

Finding Treasure in The Word Expanded Overview - Union • Covenant Mindset • Communion

08/22/26

I'd like to start with two questions for you to think about during this study:

“What is the difference between Union with Christ and Communion with Christ for the believer?”

“How does this tie into abiding in Christ and walking with the Holy Spirit?”

Keep that question in mind as we walk through some important truths about what you—a born-again believer in Christ who has become a new creation—received the moment you believed in Him, the reality of the New Covenant you are now living in, and how to walk out this new life in Christ.

I want to focus on three major concepts for the believer:

Union • Covenant Mindset • Communion

- **Union:** This is the believer's permanent position in Christ the moment they are saved and born again through faith in Christ.
- **Covenant Mindset:** This involves two very different mindsets for the believer—Old Covenant versus New Covenant. It's Law versus Grace, “have to” versus “get to,” longing for His presence versus walking in His presence. We don't want to mix the two covenants. For example, **Gal.3:3** asks, *“Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?”*

Going back to the law (Old Covenant) instead of living by the Holy Spirit (New Covenant) keeps us from allowing the Holy Spirit to produce good fruit in our lives (**Gal. 5:22-23**). It also shows up as prideful self-reliance (“I got this, Lord—I can do this on my own”) versus humble dependence (“Lord, I need Your help. Holy Spirit, guide me and give me wisdom”).

- **Communion:** This is the believer's ongoing, daily relationship with Him as we abide in Him—an intentional relationship.
 - **Union:** What you received when you believed (position in Christ).
 - **Covenant Mindset:** What you believe about your position (New Covenant mindset).
 - **Communion:** What you do with your new life in Christ (daily abiding/walking it out)

Union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is the believer's spiritual position—a fixed legal reality. A **New Covenant mindset** is believing this spiritual reality. **Communion** is being intentional about your relationship with Christ. Below is a list breaking down these three concepts.

1. Union - What happens when you believe in Jesus Christ by faith?

Note: These are primarily the permanent positional realities received the moment we believed. Some also describe the ongoing work of the Spirit that flows from that position.

➤ **Because of faith and trust in Christ you are:** (a list for homework)

- saved: saved from what? saved from the wrath of God: **Rom. 10:8-13; Rom. 5:9; Jn. 3:36**; saved from eternal destruction and separation away from God's presence: **2 Thess. 1:8-9**. saved from conscious torment: **Lk. 16:23-24**.
- in Christ and He is in you: **Gal. 2:20; Col. 1:27; Jn. 14:20; Jn. 14:20-23; 1 Cor. 6:17**.
- no longer slaves to sin but have become slaves to righteous living: **Rom. 6:17-18, 22**.
- Justified, cleansed, sanctified, set apart, made holy, and made right with God by believing in and calling on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ: **1 Cor. 6:11; Rom. 3:21-28; 5:1; Gal. 2:16; Phil. 3:9; Heb. 10:10-14**.
- united with Him in his death, burial, and resurrection: **Rom. 6:3-5, 11; Gal. 2:20; 3:27; Col. 2:12-13; Eph. 2:5-6**.
- dead to the power of sin and alive to God through Christ Jesus: **Rom. 6:11, 13; Col. 3:3; Eph. 2:4-6; 2 Cor. 5:17; 1 Pet. 2:24**.

➤ **Because of salvation through faith and trust in Christ you have:** (a list for homework)

- life by the power of His name: **Jn. 3:36, 5:24, 6:47, 10:10, 17:3, 20:31; 1 Jn. 5:11-13**.
- passed from death to life and have eternal life now! **Jn. 3:36, 5:11-13, 24, 6:4**.
- become a new person, a new creation: **2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 4:20-24; Col. 3:9-10; Rom. 6:4; Tit. 3:5**.
- been born again: **Jn. 3:3-8; 1 Pet. 1:3,23**.
- been raised to new life with Christ: **Rom. 6:4; Col. 3:1**.
- been baptized into Christ and have put on Christ: **Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3**.
- become friends of God: **Jn. 15:15; Jas. 2:23**.
- received the promised Holy Spirit: **Eph. 1:13; Gal. 3:1-4,14; Acts 2:33; 2 Cor. 1:22; Jn. 7:37-39**.
- received God's promise of freedom: **Gal. 5:1; Jn. 8:36**.
- received forgiveness for your sins: **Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:13-14**.
- become a child of God: **Jn. 1:12; Gal. 3:26; Rom. 8:16**.
- gone through a spiritual circumcision—a cutting away of your sinful nature: **Col. 2:8-14, 3:9; Gal. 5:24; Eph. 4:22-24; Rom. 2:28-29, 6:6-7**.
- crucified the flesh with its passions and desires: **Gal. 5:24; Rom. 6:6**.
- been saved, born-again, reborn from above—spiritually transformed and made new: **Jn. 3:3-7; Titus 3:5; 1 Pet. 1:23**.
- been renewed, sanctified, and set apart by faith and are being renewed, sanctified. e.g., ongoing relationship: **1 Cor. 6:11; Acts 26:18; Heb. 10:10, 14**. Note: Have been sanctified and are being sanctified, e.g. the process of sanctification. (relationship/communion)
- died to your old life, were buried with Christ and have been raised to new life with Christ: **Rom. 6:4-8; Col. 2:12**.
- eternal life through Jesus Christ: **Rom. 6:23; Jn. 10:28; 1 Jn. 5:13**.

