

# The Power of The Blood

We are rapidly approaching a prophetic time when we will urgently need a powerful and effective spiritual weapon with which to defeat a subtle, deceiving and powerfully destructive enemy. It is a weapon that was obviously used to great advantage by the early Church so effectively, it overthrew the many enemies that sought to obstruct and destroy the Church as it spread across the face of the globe. Sadly, through many carnal infiltrations, the Church gradually abandoned its emphasis on its secret weapon, which many modern believers have heard very little about. That weapon is the power of the blood of Christ, which He shed on the Cross. The Church urgently needs to rediscover why Jesus had to die and shed His blood. Why could He not have simply been a teacher whose teachings would have been sufficient? Why could He not have been just a role model whose example, message and life style we could have followed and imitated? Why did Jesus have to die? Would not His very example have been sufficient to inspire and save the world? In fact Jesus gave His life, a ransom for all mankind.

In the light of events now threatening the world and particularly against Israel, what is the most important thing we as disciples of Jesus should do? We should develop the closest possible intimate relationship with God through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is impossible to develop such close intimacy with Jesus without gaining the deepest possible complete understanding of all Jesus endured as He approached and experienced His humiliating death. Prayerfully and carefully reading the account of His suffering and death can help us immensely towards developing such an intimate relationship. We are living in the End Times and we need to seriously prepare ourselves for the next phase of God's prophetic program. Like the wise virgins we must ensure our lamps are trimmed and burning and we have sufficient fresh oil in our vessels. Deep intimacy with God is absolutely essential (Matthew 25:1-11).

In the book of Revelation, which gives us a brief but vital look into the future, we find believers under severe attack successfully defending themselves and achieving victory solely through the power and authority that stems from the supremacy of the redeeming blood. Believers of this present time should investigate and prove again the power that is inherent in the blood of Jesus.

Revelation 12:10-12

10. 1 (John) heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Salvation, strength, the Kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ have come. The accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down.

11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony and they did not love their lives to the death.

12 Therefore rejoice O heavens and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you having great wrath, because he knows he has a short time." NKJV

### **Through The Efficacy of The Blood Comes:**

1. Salvation, forgiveness and the continuing strength to overcome sin and Satan.
2. The Kingdom of God within us.
3. The power to overcome the enemy.
4. The power to love not our lives even unto death.
5. The power to overcome all our enemies, spiritual and physical.

Satan, the power behind all our spiritual enemies, is innately deceitful and cleverly able to effectively deceive even the brightest people who rely on their own natural senses, perceptions and intellect. Jesus specifically warned us, deceivers would arise in the last days and many would succumb to the deceptions. The greatest deception may be the manner of Messiah's coming. The Church is bewildered.

Matthew 24:11-14: Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.

12 Because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold.

13 But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

14 This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come. NKJV

1 Corinthians 3:18-20: Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their own craftiness"

20 and again, "The LORD knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile." NKJV

Satan will continue to attempt to deceive mankind until finally God will cast him into the bottomless pit. Revelation 20:3: He cast him (Satan) into the bottomless pit and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while. NKJV

What is the most precious thing in the world? It is beyond the value of all natural things such as silver, gold, rubies or diamonds or any other things of greatest value which all have a time limit. It is the precious blood of Christ, which is without spot or blemish. It has such extraordinary value nothing else in existence could purchase what Christ's blood can procure. Only Christ's blood can purchase redemption. Many people including some professing Christians will laugh at and ridicule this idea until finally, they will have to accede to its truth.

1 Peter 1:18-19: Knowing you were not redeemed with corruptible things like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,

19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. NKJV

This message proclaims an old but sadly neglected subject that urgently needs to be resurrected for several very important reasons. The power of sin over an individual's life can NEVER BE BROKEN except by the blood of Jesus.

Revelation 1:5-6: To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. NKJV

We will never gain a true understanding or establish true intimacy with Jesus unless and until we truly comprehend the depth and intensity of His sufferings for us on the cross, and what the shedding of His blood has accomplished for us, firstly, because without active faith in the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus, we cannot ever truly be saved. The Bible clearly declares, it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul. Salvation cannot be obtained by any other means than through complete faith and trust in the atoning blood of Jesus. There are many people today who claim to be Christians, who have no knowledge of the vital significance of the blood. They have an intellectual knowledge of the philosophy of Christianity but no real experience of forgiveness and cleansing through the power of Christ's atonement. These are Christians in name only.

