

## The Restored Covenant

To grasp the purpose of tongues and the role of the Holy Spirit, we need to realize that we inherited spiritual death from Adam, and thus forfeited eternal life (ROM 5:12).<sup>1</sup> All of us are born with a dead spirit, separated from God, and unless we are reconciled to Him, eternal death will be our lot instead.<sup>2</sup> We are born as *carnal men*, who cannot perceive YHWH and are, in fact, in enmity towards Him and the Torah. Our spirit lies dormant while the flesh, *i.e.*, our body and soul<sup>3</sup> rule our unregenerate lives.

Reason, conscience, memory, imagination, and affections make up the soul which is part of the heart. Another part of the heart is the spirit, which is also called ***the inner man*** (EPH 3:16), or ***the hidden man of the heart*** (1 PET 3:4, KJV). Since Messiah's whole purpose is to restore mankind's union with God, the inner man needs to be resurrected. Only the spirit needs to be born again<sup>4</sup>, not the body nor the soul.

As the expression ***dead in sins*** refers to our dead spirit, so ***quicken*** refers to the renewal and redemption of that spirit (EPH 2:5, KJV). Our dead spirit is compared to a heart of stone, otherwise called ***the uncircumcision of the flesh*** (COL 2:13). It is this *flesh nature* which is corrupt and which has to go.

The ***circumcision of the heart*** is not some new year's resolution to do better, but a concrete operation which is performed by Yeshua – ***the last Adam, who is a quickening Spirit*** (ROM 2:29, COL 2:11, 1 COR 15:45). When someone receives Yeshua's Spirit, their own spirit is revived and "*raised from the dead.*"<sup>5</sup> Titus says they receive ***life by the washing of the new birth and by the renewing of the Ruach HaKodesh*** (TIT 3:5). It is in that moment that the stony heart becomes soft and its "*foreskin*", *i.e.*, the flesh nature is removed.<sup>6</sup> In the place of the old nature, a new nature

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<sup>1</sup> Comparing **GEN 2:7** with **GEN 3:8** reveals that man had died spiritually.

<sup>2</sup> Contrary to what the annihilationists would like us to believe, verses such as **MT 25:46**, **JN 5:28-29** or **LK 12:4-5** show that man's spirit and soul are immortal.

<sup>3</sup> The temple shows our threefold nature: Body – Courtyard, Soul – Holy Place, Spirit – Most Holy Place

<sup>4</sup> Literally, and more accurately ***born from above*** in the Greek.

<sup>5</sup> The Spirit is put into man once the heart is circumcised: ***He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass [cut flesh]: as showers that water the earth*** (PSA 72:6, KJV).

<sup>6</sup> The circumcision performed by The Word (**REV 19:13**) denotes the cutting of the restored covenant. Yeshua cuts away ***the flesh of sins***, *i.e.*, our old sinful nature (**COL 2:11**). The heart of unregenerate man has a "*partition wall*" or "*veil*" between soul and spirit, which is pierced through at rebirth (**HEB 4:12**). The revived spirit, which is filled with God's Spirit, can now assume its rightful position and subdue the soul, *i.e.*, the fleshly mind. In other words, the person is now able to love God with their whole heart (**MT 22:37**). A renewal process of the mind starts, and ideally the person is changed into the likeness of God (**ROM 12:2**, **2 COR 4:16**, **EPH 4:23**, **COL 3:10**, **2 COR 3:18**).

is imparted. The result of this heart operation is a **new creation** (2 COR 5:17, GAL 6:15). Many verses refer to this as “*putting off the old man and putting on the new man*” (COL 3:9-10, EPH 4:22-24).

Just as physical circumcision was the token of God’s covenant with Avraham<sup>7</sup> (GEN 17:11), so is spiritual circumcision the token of the **Restored Covenant**<sup>8</sup> between God and man. Yeshua made this possible by first pouring out His blood for our redemption (MT 26:28), and then pouring out His Spirit for our resurrection (JN 16:7). We were brought back to life and received God’s Spirit and God’s Law into our hearts, so that we would finally keep the latter:

***Behold the days come, says YHWH, that I will restore the covenant [Brit Chadashah] with the House of Yisra’el, and with the House of Y’hudah. Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers, in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt [at Mt. Sinai, 50 days after Pesach]: forasmuch as they broke My covenant, although I was a husband to them, says YHWH. But this is the covenant that I will make with the House of Yisra’el after those days, says YHWH [in Jerusalem, 50 days after Pesach]: I will put My Torah in their inward parts, and in their heart will I write it [by my Spirit] (JER 31:31-33, paraphrased).***