- been raised up together with Him and are seated with Him in the heavenly places: Eph. 2:4–6; Col. 3:1–3; Rom. 6:4–5.
- no longer under the law but under grace, died to the power of the law, when you died with Christ: Rom. 6:14; 7:4–6; 8:2; Gal. 2:19–21; 3:23–25; 5:18; Col. 2:13–14.
- been united with Christ: Rom. 6:5; Gal. 2:20.
- been brought near to Him through the blood of Christ: Eph. 2:13.
- renewed thoughts and a new nature: Eph. 4:23–24; Col. 3:10.
- turned from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God: Acts 26:18; Eph. 5:8.
- had the veil removed and can now see and reflect the glory of the Lord: 2 Cor. 3:16–18.
- become righteous through faith in Christ: 2 Cor. 5:17,21; Rom. 3:21–22, 4:24, 5:17.
- * Imputed righteousness: Christ's perfect righteousness is credited to the believer. Christ's righteousness is a free gift received by faith. The Cost: Free to you, but it cost Him everything. The Requirement: Simply "receiving" it through faith, rather than earning it.
- been made holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault: Col. 1:22; Eph. 5:27; Heb. 10:10; 1 Cor. 1:30, 6:11; Acts 20:32. (positional holiness).
- stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds have put on the new man (new nature) and are being renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. Col. 3:9–10.
- been rescued from the curse pronounced by the law: Gal. 3:10–13; Deut. 21:22–23; 27:26. The curse of the law is condemnation and death: Rom. 3:23, 6:23; Gal. 3:11.
- been delivered from justly deserved wrath and have come under the covenant of grace: Rom. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10; Rom. 6:14.
- been brought into a right relationship with God that comes by faith: Rom. 5:1; Gal. 2:16.
- peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us: Rom. 5:1.
- Access to God's grace through faith and full access to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit: Rom. 5:2; Eph. 2:18, 3:12; Heb. 10:19–22.
- been brought into a new way of living in the Spirit: Rom. 8:1–4; Gal. 5:16, 25.
- been identified as his own because He gave you the Holy Spirit: Eph. 1:13–14; 2 Cor. 1:22.
- received everything Christ did on the cross. You have received the finished work! YAY! Jn. 19:30; Heb. 10:12–14; Col. 2:14.

...and now you must continue in faith and to abide in Him, ongoing relationship:

- Continue in faith: Col 1:22–23, Acts 14:22, Heb 3:14. (Believe what is listed above)
- Add to your faith: 2 Pet. 1:5–10; Gal. 5:22–23; Phil. 4:8; Col. 1:9–10; 1 Tim. 4:7–8; Jas. 1:2–4.
- Growing in faith: 1 Pet. 2:2; Eph. 4:15; Phil. 1:9–11; Col. 1:10; 2:6–7; 2 Thess. 1:3; Heb. 6:1.
- Abiding in Him: Jn 15:4–5, 1 Jn 2:24, 1 Jn 2:28.
- Communion: Ongoing Relationship: Col 2:6, Gal 2:20, Jn 8:31.