Secondly, this generation in which we are now living, will witness a very radical worldwide uprising against the Church. For example, Islam fervently and fanatically denies the power of the cross and the blood of Jesus, shed for the salvation of souls. Many other spiritual forces will launch powerful attacks on the Church. Christians must learn again the essential truths concerning the power and authority that is only in the blood of Christ. This will be the only truly effective and indispensable weapon in the war against the powers of darkness. Without a strong knowledge of the true power of the blood, the Church will be defenceless and totally vulnerable. Many Christians, who have never actually rejected the power of the blood of Christ, have definitely neglected it, which amounts to the same thing.

We are rapidly entering an End Time era when the whole world will be in profound darkness and confusion. The once seemingly distant threat will rapidly become the terrifying present. We urgently need to discover how we can find peace and safety from spiritual attacks from the enemy of our souls and of the Church. This cannot be accomplished through mere positive thinking or any natural means. It is a spiritually imposed darkness. Salvation, deliverance, peace and victory can only be achieved through the precious Blood of Jesus. We need to learn afresh, how to use the power and authority of the sacrificial Blood of Christ. There will undoubtedly be many future spiritual attacks to be overcome. The book of Revelation makes this very clear.

Revelation 3:21: To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne. NKJV

Revelation 12:11: They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, (concerning the blood) and they did not love their lives to the death. NKJV

These scriptures portray a time when Satan will launch a fierce End Time attack on believers in Christ. I personally believe this is an attack under the anti-Christ. The reference to those who "loved not their lives even unto death" is referring to believers who refuse to surrender their loyalty to Christ, even when threatened with death, when they refuse to transfer their faith and allegiance to false deities. The spiritual weapon on which we will rely to overcome these adversaries is solely the power of the Blood of the Lamb. The word of our witness and

testimony focuses on the supernatural power that inherently resides in the Blood of Christ. The power of the Blood played a prominent indispensable role in the preaching and activities of the early Church and this is needed now more than ever. Paul refused to glory in anything except the Cross of Christ.

Galatians 6:14: As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world died long ago, and the world's interest in me is also long dead. NLT

1 Corinthians 2:2: I decided to concentrate only on Jesus Christ and his death on the cross. NLT

Galatians 5:11: The fact that I am still being persecuted proves I am still preaching salvation through the cross of Christ alone. NLT

### **A Bloodless Religion**

Many churches and preachers today have neglected and almost abandoned preaching and teaching on the Bible emphasis about the Blood of Christ. They literally preach a bloodless Gospel. Many people may attend certain churches for years and never hear any mention about the cross or the blood of Christ. I believe it is fully time to resurrect and restore the vital truth concerning cross and the blood and to fully understand and apply the power of the cleansing blood of Christ.

### **Peter's Message At Pentecost Pointed Back To Passover**

Acts 2:36: Therefore let the whole house of Israel recognize beyond all doubt and acknowledge assuredly God has made Him both Lord and Christ (the Messiah)—**this Jesus Whom you crucified.** AMP

The first Gospel message proclaimed in the Church powerfully emphasized the crucifixion of Jesus. Unfortunately the modern Church has apparently abandoned this strong foundational emphasis. Paul consistently preached Christ crucified, though the cross and the blood are rarely preached today.

1 Corinthians 1:23-24: We preach Christ crucified. To the Jews it is a stumbling block and to the Greeks, foolishness,  
24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. NKJV

1 Corinthians 2:2: I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. NKJV

The Gospel Paul and the early church preached, definitely and without apology strongly emphasized the Blood of Jesus. However, many preachers today preach a diluted, bloodless Gospel. Some preachers even refer to the blood of Christ in an extremely disparaging manner calling it a "slaughter-house religion." Many others are more refined in their criticism, but their message is likewise an abomination to God. Any message that omits a

strong, essential emphasis on the power of the blood of Christ's atonement, is a powerless and abominable message. Paul clearly says that anyone who preaches another Gospel to that which he preached is accursed. The early Church's Gospel always emphasized the blood of the Lamb. Regarding the blood of Christ as a "common thing" is an abomination to God. It is like trampling the blood and salvation of Jesus underfoot.

