

# THE PARALLEL COVENANT

*A practical demonstration of how the  
marriage covenant is the tangible earthly  
example of the greatest covenant of all...  
Salvation.*

**Glenn Connors**

**FathersHeart**

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## **THE PARALLEL COVENANT**

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Glenn Connors

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# Foreword

There is no question that the institution of marriage is under attack in our society today. With divorce and remarriage rampant in the church, we need to understand what the Bible teaches about the marriage covenant, so that we might have strong healthy marriages and raise our families in strong two parent homes. Christian marriage is one man and one woman, for a life-time commitment, to raise our children in the admonition of the Lord, but it is also much more!

I have had the great honor and privilege of pastoring Glenn Connors for over 20 years, and have watched the Lord mature him from a new believer into a seasoned man of God. I have been a witness as to how he conducts his personal life and how he ministers to his “best friend” and wife Maureen, and their seven children, all of whom are serving God. I have seen them handle personal crisis and have marveled at Glenn’s Christ like example, and at times I have fallen under the conviction of the Holy Spirit, wondering if I could have endured the trial as well as Glenn and his family. At times his standards and ideas on marriage and family seem almost too “idealistic” if you were to solely base your views on what the world sees and experiences today. But the secret of his married life and successful family are revealed through the

revelation of the relationship and covenant he walks in on a daily basis with his God.

In this book, The Parallel Covenant, Glenn has written a very simple, easy to understand, practical book that is close to a marriage manual but is fun and easy to read. Glenn lays out three sections, Covenant, Communication, and Relationship, with practical applications at the end of each section during which he gives opportunity for you to reflect upon your situation and lets the Holy Spirit minister to you personally.

I believe this book will help strengthen you, your relationship with God, and your marriage regardless of your current situation. It is a great tool for those that are engaged and should be used for pre-marriage counseling, in order to make sure you are starting out on a solid foundation.

I highly recommend this Christian perspective on God's ideas of marriage and covenant to anyone who would like to draw closer to the Lord and their spouse, and press into a new level of intimacy with both.

Ken Gerry  
Sr. Pastor New Life Christian Center



# INTRODUCTION

I have never failed to be amazed of how God orders and directs the steps of His people throughout the course of day to day life. What almost seems unimaginable is that He is directing our course long before we even come to know Him. According to the book of Psalms, ***“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord.”*** Isn't it humbling to consider that the creator of heaven and earth is deeply concerned with us, long before we could even be considered “good?”

We all have a journey that leads us to this wonderful covenant with the Lord. While every journey is unique, the one thing in common is, not one of us “discovered” the Lord, or found our own way to the cross. The truth is that we have all been led. We have all been drawn by a loving and relentless God. If all that He did was to orchestrate this covenant of salvation by both dying and resurrecting, that in itself would be evidence of a greater love than anyone of us could imagine. But that wasn't all, He not only made the way possible for intimacy with Himself, but He spends eternity continually drawing His people back to Himself. Our journey doesn't begin when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ, but it begins with the gentle tugging on the strings of our heart that lead us to the foot of the cross.

In the following chapters we will take a close look at the covenant between man and God, as well as the covenant between husband and wife. We will look at the similarities between the two, as we become more intimate and closer to both our spouse and our God. But first let's take the time to see where the journey begins. I believe that if we can have a revelation of the first times when Jesus makes himself known to us, then we can have a deeper revelation of His love for us, which will in turn allow us to have a deeper love for our spouse, our family, and God's people in general. As I share my journey with you, allow the Holy Spirit to reveal yours.

My first encounter with the power of God came when I was only five years old. The reason I can be so precise on the age is by looking at where my family and I were living at the time and the circumstances surrounding the event. (In other words you'll have to take my word on it). After breakfast one fateful morning, my mother was putting away the dishes in the kitchen when I decided to find something that would amuse me in my room. I took interest with my older brother's desk, it has always been there, but this time I noticed the drawer in the center was left open. My sense of adventure was kindled, and I pulled on it hard enough to cause it to land on the floor. Shortly after the crash I notified my mother that all was well and began to look through the new found treasure. It was then that I saw it, a beautiful medallion of some sort with the image of a woman holding a baby. Around the woman's head was a circle that I had never seen before, I had to find out what this incredible