➤ **Those who believe in Jesus Christ will:** (a list for homework)

- never thirst: Jn. 4:14; 6:35.
- never go hungry: Jn. 6:35.
- have springs and rivers of living water flowing [continuous] from their innermost being. (Which is the Holy Spirit): Jn. 7:37-39; 4:14.
- be saved: Jn. 3:16; Acts 16:31; Rom. 10:9.
- live and never die: Jn. 11:25-26.
- have abundant life. (To the full, till it overflows): Jn. 10:10.
- be overflowing (bubbling over) with hope: Rom. 15:13.
- become children of light: Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5; Jn. 12:36.
- do the same works Jesus has done, and even greater works: Jn. 14:12.
- never walk in darkness, but have the light of life: Jn. 8:12.
- be set free indeed: Jn. 8:36; Gal. 5:1.
- have His peace that the world cannot give: Jn. 14:27; 16:33.
- bear much fruit: Jn. 15:5, 8, 16.
- overcome the world: Jn. 16:33; 1 Jn. 5:4-5.

Everything listed above is our “position” in Christ because of our “union” with Christ through faith. These are just some of the "exceedingly great and precious promises" mentioned in 2 Pet. 1:4 that allow us to partake in His divine nature.

2. Covenant Mindset – The important of not mixing covenants.

Two different mindsets for the believer

Old Covenant ↔ New Covenant mindset; Law ↔ Grace; have to ↔ get to;
religion ↔ relationship.

(A quick-glance comparison – the “mindset shift” that changes everything!)

Old Covenant	New Covenant	Supporting Scriptures (OC ↔ NC)
Law	Grace	Ex. 20:1-17; 2 Cor. 3:7 ↔ Jn. 1:17; Rom. 6:14
Works (law-based)	Believe and receive	Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:20 ↔ Eph. 2:8-9; Gal. 3:2
The written law	Laws written on our hearts	Ex. 31:18; 2 Cor. 3:3 ↔ Jer. 31:33; Heb. 8:10
Heavy yoke and burden of the law	His yoke is easy and His burden is light	Acts 15:10; Gal. 5:1; Matt. 23:4 ↔ Matt. 11:28-30
Keeping the law	New way of faith	Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:12 ↔ Gal. 3:11; Rom. 1:17
Separation / Far from God	No longer any separation (for those in Christ); Brought near to God by the blood of Christ	Isa. 59:2; Eph. 2:12 ↔ Eph. 2:13-14; Matt. 27:51
Separated from His presence (limited access); Longing for His presence; God was in a temple behind a curtain (limited access)	We can now boldly enter His presence (permanent, bold, 24/7 access); Walking in His presence because of the Holy Spirit; We are the temple (permanent access)	Heb. 9:7-8; Ps. 27:4, 42:1-2; Ex. 33:15; 1 Kings 8:10-11; Lev. 16:2 ↔ Heb. 4:16; Heb. 10:19-22; Jn. 14:16-17, 23; 1 Jn. 4:13; 1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16; Matt. 27:51
Ministry of death & condemnation. (The law’s penalty for sin is death.)	Ministry of the Spirit & righteousness (Flesh profits nothing, The Spirit brings life!)	2 Cor. 3:7-9; Jn. 6:63; Rom. 8:2-4
Repeated sacrifices that could never take away sins	One perfect sacrifice – perfect forever. Christ was the propitiation for our sin.	Heb. 10:1-4 ↔ Heb. 10:10-14; Rom. 3:25, 1 Jn. 2:2, 4:10, Heb. 2:17

Note: See **2 Cor. 3** for a powerful chapter that contrasts the two covenants side-by-side (letter vs. Spirit, fading glory vs. lasting glory, veil, condemnation vs. righteousness). Heb. 10 drives home the finished work of Christ even more clearly.

Both **Union** and **Covenant Mindset** have to do with the believer's permanent position in Christ. **Union** being their spiritual reality and **Covenant Mindset** being the belief of this reality.

3. Communion: This is the believer's ongoing, daily relationship with Him as we abide in Him—an intentional relationship (Jn. 15:4–5). This is the walking out of our new life with Christ. Putting into practice what the Word says, walking daily, moment by moment in the reality of being in union with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The above lists and comparisons have to do with "receiving" what God has done for us. About what we "received" when we believed in Christ and believing that reality by having a New Covenant mindset. Now we are heading into the "doing": Our intentionality with our relationship with Christ. Gal. 5:16–18, 24–25; Rom. 8:5–6, 9, 13–14. We are called to walk by and keep in step with the Spirit and to live according to the Spirit—active dependence, not passive inactivity or self-powered striving.

Important Note: We need the Holy Spirit to help us with this "doing" part. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the helper, the Spirit of truth who will teach us all things and will guide us into all truth. Jn. 14:16-17, 26, 15:26, 16:7, 16:12-15. The Holy Spirit helps us produce good fruit:

Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

We need to work with the Holy Spirit and "let" Him and "allow" Him to produce this fruit in our lives. This takes Humility, surrender and trust. The list below is accomplished by being "Spirit-Led" vs. "Flesh driven".