### **An Extremely Serious Warning**

Hebrews 10:28-31: How much worse punishment do you suppose, will he be thought worthy of, who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, and **counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing**, and insulted the Spirit of grace? 30 For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people."

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. NKJV

### **To Whom Was This Warning Given?**

According to an honest assessment of Hebrews 10:26-27 we must conclude these words are addressed to believers, who after having acquired a knowledge of the truth concerning the sacrificial blood of Jesus, deliberately continued to sin. If they deny the power of the Blood there is no other sacrifice acceptable to God.

Hebrews 10:26: Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received a full knowledge of the truth, there is no other sacrifice that will cover these sins.

27 There will be nothing to look forward to but the terrible expectation of God's judgment and the raging fire that will consume his enemies. NLT

The verse from Revelation 12:11 says, 'They overcame Satan by the blood of the Lamb and their testimony' is often quoted by Christians without any reference to the immediate context of the verse. The prophetic chapter describes a fierce battle that will take place in the future. (Many Christians today believe that the Church will not be on earth during the events of Revelation 12). They believe God's 'blood bought believers' are all in heaven having been Raptured from the earth. They also believe the Holy Spirit and the blood are no longer active or efficacious, but here we have a vast innumerable company of people who have all washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and overcome Satan by their testimony concerning the blood of the Lamb. This company represents a huge immeasurable harvest of people into God's Kingdom. Such an amazing number may seem incredible to those that have anticipated a small flock of redeemed souls.

Revelation 7:9-10: After this I saw a vast crowd, too great to count, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing in front of the throne and before the Lamb. They were clothed in white and held palm branches in their hands.

10 And they were shouting with a mighty shout, "Salvation comes from our God on the throne and from the Lamb!" NLT

One of the 24 elders asked John, "Who are these and where did they come from?"

Revelation 7:14-16: I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb and made them white.

15 That is why they are standing in front of the throne of God, serving Him day and night in his Temple. He who sits on the throne will live among them and shelter them. NLT

In the prophetic future we are going to desperately need to know, understand and use the authority of the blood of Christ. Many Christians often used to frequently sing about the power of the blood. Indeed, the anthem of some churches used to be, "There is power, power, wonder working power in the precious blood of the Lamb." But many Christians today do not now fully understand the indispensable power of that blood.

Hebrews 9:22: According to the law of Moses, nearly everything was purified by sprinkling with blood. **Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins.** NLT

**The Blood Of Christ Is Everlasting In Value And Power.** Hebrews 13:20- 21: May the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through **the blood of the everlasting covenant,** 21 make you complete in every good work to do His will, working in you what is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. NKJV

### **Understanding The Significance Of The Blood**

With our present human understanding we simply do not fully comprehend the great significance and power of the blood. For example: We may constantly "Plead the blood" as some kind of mystical formula of protection, but few Christians can explain its great powerful benefits. It may take eternity to fully and completely understand the true power and authority of the cross, but we can at least begin to understand it now. **The blood of Christ is the basis for all of the salvation blessings of the New Testament, including the following:**

#### **Redemption**

Redemption means to buy back something that once was previously yours. Mankind once belonged to God its Creator, but was seduced by Satan and became citizens of his kingdom. God determined to buy back mankind and He came to earth in the person of Christ in order to redeem us and make us His own again. Redemption means salvation, deliverance, liberation, emancipation and freedom. It typifies release from slavery, bondage and servitude. God has bought back from Satan our lives and our eternal futures. Through the blood of Jesus, the original relationship Adam enjoyed with God and sadly lost, is ours to enjoy once again.

1 Peter 1:18-19: You know God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors, and the ransom He paid was not mere gold or silver. 19 He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. NLT

Ephesians 1:7: In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of His grace."

### **Complete, Total And Absolute Forgiveness**

Ephesians 1:7: He is so (bountifully) rich in kindness, He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are (completely) forgiven. NLT (Emphasis added)

God wants every believer to live in a constant awareness of total and absolute forgiveness through the revelation, Christ has paid the full price for our redemption. He wants us to come before His throne boldly, realising Jesus has paid the complete price for us to do so. We do not come in our own name or self-righteousness, we come clothed with the righteousness of Jesus which He has imparted to us. God sees every one of us through and in, His beloved Son. When we approach God, it is just as though Jesus is approaching Him, for we by God's grace are now truly in Christ. Every person who has genuinely confessed their sins and sincerely asked for cleansing through the blood of Christ can be absolutely confident they have been totally forgiven of all of their sins. They appear before God totally cleansed as though they had never ever committed any sin.

