

October 31, 2021

# Covenant Renewal

## Deuteronomy 29:10-29

My father has suffered tremendous loss lately. In the past month, my dad lost his mother, his younger brother, and his best friend. Any one of those losses would have completely demolished me, but my father is made of strong stuff. Today, the day of his brother's funeral, he woke up at 4:00 AM to drive his school bus route. He takes out the trash, he dries the dishes, and he carries on. I don't know that I could do that. I imagine I'd assume myself to be cursed, a victim of God's "wrath, anger, and great fury." My dad, however, sees the flip side of that covenant.

In the face of terrific loss, renewing one's covenant with God can seem impossible. When grieving, everything feels like it takes more effort, and little is easy. Taking the time to renew our faith in Jesus and promises to God can feel like a burdensome task. For those who take that task to heart, though, a fierce love is waiting on the other side. The student book author writes, "[The Hebrews] had a chance 'right now' to put the past behind them and start a new, faithful covenant with the God who had led and sustained them. Love and forgiveness, not anger and punishment, are the foundations of God's heart."<sup>1</sup>

Terrible things happen to us, sometimes all at once. When they do, we have the choice to blame God or take comfort in God. For those who choose to seek refuge in their faith, an amazing grace awaits. "The LORD will make you his own people right now—he will be your God just as he promised you and just as he swore to our ancestors" (Deuteronomy 29:13).

1. Remember a time when you felt grief. Did you blame God for your loss? Why or why not?
2. In what ways can your faith comfort you in a time of loss?
3. How can you renew your covenant with God this week?

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<sup>1</sup>From *Adult Bible Studies*, Fall 2021, by Greg Weeks (Cokesbury, 2021); page 89.