grace with boldness. I feel small, Lord, but please strengthen me with your spirit. I come to make a covenant with you for eternal life. You have said in your word that those who believe in your son will have everlasting life and will be raised on the last day. You have given us a new covenant, sealed with the blood of Jesus on the cross.

I now declare before you and my conscience, before the heavens and all their inhabitants, and before the earth that you created, that I accept the terms of this covenant. I believe in Jesus and accept salvation through him, my prophet, priest, and king, who is wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, redemption, and complete salvation made for me by God. You, Lord, have made me willing to come to you, and your love has overcome my rebellious heart. I give myself to you, as one who has come back to life, for time and eternity. Use me completely for your glory, and overcome any rebellious thoughts that may arise.

Please ratify this covenant in heaven, my Father. Remember it, Lord, when I cross the Jordan and remember it when you come with all the angels and saints to judge the world. May I be at your right hand then and with you in heaven forever. Write in heaven that I am yours, only yours, and yours forever. Remember me, Lord, during times of temptation and let me never depart from this covenant. I know that I am weak, but in your strength, the captain of my salvation, I will be strong and conquer through the one who loves me.

I have now, Lord, as you have said in your word, made a covenant with you, not for worldly honours or fame, but for everlasting life, and I know that you are true and will never break your holy word. Please give me all the blessings of the new covenant, especially the Holy Spirit in abundance, which is a guarantee of my inheritance until the redemption of my possessions. Let a double portion of your spirit rest upon me so that I may go and proclaim your ways and laws to the people. Sanctify me completely and make me fit for heaven.