Matthew 26:28: Jesus said, 'This is My blood, which seals the covenant between God and His people. It is poured out to forgive the sins of many.' NLT

Colossians 1:14: God has purchased our freedom with His blood and has forgiven all our sins. NLT

Through the atoning blood of Christ, we have received complete freedom from the guilt of every sin we ever committed when we have fully confessed those sins and accepted and gratefully embraced God's forgiveness.

Luke 24:47: Jesus said, "With My authority, take this message of repentance to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem ... **'There is forgiveness of sins for all who turn to Me.'**" NLT

Acts 13:38-39: "Brothers, listen! In this Man Jesus, there is forgiveness for all your sins.

39 Everyone who believes in Him is freed from all guilt and declared right with God — something the Jewish law could never do" NLT

God forgives sin on one ground only, which is total reliance on the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus.

### **Reconciliation**

Ephesians 2:13: In Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near to God by the blood of Christ. NKJV (Reconciliation = reunion, bringing back together again).

Through Christ's death we are fully brought back to God. Though once we were as far from God as is possible, through Christ's Blood alone we are now made intimately near to Him.

Colossians 1:19-22: God in all His fullness was pleased to live in Christ,  
20 **and by Him God reconciled everything to Himself.** He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth **by means of His blood on the cross.**

21 This includes you who were once so far away from God you were His enemies, separated from Him by your evil thoughts and actions.

22 Yet now He has brought you back as His friends. He has done this **through His death on the cross in His own human body.** As a result, He has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault. NLT

2 Corinthians 5:18-19: All this newness of life is from God, who brought us back to Himself solely through what Christ did. God has given us the task of reconciling people to him.

19 God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. This is the wonderful message He has given us to tell others. NLT

## Justification

Romans 5:9: Much more then, being justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Being justified by His blood can produce a "just-as-if-I'd never sinned" assurance. The proverbial slate, with all the details of our past sins, is wiped perfectly clean. God's awareness of our past has been completely eradicated. Our awareness of our sinful past should also be eradicated. This cleansing can only be achieved through the blood of Jesus. We can now stand before God just as if we had never, ever sinned, so gloriously complete is the work Jesus has accomplished. When Satan tries to remind God about our sinful pasts, God says, "I don't remember."

Justification is the process by which sinful human beings are made completely and totally acceptable again to a holy God. It is a process that begins with repentance and salvation continuing until we are truly fully sanctified. Christianity is unique because of its teaching of justification by faith through grace.

Romans 3:23-25: All have sinned. All fall short of God's glorious standard.

24 God in His gracious kindness declares us not guilty. He has done this through Christ Jesus, Who has freed us by taking away our sins.

25 God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins and to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God when we believe Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing His life for us. NLT

Justification is God's declaration, the demands of His Law have been completely fulfilled in the righteousness of His Son. The basis for this justification is the death of Christ. "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them" (2 Corinthians 5:19). This reconciliation covers all our sin. "By one offering He has perfected

forever those who are being sanctified" (Hebrews 10:14). Justification then, is based solely on the work of Christ, accomplished through His blood (Romans 5:9) and brought to His people through His resurrection (Romans 4:25). When God justifies, He charges the sin of man to Christ and credits the righteousness of Christ to the believer (2 Corinthians 5:21).

### **Imparted Righteousness**

Romans 5:17-18: The sin of this one man Adam, caused death to rule over us but all who receive God's wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through this one Man, Jesus Christ.

18 Yes, Adam's one sin brought condemnation upon everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness makes all people right in God's sight and gives them life. NLT

2 Corinthians 6:7: We have faithfully preached the truth. God's power has been working in us. We have righteousness as our weapon, both to attack and to defend ourselves. NLT

The blood of Christ is both an effective defence and a powerful weapon of attack against all our enemies. Claiming to be righteous is legally correct through reliance solely on the grace of God manifested through the death of Jesus. Romans 1:17: This Gospel tells us how God makes us righteous in His sight. This is accomplished from start to finish by faith. As the Scriptures say, "It is through faith a righteous person has life." NLT

Romans 4:5: People are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their work. NLT

Romans 4:6-8: King David spoke of this, describing the happiness of an undeserving sinner who is declared to be righteous.

