

**DISCIPLESHIP AND THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT**

**I WILL, WITH GOD'S HELP**

**PENTECOST SEASON 2021**

**THE FOURTH PROMISE** (WEDNESDAYS - JUNE 2, 9, 16, 23, 30)

#### OPENING PRAYER FOR STUDY

As we gather together to learn, to grow and to change we ask;  
Gracious God, help us to move into a deeper understanding of your truth.  
We lay our lives down before you and ask that you would move amongst us.  
May we all feel safe with each other. Safe to think and question, safe to ask for help,  
and safe to share our lives with each other and with you.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

Best Practices for your own study and in a group setting.

- Keep an open heart and mind.
- Remember that there is no one correct interpretation of the sacred text.
- Allow yourself to hear others thoughts, and heartfelt beliefs.
- Welcome questions, ask lots of questions. Listen deeply.
- Read different versions of the sacred text and take note of the differences. Identify whether you are reading a translation or a paraphrase.
- Explore the historical and cultural context of what you are reading.
- Consult a wide theological diversity of commentaries. Traditional and contemporary thoughts.
- Make study a regular part of your faith journey.
- Share only what you feel comfortable sharing.
- Remember that all faith is a living breathing experience and changing our mind or position on a theological premise is not a failure.
- End with Prayer.

#### CLOSING PRAYER FOR STUDY

God of all Creation, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.  
Thank you that we can live in your light and walk in your truth.  
May the things that you have revealed and thoughts that we have shared dwell in our hearts and stir us to action.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Christ, Redeemer, Saviour, Pattern of Life. Amen.

## BAPTISMAL COVENANT

### THE CREED

Question

Do you believe in God?

Answer

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Question

Do you believe in Jesus the Christ, the Son of God?

Answer

**I believe in Jesus the Christ, God's only Son, our Saviour and Redeemer. Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of Virgin Mary. Jesus suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Creator. Jesus will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Question

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

Answer

**I believe in God the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

### THE PROMISES

Question

Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the ways of Jesus the Christ?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human person.

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Question

Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth?

Answer

**I will with God's help.**

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

## I will with God's help

### Who Am I?

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, 1943-1945  
*Letters and Papers from Prison*

Who am I? They often tell me  
I stepped from my cells confinement  
Calmly, cheerfully, firmly,  
Like a Squire from his country house.

Who am I? They often tell me  
I used to speak to my warders  
Freely and friendly and clearly,  
As though it were mine to command.

Who am I? They also tell me  
I bore the days of misfortune  
Equably, smilingly, proudly,  
like one accustomed to win.

Am I then really that which other men tell of?  
Or am I only what I myself know of myself?  
Restless and longing and sick, like a bird in a cage,  
Struggling for breath, as though hands were compressing my throat,

"Being a Christian  
is less about  
cautiously avoiding  
sin than about  
courageously and  
actively doing  
God's will."

-DIETRICH BONHOEFFER



Yearning for colors, for flowers, for the voices of birds,  
Thirsting for words of kindness, for neighborliness,  
Tossing in expectations of great events,  
Powerlessly trembling for friends at an infinite distance,  
Weary and empty at praying, at thinking, at making,  
Faint, and ready to say farewell to it all.

Who am I? This or the Other?  
Am I one person today and tomorrow another?  
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,  
And before myself a contemptible woebegone weakling?  
Or is something within me still like a beaten army  
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.  
Who am I? This or the Other?

Am I one person today and tomorrow another?  
Am I both at once? A hypocrite before others,  
And before myself a contemptible woebegone weakling?  
Or is something within me still like a beaten army  
Fleeing in disorder from victory already achieved?

Who am I? They mock me, these lonely questions of mine.  
Whoever I am, Thou knowest, O God, I am thine!

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

## I will with God's help

Please watch the video attached to this link.

[Rob Bell - Name](#)

Questions related to the video are from the Nooma video study guide.

1. Why do you think we so often worry about what everyone else is doing, saying, or thinking?
2. Should it matter to us what's 'normal' for everyone else?
3. What is your name? Have you ever thought of your name as a reflection of who you are?
4. Do you sense you have a unique path in your life? If so what is it?
5. Are there ways in which you tend to get distracted from 'your path' because of what others do, say, or think?
6. What do you think it means for people to claim their own history? Have you claimed yours?
7. Are there things in your life that you do because it is 'expected' of you?
8. Do you think you could live in a way where you are not comparing yourself to people who have more than you, who look different than you, or who can do things you can't?
9. What would it look like for you to completely trust Jesus when he says, "You, follow me"?



Scripture - There are many different translations and paraphrases of the scripture. Reading the same scripture verses from different translations is an excellent way to hear more from the sacred text.

Bible Gateway - <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Corinthians+15&version=NIV>

Genesis 1:27

Exodus 2:1-10

Psalms 139:13-16

Isaiah 41:10; 62:3-5

Matthew 5:14; 16:23

Mark 8:29; 14:10-11

Luke 22:54-62

John 15:15-16

Acts 1:1-8

2 Corinthians 5:17

Philippians 4:19

Romans 6:18; 8:38-39; 12:2

Ephesians 4:24; 6:10-18

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

## I will with God's help

Read the following 3 articles ~ use this link [Mindful Christianity](#)

I Am a Human Judging Machine  
The Deception of Spiritual Pride  
I Am a Pharisee

1. In what ways do I judge others? What effect does it have on them, or how I might be in relationship with them?
2. In what ways do I judge myself?
3. What am I prideful about? Is pride always a sin?
4. The Image of God is a concept and theological doctrine in Judaism, Christianity, and some Sufi sects of Islam, which asserts that human beings are created in the image and likeness of God. Philosophers and theologians have debated the exact meaning of the phrase for millennia. What do you think it means to be created in the image of God?
5. How do I live into and out of, being the image of God - what am I suppose to be doing and thinking?



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Please read both creation stories in Genesis  
Genesis 1:1 - 2:4

Genesis 2:5 - 25

Note any differences between the creation accounts. Use this sheet to sort out your thoughts - [Hug the Details](#)

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbour as yourself?

## I will with God's help

### Questions

1. Who is our neighbour?
2. What does it mean to love your neighbour as yourself?
3. Do we love ourselves?
4. Watch this Rob Bell video - [YOU](#)

Questions related to the video are from the Nooma video study guide.

1. Have you ever thought about what makes your faith special? Do you believe that the act of Jesus rising from the dead is what makes the Christian faith unique?
2. Do you have the sense that you're part of a movement that is putting the world back together? Why or why not?
3. Is your understanding of the central calls of the Christian faith that it is about serving and not controlling or ruling?
4. Do you think people today generally perceive Christians as people who serve or as people who forcefully try to rule?
5. If others could only watch how you spend your time, how you spend your money, what you love, who you love, do you think they would see that Jesus has risen from the dead?



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Deuteronomy 6:4-5;  
Leviticus 19:18; 19:33-34; 24:19;  
Isaiah 1:17  
Micha 6:8

Matthew 5:43-48; 7:1-2; 22:36-40;  
Mark 12:30-31;  
John 13:34; 15:10-12

Parable of the Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37  
Parable of the Prodigal Son - Luke 5:11-32