

New Covenant Top 10

Prompts for Song Writing

1. **The Lord *has* drawn near.** This was his work accomplished in our salvation. We have been forgiven so *that* we could be reunited to him completely. (Php. 4:5; Heb. 8:10-11; 13:5-6; John 14:18)
2. **We *have been* made new.** This is a work completed in the past, with ramification for the present. In our spirits, we have been raised from death (defined as separation from God) to Life (defined as relational union with God). (2 Cor. 5:17)
3. **We are *being renewed* in our souls** (thoughts, emotions, will) as we yield to his work in us. In our souls, we are becoming aligned with the spiritual reality of our new life in Christ. This is where we struggle with sin and the flesh; this is where we are being sanctified in our daily experience. (Rom. 12:2; Col 3:9-10; Gal. 5:16-24)
4. **We are presently spiritually united with Christ, and he lives in us forever.** We were united with him in his death, burial, and resurrection. This literally changes everything about our present experience. (Rom. 6:4-11)
5. **He is our constant source of Life.** As we rest in his finished work of salvation, and yield to his present work of living through us, we bear fruit that lasts (John 15:4-5). We are his physical vessels on earth as we depend on his Life in and through us. (Rom. 6:12-14)
6. **We are clean and close because of the enduring work of Christ.** His blood atonement secured for us permanent proximity. If we feel distant from him, it is because we have turned our focus away from this reality. (Heb. 9:13-14; 10:10, 19-23)
7. **Our High Priest *never* changes his disposition toward us:** He is always loving, kind, attentive, forgiving, gracious, welcoming, merciful, accepting. (Heb. 4:14-16)
8. **Cleansing from sin was permanently secured for us once for all by the blood of Jesus.** Forgiveness before God comes only through the sacrifice of a life (as seen in the blood), *not* from our sorrow or apology or confession. When we sin, we return to this reality as the source of our comfort. (Heb. 9:13-14, 22; 10:10, 18)
9. **Because the Holy Spirit lives in us, we have all we need for life and godliness** — all spiritual growth comes from him, and is the result of our submission and attentiveness to him. (1 John 2:20; 2 Pet. 1:3-4)
10. **We are spiritually complete in him.** We have fullness in him — he has not withheld his presence from us. Since we are united with him in our human spirits, we bear

the sufficiency of Jesus. We can rest — he is sufficient for us, and we are sufficient in him. (Col. 2:9-10; Heb. 4:9-10; 2 Pet. 1:4)

What is the New Covenant?

Throughout the Old Testament, God used his prophets to hint at the thing he was getting ready to do. In the time of the Mosaic Covenant, God used prophets like Jeremiah to indicate there was a coming covenant that would be radically different (Jer. 31:34). The old Mosaic Covenant was about performance. It held a perpetual reminder of sin. It was about annual sacrifices, stipulations, and *doing*. The platform for God's relationship with man was very much based on a system of laws.

When Jesus installs the Lord's Supper, on the night before he went to the cross, he declared, "This is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for many" (Mark 14:24). Looking back on the cross, the Author of the Book of Hebrews states, "Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant" (Hebrews 7:22) and "the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises" (Hebrews 8:6). He then quotes Old Testament prophets to explain the new covenant, which has arrived in Jesus for all who have come to faith in him.

Having established a new covenant with God's people Jesus brought God's people into an entirely new reality.

Why focus on the New Covenant?

Because of Christ, God has instated believers as ministers of the new covenant (2 Cor 3:6). Therefore, it is incumbent upon us not only to know the facets of the new covenant, but also to share that new reality with others.

Sadly, many new covenant believers live like they are still operating in the old covenant. Like the early Galatian church, "having begun in the Spirit" many Christians now are "trying to finish the work in the flesh" (Gal. 3:3). Operating in our own resources, we don't experience the life of grace the new covenant has provided for us.