Here is a short list of what we (believers) should be doing with all that we have received.

- We are told to be: Sober-minded, watchful, alert, vigilant, self-controlled and prepared: 1 Pet. 1:13, 4:7, 5:7-9, 5:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:13-14; Col. 4:2; Lk. 21:36; Mat. 24:4-6; Eph. 6:10-18.
- We are told to: Humble ourselves and resist the enemy, to stand firm in our faith and to continue in the faith: 1 Pet. 5:6-9; Jas. 4:7, 1 Cor. 16:13; Phil. 1:27.
- We are told to: Live as children of the light, walk in the light, walk in love, shine brightly, and walk in newness of life: Eph. 5:8-10; 1 Jn. 1:7; Eph. 5:2; Phil. 2:15; Rom. 6:4; Jn. 8:12.
- We are told to: Love one another but to not love this world: 1 Jn. 2:15-17, 4:7-12, 21; Jn. 13:34-35.
- We are told to: Lay Aside (Strip off) every unnecessary weight and the sin which so easily and cleverly entangles us, to put off your old self, cast off the works of darkness and put away all filthiness and malice: Heb. 12:1; Eph. 4:22–24; Col. 3:8–10; Rom. 13:12; Jas. 1:21; 1 Pet. 2:1. --- *take off before you put on* ---
- We are told to: Put on our new nature/new self/new man, put on Christ and put on the full armor of God: Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10; Rom. 13:14; Eph. 6:11-18.

- We are told to: Clothe ourselves with Christ, humility, the Lord Jesus Christ, compassion and with kindness: **Rom. 13:14; 1 Pet. 5:5; Col. 3:12.**
- We are told to: Present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. **Rom. 6:12–14, 19, 12:1; 1 Cor. 6:19–20; 1 Pet. 2:4–5; Heb. 13:15–16; Eph. 5:1–2.**
- We are told to: Not be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. A renewed mind is a mind acting under the influence of the Holy Spirit. **Rom. 8:5–6, 12:2; Eph. 4:22–24; Col. 3:9–10; 1 Pet. 1:13–15; Tit. 3:5.**
- We are told to: Look away from all that will distract us; to focus our eyes on Jesus and run with endurance the race God has set before us. We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus and daily fixing our gaze, attention and thoughts on God. **Heb. 12:1–3; Col. 3:2; Phil. 3:13–14; 1 Cor. 9:24–27; 2 Tim. 4:7–8; Isa. 26:3.**

These are some of the hard ones:

- We are told to: Do everything without grumbling or arguing so that you may become blameless and pure, ‘children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. **1 Pet. 4:9; Jas. 5:9; Deut. 32:5; Mat. 5:14–16; 1 Pet. 2:12; Acts 2:40.**
- We are told to: Rejoice at all times, to pray without ceasing and to give thanks in all circumstances. **1 Thess. 5:16–18; Phil. 4:4–6; Rom. 12:12; Eph. 5:18–20, 6:18; Col. 3:15–17, 4:2; Lk. 18:1.**
- We are told to: be anxious for nothing, are told to not worry about our life and should cast all our cares on Him because He cares for us. – How much do we trust Jesus with our lives and our families? **Phil. 4:6; Mt. 6:25–34; 1 Pet. 5:7; Psalms 37:5, 55:22; Prov. 3:5–6; Isa. 41:10; Jn. 14:1, 27; Heb. 13:5–6.**
- We are told to: Go and make disciples and be ministers of the New Covenant. **2 Cor. 3:6, 5:18–20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8; Col. 1:28–29; 2 Tim. 2:2; Rom. 10:14–15; Lk. 24:46–48.**
- We are told to: Make every effort to enter into His rest. Much of what is listed above can come out of this rest. **Heb. 3:12–14, 4:1–3, 9–11; Psalms 95:7–11; Mat. 11:28–30; Isa. 30:15; Ex. 33:14.**

Union is what you received the moment you believed — your permanent position in Christ.

Covenant Mindset is what you believe about that position — living under grace instead of law.

Communion is how you walk it out — daily abiding in Christ and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit.

Everything listed above flows from these three realities. Through faith in Christ, you are already in Christ. Believe it. Then, by the power of the Spirit, live it.

“Finding Treasure in the Word” RiverLife Fellowship Life Link – Overview - 08/22/26

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