



Living From a Better Covenant: Hebrews 8

by John Himmelberger

Intro

Hebrews 8 reveals that maturity is not just having access to God, but living from a transformed covenant. The old system could guide behavior but could not change the heart. Through Jesus, God established a better covenant, writing truth within us rather than placing it outside us. This is not about striving to obey, but living from a new nature. Secure access now becomes internal reality. Maturity is no longer responding to pressure, but flowing from transformation, where relationship replaces system and identity replaces effort.

My Intention and Assumptions

I hope that your relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit is strengthened through this teaching. My assumption is that you have read or are reading all 66 books of the Bible for context. This is meant to be salt and make you thirsty. You're welcome.

About the Author

John Himmelberger is a teacher, pastor, and lifelong learner. With decades of experience walking with Jesus and leading others into transformational truth, John brings a grounded yet radical perspective rooted in Scripture, personal growth, and kingdom living.

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Walking in Kingdom Maturity

Hebrews 8 – Living From a Better Covenant

Intro – Bridge from Hebrews 7

Last week in Hebrews 7, we established something critical.

Your access to God is not maintained by you.

It is secured by Jesus.

Not by effort.

Not by consistency.

Not by performance.

By a living High Priest who cannot fail.

So now the question becomes:

If my access is secure...

If my position is settled...

Then what kind of life am I actually called to live?

Hebrews 8 answers that.

Focus

Hebrews 8 reveals that maturity is not just about having access to God...

It is about living from a completely different covenant.

Not external.

Internal.

Not behavior modification.

Heart transformation.

Key Truth

Maturity is not living for God under pressure.

It is living from God through transformation.

Teaching Flow

1. The Main Point (Hebrews 8:1–2)

The writer says it clearly:

This is the main point.

We have a High Priest...
seated...
at the right hand of God.

(seated... pause that!)

He's not working.
He's not striving.
He's not trying to finish something.

It's done.

Truth

Jesus is not trying to establish your access. He is seated in completed authority.

Deeper Insight

If He is seated... then your relationship with God is not in progress.

Gold Nugget

You are not waiting for access to be finished. You are living from what is already finished.

2. A Better Ministry (Hebrews 8:3–6)

Now the contrast begins.

The old system had priests... sacrifices... repetition.

But Jesus carries a *better ministry*.

Why?

Because it is built on a *better covenant* with *better promises*.

Truth

What Jesus established is not an improved version of the old. It is entirely different.

Deeper Insight

The old covenant managed behavior.
The new covenant transforms identity.

Gold Nugget

You are not living under something upgraded. You are living from something completely new.

3. The Problem Was Never God (Hebrews 8:7–9)

This is where it gets honest.

If the first covenant had been sufficient...
there would have been no need for another.

But the issue wasn't God.

It was people.

“They did not continue...”

Truth

The limitation of the old covenant was not God's design, but human inability.

Deeper Insight

External systems cannot produce internal transformation.

Gold Nugget

If transformation depends on you holding it together... it will always fail.

4. The Shift – Internal Transformation (Hebrews 8:10)

Now everything changes.

“I will put my laws in their minds...
and write them on their hearts.”

Not tablets.

Not rules outside of you.

Inside.

Truth

The new covenant moves truth from external instruction to internal reality.

Deeper Insight

This is not about learning what is right.

It is about becoming someone who naturally aligns with it.

Gold Nugget

Maturity is when truth is no longer something you try to follow... but something you live from.

(It was introduced in Hebrews 6... now it's fulfilled here.)

5. Relationship Over System (Hebrews 8:11)

“No longer will they teach... saying ‘know the Lord’...”

Because everyone will know Him.

This is not anti-teaching.

This is about access.

Truth

You are not dependent on others to access God.

Deeper Insight

Maturity moves from secondhand relationship... to firsthand knowing.

Gold Nugget

You don't just learn about God. You live in direct relationship with Him.

6. The Foundation – Mercy (Hebrews 8:12)

Now the anchor underneath everything:

“I will forgive...
and remember their sins no more.”

Not minimize.

Not overlook.

Remove.

Truth

Your relationship with God is built on mercy, not memory.

Deeper Insight

God is not relating to you through your past.

He is relating to you through what Jesus finished.

Gold Nugget

You are not being measured by what you've done... but by what He has done.

7. The Old Is Gone (Hebrews 8:13)

And then the final statement:

The old covenant is obsolete.

Not improved.

Not adjusted.

Replaced.

Truth

You cannot live in maturity while holding onto what God has already removed.

Deeper Insight

Many people are trying to mix covenants...
grace and performance...
access and effort...

It creates instability.

Gold Nugget

You cannot live from a finished work while still thinking like it's unfinished.

What Hebrews 8 Is Really Doing

Hebrews 6 anchored you.
Hebrews 7 secured that anchor.
Hebrews 8 transforms how you live from it.

It removes the last illusion:

That your relationship with God is external.

Immature Life

- Relates to God through effort
- Depends on external structure
- Tries to manage behavior
- Feels pressure to perform

Mature Life

- Lives from internal transformation
 - Relates through identity
 - Trusts what has been written within
 - Moves naturally in alignment
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Deep Activation

Where am I still relating to God externally instead of internally?
Where am I trying to manage behavior instead of allowing transformation?
What would it look like to trust what God has already written inside me?
Where am I mixing old covenant thinking with new covenant reality?

Declaration

Truth is not outside of me. It has been written within me.
I live from transformation, not pressure.
My relationship with God is internal, secure, and alive.
I do not strive to obey. I live from a changed nature.
I am not under an old system. I live in a new covenant reality.

Final Thought

Hebrews 6 says you are anchored.
Hebrews 7 says your anchor is secure.
Hebrews 8 says your life has been transformed.

Not outside.
Inside.

(pause)

You are not trying to become aligned with God.
He has written alignment... into you.