discovery could be. So I tapped into the greatest source of information a five year old had, Mom. She explained to me the image was of baby Jesus and the Virgin Mary his mother, and how keeping this medallion would always keep me safe. As she left the room I was in awe, knowing that because I had in my possession the image of Jesus and His mom, I was truly invincible. Surely, the world was now mine for the taking, after all what could ever harm me? I began to ponder about what were the greatest fears of a five year old? Then it came to me, “Yes...I could now play in the streets!” After all what car could possibly hurt me, I had my most special medallion? At that very instant my mother yelled in from the other room, I can still hear her today, “Glenn, that doesn’t mean you can play in the streets!” Well, that just blew it; my new found power from baby Jesus didn’t really have the power to save me from my greatest threat, or so I thought at the time. As I put the medallion back in its place, and as I write this now I can still remember the overwhelming feeling that I must have been someone very special to find such a treasure. The best way I could describe that moment so long ago, is that I felt the warmth of God’s love all around me. If I only realized then that it was not the image of Jesus that contained power, but the relationship with Him, I truly would have had everything that a five year old boy dreamed about.

I suppose that was the first step in my life long revelation of God. I understood that He existed and had some great power beyond what I could ever imagine. The next step came several years later, my

first memories of attending church. It was at that point that I was introduced to God "The Father". We had just moved from New York City to a small town in upstate New York called Pine Plains. There we discovered a small Catholic Church where we began attending regularly. I say we, but all I really remember attending was my mom and I. The priest there was a man named Father Nick. Why I remember that name I am not certain. To this day I can not even remember the name of the church, or the priest who took over the parish several years later. I suppose in some way Father Nick had some kind of impact on me, to what degree I am yet uncertain. Father Nick was a big man, and I remember that my father held some kind of respect for him because he was a survivor of a German concentration camp in Poland. I was instructed to address this man as Father. I was uncertain as to why, after all this man certainly was not my father. It was explained to me (unsuccessfully) that because he was a representative of "Father God" and he spoke on behalf of God, that we must also address him as father. To tell the truth, that left me wondering that if God is so powerful (My earlier revelation) then why does He need some elderly Polish man to speak for Him? To the best of my recollection that question did not go over very well.

As time went on and I grew older I became bored with church, I suppose somewhere deep inside of me there was a cry to know this God who is also my father. There seemed to be some contradictions in this "Father theory." First of all, I could talk to my real father and he would talk back to me. Bottom line, I

had a relationship with my real father, which was something that seemed quite impossible to have with God. So I began a search, not anything I did consciously, but without even realizing what I was doing, I desperately wanted to find someone that could help me to identify with this Father God. Looking back now, with the perspective of a man whose life has been transformed by the love of the Lord, I can see so clearly the relentless pursuit of my God. Isn't that after all what a father does? Relentlessly pursues those that belong to Him. If the entire Bible could be summarized it would be something like this, "The story of a father who had his children stolen from Him in a garden, and His efforts to rescue them for all eternity."

I have memories of Sunday school, which I never liked, finding it incredibly boring, because all we spoke about were stories of Father God. Those stories had the same impact on my life as stories of Santa Claus, which by this time I matured to the place of not believing in any more. Unless I were to meet my Heavenly Father, or at least someone who knew Him, I would have to bundle up all those fantasies of God, Santa, Easter bunnies, and yes even the tooth fairy, into a box marked "kids stuff" and put them away for good. After all, I was growing up. If I only knew then how much God desired to have a relationship with me, or how from His throne in Heaven He spoke..... "Glenn, I am real, and I love you with a love you cannot even understand now, but I will make myself known to you, and we will have that

father-son relationship you desire.” My only regret is that I never took the time to hear His voice.

Around the age of fifteen, my pursuit of a way to relate to God had given way to a pursuit of how to relate to girls, which let’s face it, was a whole lot more important to a teenager. But then it happened, I saw the movie “Oh God” with George Burns and John Denver. The movie portrayed God as being just like one of us: just a nice old guy with a great sense of humor. I finally figured it out; Father God is like George Burns! He wasn’t this angry God waiting to strike you down the moment you messed up, He was kind and understanding. I realize this may seem a bit ridiculous to you, but remember, God uses the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. I really felt somehow closer to God than ever before, maybe now I had a tangible image of my Heavenly Father. This new revelation brought forth a resurgence of hunger to know about God.

Several months before graduating High School, January 14, 1983, to be exact, I found myself standing in a bar room that was located in a college town some 90 minutes from where I lived. The circumstances that brought me to that place, at that time, were almost unbelievable. It was that night I met my wife Maureen. To this day I can remember what she was wearing, and even the way she fixed her hair. How could I have known that the same God who had been drawing me all these years, now like a masterful conductor orchestrated the events in my life to lead to this moment of time? How could I have ever imagined

that the beautiful woman, there in front of me, would one day become my wife, the mother of my seven children, and most of all, my best friend. A girl from Long Island, New York, that was handpicked by the Lord to enter into a covenant with me that would last for all eternity. God had already shown me that He was powerful, that He was a father, that He was loving, kind, and forgiving, and now He was about to demonstrate the most wonderful thing of all...A love covenant that would become the final straw in reaching my heart and revealing Himself to me.