7 "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight.

8 Yes, what joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord." NLT

Romans 4:22-25: Because of Abraham's faith, God declared him to be righteous.

23 This wonderful truth, God declared him to be righteous was not just for Abraham's benefit,

24 it was for us too, assuring us God will also declare us to be righteous if we believe in God, who brought Jesus our Lord back from the dead.

25 He was handed over to die because of our sins, and He was raised from the dead to make us right with God. NLT

Galatians 3:6-7: In the same way, "Abraham believed God, so God declared him righteous because of his faith."

7 The real children of Abraham, are all those who put their faith (wholly) in God. NLT

Ephesians 4:24: You must display a new nature because you are a new person, created in God's likeness, righteous, holy and true. NLT

## Sanctification

Sanctification basically means to be “set apart unto God”. Only God can do this. ‘May the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely’ (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Sanctification is a process that continues throughout our lives as believers (Hebrews 10:14). Only after death are the saints referred to as ‘perfect’. Hebrews 12:23: You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself Who is the judge of all people. You have come to the spirits of the redeemed in heaven **who have now been made perfect**. NLT

Sanctification is the process whereby God transforms us into true saints. Not in the old fashioned religious sense, but in the dynamic sense of what the New Testament declares. God's redeemed people are called His ‘saints’. Acts 9:13: ‘Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your **saints in Jerusalem**’. NKJV

Acts 9:32: As Peter went through all parts of the country, he came down to **the saints** who dwelt in Lydda. NKJV

Romans 1:7: To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to **be saints**: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. NKJV

Romans 8:27: He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Holy Spirit is, because He makes intercession **for the saints** according to the will of God. NKJV

## Cleansing and Complete Restoration to Fellowship

1 John 1:7-9: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. **If we confess our sin, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

It is solely through the power and cleansing of the blood we are enabled to walk in fellowship with God and the Lord Jesus Christ. Even though we may fail at times, sincere confession and repentance will fully and completely restore us to fellowship with God. Through the power of Christ's blood we are now able to walk in the light. Just as our sins once separated us from God, now the blood of Jesus unites us to Him. It is impossible to have an intimate fellowship with God without the blood.

## Victory Over Satan And His Demons

Mark 16:17: These signs will accompany those who believe: They will **cast out demons in my name**, and they will speak new languages. NLT

Luke 4:41: Some were possessed by demons and the demons came out at His command shouting, "You are the Son of God." Because they knew He was the Messiah, He stopped them and told them to be silent. NLT

Luke 8:35: A crowd soon gathered around Jesus for they wanted to see for themselves what had happened. They saw the man who had been possessed by demons sitting quietly at Jesus' feet, clothed and sane. The whole crowd was afraid.  
NLT

If I were to ask you what the power of the blood means to you, you might answer, "It means my sins are forgiven and remitted, and I am free from the bondage of iniquity." Beyond forgiveness, what does the blood of Jesus Christ mean to you? I want to give you a fuller understanding of the preciousness and power of Jesus' blood, and how it can work wonderful changes in your life!

### **What The Blood Conveys**

According to the Bible, the power of blood is beyond natural human comprehension. It achieves numerous things that are almost too difficult to understand. However, there are many things about the blood that can be discerned. The free benefits ensuing from Christ's blood seem almost too good to be true.

### **The Life Of Every Living Thing Is In Their Blood.**

Whenever blood is lost, life decreases and the complete loss of it eventually causes death. Leviticus 17:11: The life of any creature is in its blood. I have given you the blood so you can make atonement for your sins. It is the blood, representing life, that brings you atonement.  
NLT

### **Our DNA Is In The Blood**

DNA is a very important molecule found in all living cells. It contains information used in everyday metabolism and growth, and influences most of our characteristics. DNA is often described as the blueprint of an organism. It enables various cells to develop and work together to form a fully functional body, and it controls characteristics such as physical appearance etc. How much DNA influences very complex features, such as intelligence and character is not yet fully understood. The information that DNA contains is passed from one generation to the next through the blood stream. There is much debate over how much of what we are like is due to inheritance and defined by our DNA, and how much is defined by the influence of our environment and upbringing. This is sometimes referred to as the 'nature/nurture' debate.

Put simply, the DNA in our system links us with our familial human ancestors causing our characteristics to be similar to those who formed the preceding human chain in our family. DNA contains building blocks determining the person we are destined to be according to human genealogy. This ensures we develop and grow in the inherent likeness of our parents and ancestors. We are thus destined to develop in the likeness of one or the other of our parents. However, when we are born-again the source of our being is changed and we become sons and daughters of the living God with His DNA building a new creature inside us. 2 Corinthians 5:17: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. Old things have passed away. Behold, all things have become new. NKJV

It is however essential, we feed the new spiritual man with appropriate foods from the Bible and from the Spirit of God so He may gain the ascendancy in our lives. Whatever characteristics God has, are conveyed to us through Christ and we must begin to walk (live and progress) in the Spirit and not fulfil the desires and appetites of the flesh. Galatians 5:25: If we are living by the Holy Spirit, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. NLT

### **God Is Love**

1 John 4:16: We have known and believed the love God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him. NKJV

The scriptures do not merely say God 'has' love or even the greatest love, but He actually IS love. Love is the supreme basic characteristic of God. It is an integral and essential aspect of His DNA. Scripture also declares that whoever abides in God's love abides in God and God in him. Thus love is one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit of Christ. (Galatians 5:22) Love is an integral part of Christ's DNA and becomes part of our DNA when we are born again. The entrance of Christ's spirit and its particular DNA into our own spirit creates the potential for Godly characteristics to develop in our lives.

### **Christ Is Light Of The World**

John 1:1-5: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. KJV

The life of Christ is literally an illuminating light in direct and absolute contrast to darkness. It illuminates everyone and everywhere it shines. It is spiritual light that is not normally discerned by the natural senses. We need to have our spiritual senses developed in order to perceive and recognize this light. We have probably recognized it in certain believers at times when we have observed them through the eyes of our spirit. Living in the light develops our spiritual sense of sight enabling us to see things and people as God sees them. It also increases the possibility of our seeing spiritual visions. Any spiritual understanding we may receive comes only through the merits of Christ's blood.

### **The Price Jesus Paid**

Most Christians know Jesus died for our sins on the cross. A smaller number of believers identify with the full details of His sufferings for us. Jesus shed His blood eight times. Jesus bled once as a baby when He was circumcised, and seven specific times for us in His final adult days. Each of these times is significant and holds special importance for us as believers in Christ. To many, the number seven is as important as a symbol, just as it is as a number. The number seven is used nearly 600 times in the Bible, and is the number that

characteristically represents a finished work or completeness. One excellent example of seven representing something that has been completed and finished, can be found in the book of Genesis 2:2. This is where we learn the Lord created the earth in seven days so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. As old or new Christians we need to go further and deeper into our knowledge and understanding of what Christ went through on our behalf. We can learn essential facts about the importance of things that are often overlooked by believers throughout the church. We need to grow in our understanding and gain Biblical but experiential knowledge of what the precious blood of Jesus stands for in our Christian walk. For most of us, the subject of blood is not an easy or appealing subject to learn about. Nevertheless in knowing about the blood of Jesus, we will develop a deeper love for our Lord Jesus' sacrifice and also learn about the efficacious power of the blood of Jesus Christ. The human intellect turns away from it but the redeemed spirit feeds on it. In this study, we will commence at the Garden of Gethsemane and go through each time Jesus shed blood as noted in the Bible, all the way to his death on the cross.

The number seven is deeply entrenched into the Bible and has great significance for Jewish students. However, it is also highly significant for Christians too. No one is certain why God chose the number seven to signify completion. All we can do is speculate, observe and marvel. It is surely significant, Jesus bore seven different wounds in His body.

### **The Precious Blood of Christ**

Only through His sacrifice of blood do we have forgiveness of our sins and that is something we must never forget. The fact of Christ's seven bleeding wounds underlines the supreme and final completion of His work on the Cross. Ephesians 1:7-8: In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of God's grace He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

### **Some Technical Facts Of The Death Of Jesus**

At the age of 33, Jesus was condemned to death by Crucifixion. At that time crucifixion was the worst kind of death that could be inflicted. Only the worst kind of criminals were condemned to be crucified, yet it was even more dreadful for Jesus who had no sin. Unlike other criminals condemned to death by crucifixion, Jesus was to be nailed to the cross by His hands and feet. The others who were put on the cross were tied to it.

