



Dear Seminar Graduate,

O magnify the Lord with me! Our triumphant King reigns and is worthy of all praise! I am so grateful for this new season and the newness of life that it brings. I marvel at the beauty of the trees, as the tender shoots and buds spring forth; the smell of freshly mowed grass and the array of colors splashed everywhere. How blessed we are! Before reading on, take a moment and tell God how awesome He is!

God is truly amazing and so personal! Have you been noticing the “I will” statements in God’s Word since our last mailing? They literally seem to pop up everywhere. There is no doubt that we are His treasured possession and He desires an intimate relationship with each of us.

As I pondered on the covenant relationship God made with us, I was reminded of how a Godly marriage here on earth is a representation of this relationship. Just a few weeks ago, my husband, Paul, and I celebrated our 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I am blessed to have a Godly marriage and a husband who diligently seeks after God’s own heart. As I reflected on my relationship with Paul, I thought about our commitment to each other, our desire to delight one another, to meet each other’s needs, to share each other’s dreams and to serve one another. When my husband enters the room, I am instantly aware of his presence and truly am delighted to see him. I love gazing at him until our eyes meet, then flash him a radiant smile meant only for him. When we walk side by side, we often hold hands. Sometimes we walk in silence, sometimes not. My husband exemplifies the servant’s heart of Christ. I often find him trying to beat me to washing the dishes, making the bed, or cooking up supper, truly desiring to serve and bless me. No matter how I try to serve him, he always outdoes me, lavishing on me acts of kindness, love and much needed mercy.

Paul is teaching me much about my relationship with Jesus, my Husband for eternity (and eternity has already started!) It is not out of duty that I serve Jesus. It is truly out of a devotion, passion and love for Him. He is everything to me! Absolutely everything! I have found that a covenant relationship is not a list of do’s and don’ts, but an intimate relationship with Jesus; one of complete surrender and trust. Just as I delight in catching my husband’s eye, holding his hand, and walking side by side, I have a much greater delight in this covenant relationship with my Lord! My confidence is in Him. One of my favorite verses that I hold fast to is: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart; and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your path” Proverbs 3:4-5. I have that assurance, no matter what!

God is so good! Declare Psalms 34:1 with me: “I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth!”

In this packet, we will look closer at this aspect of our covenant relationship. Are we truly blessing the Lord at all times? Is His praise continually in my mouth? What is coming out of my mouth or heart? Is it a wellspring of life?

Just recently, God lead me to the following passage: “Whoever offers praise glorifies Me: and to him that orders his conversation aright will I show the salvation of God” (Psalm 50:23). There is that covenant relationship again. Ask God to open your eyes and reveal new truth to you as you mediate on the enclosed devotion and excerpt from the New Hope Phase III materials, entitled: “Proclamations of Truth.”

To God be all Glory, Honor, and Praise!

*Cathy Berner*