

## **John Wesley Covenant Renewal Service**

### **East Valley church of the Nazarene**

Today, we are doing one version of Wesley Covenant Renewal Service, which was first published by John Wesley in 1780

**Introduction:** Historical background of John Wesley, and the purpose for the covenant renewal.

*In 1663 Richard Alleine, a Puritan, "A Vindication of Godliness in the Greater Strictness and Spirituality of It".*

**LEADER:** "Come, let us join ourselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant which will never be forgotten" (Jer. 50:5, RSV).

**LEADER:** Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify Your holy name through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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**The Lord's Prayer.**

**John 15:1-8 (NIV)**

[5] *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

**Our God is a God of Covenants ...**

**All covenants have implications of:**

- Trust in God as our One and Only God,
- Our one and only source for salvation
- Our one and only source for Joy and Peace
- That Christ (True Christianity is different than Religion)
- The interaction with the Personal Creator-God
- Promise of the Holy Spirit indwelling each of use for Life/Love/Living

**Three principles in your hearts:**

1. That things eternal are more enduring and real than things temporal;
2. That things not seen are as certain as the things that are seen;
3. That upon your present choice depends your eternal destiny. Choose Christ and His ways, and you are blessed forever; refuse Him, and you are undone forever.

**You have this threefold assurance:**

1. First, God's initiative. He has taken the first move. God the Father has appointed and sent Christ into the world to save sinners. **Jesus Christ** is the One whom God the Father has made our Savior. He is redeeming and reconciling the world to himself.
2. Second, God's command. This is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son, Jesus Christ.
3. Third, God's promise. "Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and whoever believes on Him shall not be disappointed.

**To make this covenant a reality in your life, there are five admonitions:**

1. First, set apart some time, more than once, to be spent alone with the Lord;
2. Second, be serious and in a spirit of holy awe and reverence.
3. Third, claim God's covenant, rely on God's promise of giving grace and strength, so you can keep your promise. Trust not your own strength and power.
4. Fourth, resolve to be faithful. You have given to the Lord your heart. You have opened your mouth to the Lord and you have dedicated yourself to God.
  - a. With God's power, never go back!
5. Fifth, be prepared to renew your covenant with the Lord.

Open your hearts, then, to the Lord and pray: