



How can you experience renewal in your faith?

1. By _____ to your _____.

Revelation 2:3–5 *You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary.* ⁴ Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. ⁵ Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. (NIV)

2. By _____ in _____.

Revelation 2:9–10 *I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich)...* ¹⁰ Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (ESV)

3. By _____.

Revelation 2:14–15 *You have some there who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the people of Israel, so that they would eat food sacrificed to idols and engage in sexual immorality.* ¹⁵ So you also have some who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. (NRSV)

4. By _____ to what _____.

Revelation 2:19–25 *I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first.* ²⁰ Nevertheless... you tolerate that woman Jezebel, who... misleads my servants... ²¹ I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. ²² So I will cast her on a bed of suffering... ²³ Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds... ²⁴ I will not impose any other burden on you, ²⁵ except to hold on to what you have until I come. (NIV)

5. By _____ what is _____.

Revelation 3:1–3 *I know what you have done. You are known for being alive, but you are dead.* ² Be alert, and strengthen the things that are left which are about to die. I have found that what you are doing has not been completed in the sight of my God. ³ So remember what you received and heard. Obey, and change the way you think and act. (GW)

6. By _____ to the end.

Revelation 3:10 *Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth.* (NIV)

7. By opening _____ when _____.

Revelation 3:15–17, 19–20 *I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot.* ¹⁶ So, because you are lukewarm and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. ¹⁷ For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked... ¹⁹ I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in and eat with you, and you with me. (NRSV)

Your _____ is renewed as your _____ is renewed.

Sources: *The Communicator's Commentary (Revelation)*, *The Daily Bible Study Series (Revelation)*, and various illustrations from Preaching Today

RENEWING OUR COVENANT WITH GOD

Prayer of Confession

God our Father, You have shown us the way to life in Jesus:
We confess with shame our slowness to love Him more and our reluctance to follow Him.
You have spoken and called us, but we have failed to listen.
You have shown us Your glory, but we have been too blind to see.
We have received countless blessings, but have given You little thanks.
We are unworthy of Your changeless love.

God, have mercy on me according to Your overwhelming love and kindness. Forgive me, Lord, and cleanse me of my sin. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. Amen.

The Covenant Renewal

And now, let us commit ourselves in covenant to Christ as his servants. Let us give ourselves to Him so that we may fully belong to Him. Jesus Christ has left us with many services to be done. Some of these services are easy and honorable, but some are difficult and disgraceful. Some line up with our desires and interests; others are contrary to both. In some we please both Christ and ourselves, but then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves.

The Covenant Prayer

**I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will. Place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing. Put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full. Let me be empty.
Let me have all things. Let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
You are mine, and I am Yours. So be it.
And the covenant, which I have made on earth,
let it also be made in heaven.
Amen.**



DOGGY BAG

Something to take home and chew on!

1. Have you ever desired renewal in your faith? What observations drove that desire? How did you respond?

2. What do you think it means to return to your first love?

3. God has a different idea from the world of what it means to be rich; what is your understanding of being rich biblically?

4. What are some distortions of the gospel that you've come across and how did you determine these things to be false teachings?

5. As it relates to faith, how do you hold on to what you have been given in Jesus?

6. What is dead and needs reviving in your own faith walk? What is one step you can take in the right direction?

7. What role has perseverance played in your faith journey? How might you build your faith to endure patiently to the end?

8. Name a time when Jesus knocked on the door of your heart. How did He change your life?

9. Our faith and our witness of Jesus are entwined. How can we become more confident in sharing the reason for our hope?

Take a step in faith this week:

- **Let us know you are here today.** Fill out a Connection Card every Sunday through either the Christ Church app or the Connection Card tab in the top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform (LIVE.CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG).
- **Go to our weekly online bulletin** and get involved with mission and ministry this week. Use the Christ Church app, or the Resources tab* in top menu bar of the Online Campus Platform, to access the current edition each week.

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