

"A SOLEMN COVENANT: The Dedication of Myself to God." By Albert Benjamin Simpson Saturday, January 19, 1861

"You, everlasting and almighty God, Ruler of the universe, You, who made this world and me, your creature upon it, You who art in every place beholding the evil and the good, You see Me at this time and know all my thoughts. I know and feel that my inmost thoughts are all familiar to You, and You know what motives have induced me to come to You at this time. I appeal to You, oh you Searcher of hearts, so far as I know my own heart, it is not a worldly motive that has brought me before You now. But my 'heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked,' and I would not pretend to trust it; but you know that I have a desire to dedicate myself to You for time and eternity. I would come before You as a sinner, lost and ruined by the fall, and by my actual transgressions, yes, as the vilest of all your creatures. When I look back on my past life, I am filled with shame and confusion. I am rude and ignorant, and in your sight a beast. You, O Lord, did make Adam holy and happy, and gave him ability to maintain his state. The penalty of his disobedience was death, but he disobeyed Your holy law and incurred that penalty, and I, as a descendant from him, have inherited this depravity and this penalty. I acknowledge the justness of Your sentence, O Lord, and would bow in submission before You.

"How can you, O Lord, condescend to look on me, a vile creature? For it is infinite condescension to notice me. But truly, Your loving kindness is infinite and from everlasting. You, O Lord, didst send your Son in our image, with a body such as mine and a reasonable soul. In Him were united all the perfections of the Godhead with the humility of our sinful nature. He is the Mediator of the New Covenant, and through Him we all have access to You by the same Spirit. Through Jesus, the only Mediator, I would come to You, O Lord, and trusting in His merits and mediation, I would boldly approach Your throne of grace. I feel my own insignificance, O Lord, but do you strengthen me by Your Spirit. I would now approach You in order to covenant with You for life everlasting. You in Your Word told us that it is Your Will that all who believe in Your Son might have everlasting life and You will raise him up at the last day. You gave us a New Covenant and sealed that covenant in Your blood, O Jesus, on the cross.

"I now declare before You and before my conscience and bear witness, O the heavens, and all the inhabitants thereof, and you earth, which my God has made, that I accept the conditions of this covenant and close with its terms. These are that I believe in Jesus and accept of salvation through Him, my Prophet, Priest, and King, as made unto me of God wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption and complete salvation. You, O Lord, made me willing to come to You. You subdued my rebellious heart by Your love. So now take it and use it for Your glory. Whatever rebellious thoughts may arise therein, do You overcome them and bring into subjection everything that opposes itself to Your authority. I yield myself unto You as one alive from the dead, for time and eternity. Take me and use me entirely for Your glory.

"Ratify now in Heaven, O my Father, this Covenant. Remember it, O Lord, when You bring me to the Jordan. Remember it, O Lord, in that day when You come with all the angels and saints to judge the world, and may I be at Your right hand then and in heaven with Your forever. Write down in heaven that I have become Yours, Yours only, and Yours forever. Remember me, O Lord, in the hour of temptation, and let me never depart from this covenant. I feel, O Lord, my own weakness and do not make this in my own strength, else I must fail. But in Your strength, O captain of my salvation, I shall be strong and more than conqueror through Him who loved me.

"I have now, O Lord, as You said in Your Word, covenanted with You, not for worldly honors or fame but for everlasting life, and I know that You art true and shall never break Your holy Word. Give to me now all the blessings of the New Covenant and especially the Holy Spirit in great abundance, which is the earnest of my inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession. May a double portion of Your Spirit rest upon me, and then I shall go and proclaim to transgressors Your ways and Your laws to the people. Sanctify me wholly and make me fit for heaven. Give me all spiritual blessing in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

"I am now a soldier of the cross and a follower of the Lamb, and my motto from this time is 'I have one King, even Jesus.' Support and strengthen me, O my Captain, and be mine forever.

"Place me in what circumstances You may desire; but if it is Your holy will, I desire that You 'give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient, for fear that I be poor and steal, or I'm rich and say, Who is the Lord?' But You will be done. Now give me Your Spirit and Your protection in my heart at all times, and then I shall drink of the rivers of salvation, lie down by still waters, and be infinitely happy in the favor of my God.

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