***I will take away, the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you, a heart of flesh. And I will put My spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes [to keep the Torah] (EZ 36:26-27).***

***You are a letter of the Messiah that was served by us: written not with ink, but by the Spirit of the Living Eloah; not on tablets of stone [stony heart], but on tablets of the heart of flesh (2 COR 3:3).***

***And YHWH your Elohim will circumcise your heart ... to love YHWH your Elohim with all your heart, and with all your soul [to keep the Torah] (DEUT 30:6).***

***And by Him, you were circumcised with the Circumcision which is not by our hands [but by His Spirit], by the putting off of the flesh of sins, by circumcision of the Messiah. And you were buried with Him in immersion [baptized in water], and by Him, you have risen with Him [baptized in the Spirit], because you had trust in***

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<sup>7</sup> Avraham’s part of this everlasting covenant was to shed some of his own blood.

<sup>8</sup> Terms such as *New Testament*, *New Covenant*, and even *Renewed Covenant* in **MT 26:28** are misleading. The Hebrew term used in DuTillet’s and Shem Tob’s Matthew is **חדשה ברית** (“brit chadashah”). Though *brit* means covenant, *chadashah* doesn’t mean new, or renewed, but *restored* (to a previous condition).

***the Power of Eloah, who raised Him from the place of the dead [by the power of the Holy Spirit] (COL 2:11-12).***

***He is not a Jew who is one in appearance [only]: also what is made visible in the flesh [alone] is not circumcision. But that one is a Jew, who [is one] secretly: and circumcision is that of the heart by the Spirit, and not by the letter [only]; whose praise is not from men, but from Eloah (ROM 2:28-29).<sup>9</sup>***

It should be clear from these verses that neither ethnic Israel nor the rest of mankind has obeyed God's Law, otherwise Yeshua's death nor the renewal of the covenant wouldn't have been necessary. God's Law was broken in the very beginning by Adam, condemning us all to become lawbreakers who deserve eternal death. Thus, first and foremost we need to be redeemed, viz., bought back from the slavery of Satan, sin, and death. It is no use trying to keep the Torah as an unregenerate person (as commendable as such attempts might be). Keeping the Law cannot change our status "from sinner to saint" – it cannot impute righteousness, it cannot save. No matter what we do, we remain sinners, sons of fallen Adam, born of the flesh which cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. That is why Yeshua tells us to be born of the Spirit (JN 3:5).<sup>10</sup> Once this has been accomplished, we are reconciled to God and have the power to fulfil the Law<sup>11</sup> – ***that the righteousness of the Torah might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk by the flesh, but by the Spirit*** (ROM 8:4). Henceforth, we keep the Torah because we are saved, not in order to be saved.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Spiritual circumcision doesn't replace physical circumcision. A careful reading of **ACTS 15** shows that Gentiles, who had come from a background of sun worship and temple prostitution, weren't forced to be circumcised upon conversion – they had to overcome their gross sins first (**vs. 20**). After having been instructed in the Torah they would eventually take the step of circumcision, depending on their maturity (**vs. 21**).

<sup>10</sup> **Born of water** refers to the Spirit. Water baptism signifies death and burial, not rebirth.

<sup>11</sup> The power of the Holy Spirit also means *anointing*. A follower of the Nazarene needs to be anointed just like Yeshua was anointed with the *Oil of the Spirit* before He commenced His ministry as Prophet, Priest and King (**MT 3:16, LK 4:18, REV 1:6**). Without this anointing no one is able to do the works of Yeshua and to walk as He did. To fully preach the Gospel, we have to demonstrate Eloah's power and use His name and authority – just as Paul, Peter, Stephen, Barnabas, and many others did (**ROM 15:9, 1 COR 2:4**). John, who wrote to the assemblies of Asia Minor, told the brethren that all of them had been anointed with Ruach HaKodesh (**1 JN 2:20**).

<sup>12</sup> Rome's satanic doctrine that "the Law was abolished through Christ" has corrupted Christianity since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. The reception of God's Spirit does therefore not automatically and immediately lead to Torah observance, and usually a long process of relearning is required.