Maureen and I were married two years later on April 28, 1985. We still had no clue of who God really was, or how much He loved us. For that matter we really had no idea of what love was in general. Just like all newlyweds, we thought we were in love, and things couldn't get any better than that very moment. Less than one year later my heart was opened to the message of the Gospel and the love of God was poured in without measure. All the events that took place in my life up until that time seemed like road markers constantly pulling me to continue on the path, even though I had no idea where it was leading.

The marriage covenant is the earthly tangible example of the covenant that each believer has with Christ. A marriage that is submitted to God is a beautiful demonstration of His love and hope to a lost and dying world. For that reason there is no wonder as to why this marriage covenant has come under such brutal attack throughout recent generations. Adultery, fornication, the proliferation of pornography, divorce,

and the effort to legitimize gay marriages, are all spiritual attacks geared to destroy the covenant of marriage, in a vain attempt to remove all evidence of the Kingdom of God from this nation.

I believe that marriage should be celebrated more at this time than ever before. One day my daughter asked me, "Which is most important to celebrate, birthdays or anniversaries?" My answer was simply this, "Birthdays just happen, but anniversaries are worked at for a lifetime".

The entire world is looking for men who are Godly examples, committed to one woman for a lifetime. Men who take a stand against adultery, who refuse to bow their knee to the temptations that bombard them on a regular basis. Men who have purposed in their hearts to love, honor, and respect their wives and children all the days of their lives. Likewise, women who will love, honor, and respect their husbands. Women who are willing to submit to Godly authority and covering, and come along side of their husbands to fulfill the plans and purposes of God. The world needs young people who take a stand for abstinence. Young people that have such a high esteem for the covenant of marriage that they determine within their own hearts not to commit adultery on their future husbands and wives. What would our nation be like with parents that refuse to place their families on the altar of "Financial success", and regard the value of family relationships second only to relationship with God?



It is my hope that the following chapters will be a help as well as a guide down the path of covenant relationship with your spouse and your God. Regardless of what condition your marriage is currently in, there is hope and promise in the power of the covenant. Many marriages start off the wrong way, just like ours did. So many people come into marriage with deep hurts and wounds that go back years in the past, somehow looking at their new spouse as the emotional escape hatch to a new life. Unfortunately, that is seldom, if ever the case. Regardless of the past, or the condition that your marriage is in today, I believe that it is God's will for your marriage to not just succeed, but to prosper.

I took the time to share some of my past with you so that you may see the power of God that is continually at work behind the scenes of our lives. I hope that you will take time to review your past, and while doing so ask the Lord to reveal all the times and places where He has intervened on your behalf. By doing this we begin to see a pattern that God is never far off and always tugging on our heart strings. If this is the loving God we serve then why not believe Him for miracles in our homes, and in our families?

We have been conditioned by society to believe that there will always be contentions, arguments, and strife with our children, and in our marriages. We come to believe that marriage is a test of endurance and a continuing clashing of self will. I heard someone say that the secret to a good marriage is being quick to say, "Yes dear." My heart in the following

chapters is to point out the fact that God never intended the marriage covenant to be like that. As I stated earlier, it is God's will to use the covenant of marriage as a tangible example of the love covenant that He made with us. We must not allow ourselves to settle for anything less than God's best.

Make no mistake, a good marriage is supernatural. You can read all kinds of books geared to make you a better husband or a better wife, and that is great. But the bottom line is that just like our salvation experience was a divine intervention, and our continual Christian walk is only made possible by the power of God, what makes us think marriage is any different? If we choose to do it on our own it can be good, but as for me, I desire a marriage that is a living testimony to the love and power of God, leaving a lasting imprint on the world around me for generations to come. That is the marriage covenant that God desires you to have, and believe it or not the entire world is crying out to see that kind of testimony on the earth today.

I challenge you, as you read the following chapters, dare to believe God for miracles. Allow the Lord to open your eyes to any areas where you have settled for less than God's best, then boldly re-claim the ground the enemy has stolen from you! I leave you with two very powerful words that you must apply in every area of your life.....BUT GOD!

# SECTION ONE



# THE COVENANT