#### **The Seven Times Jesus Bled As An Adult**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Garden of Gethsemane. He sweated His blood.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pulling out of His beard began in Gethsemane
- 3<sup>rd</sup> The Flogging.
- 4<sup>th</sup> A Crown of Thorns piercing His head
- 5<sup>th</sup> Nails in the wrists
- 6<sup>th</sup> A Nail in His Feet
- 7<sup>th</sup> A Sword and spear piercing His Side

#### **1<sup>st</sup> - Blood like sweat**

Jesus had just finished having the Last Supper with His disciples, when He went to one of His favourite places called the Garden of Gethsemane, to pray. The name "Gethsemane" derives from the Hebrew *gat-shmanim*, meaning 'oil press'. It is not a coincidence this is where Jesus felt the crushing weight of the things yet to come so much so, an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Jesus to keep Him from death. As Jesus began to take on Himself the burden of our sins, He began to sweat great drops like blood. Luke 22:43-44: An angel from heaven appeared to Him and strengthened Him. Being in anguish, He prayed more earnestly and His sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

This very rare phenomenon of sweating blood is called Hematidrosis, which is the excretion of bloody sweat. When under great emotional stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands cannot open properly to let out perspiration as the body temperature rises to a dangerous level. Blood begins to pour forth with the sweat when it finally bursts through. This condition has been reported in numerous case studies around the world. It always happens in extreme instances of stress and fear. Nearly every time Hematidrosis occurs, it is fatal. Christ himself stated His distress had brought Him to the threshold of death. Matthew 26:36-38: Jesus went with His disciples to a place called Gethsemane and He said to them, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee with Him, and He began to be sorrowful and troubled. He said to them, "**My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death.** Stay here and keep watch with me." As a result of haemorrhage into the sweat glands, the skin becomes extremely fragile and tender. This would have made Messiah's later beatings on His head and face, agonizingly painful.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> - His Beard Was Crudely Pulled Out**

We learn in the Bible, Jesus was arrested and taken from the garden to where they had a mock trial public trial. (By the word mock it means to ridicule). We are told Jesus was ridiculed, smitten, blindfolded and struck on the face, having His beard roughly plucked from His face. Jesus was then whipped by the cat-o'-nine tails which is designed to cut into the skin and rip it off the body. In addition He was beaten by the Roman Guards. The whipping was so severe it tore the flesh from His body. The human adult body contains about 3.5 litres (just less than a gallon) of blood. He had three nails hammered into His hands and feet; a crown of thorns rammed on His head and beyond that, a Roman soldier stabbed a spear into His chest. When the spear pierced His side, blood and water (serum – the fluid that remains when the blood has clotted) poured out (John 19:34).

All these hurtful events happened in addition to the crude humiliation He experienced after carrying His own cross for almost 1.3 miles, while the crowd spat in His face and threw stones at Him. Luke 22:63-64: The men who held Jesus mocked Him and beat Him, and having blindfolded Him, they struck Him on the face and said, "Prophesy! Who is the one who struck You?"

The jail guards grabbed Jesus by the beard and ripped out chunks of bearded hair leaving huge gashing holes in His face. Hundreds of years earlier, Isaiah had prophesied about this very event. Isaiah 50:6: "I gave My back to the smiters and My cheeks to them that plucked

off the hair. I hid not My face from shame and spitting." We know since his face was already extremely sensitive from the earlier beating on his face, pulling out His beard would produce significant bleeding from his face.

### **3<sup>rd</sup> - Flogging**

Mark 15:15: 'Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He then had Jesus flogged and handed Him over to be crucified'. A flogging from a Roman soldier was a brutal and terrible beating to endure, and it was standard practice for a convicted person to be flogged before a crucifixion. The Roman Flogging whip consisted of several short braids of leather thongs with small iron balls, pieces of metal or sharp pieces of sheep bones tied at intervals along the length of it. The severity of the scourging depended on the mood of the soldiers and was intended to weaken the victim to a state just short of collapse or death.

Pain and blood loss generally set the stage for circulatory shock. The extent of blood loss may well have determined how long the victim could survive the cross. Two different Roman soldiers alternated blows as they repeatedly struck the victim's back with full force. The iron balls would cause deep contusions and the leather thongs and sheep bones would viciously cut into the skin and deep tissues. During the scourging, it would be commonplace for the lacerated skin and bloody underlying muscle tissue to take on the appearance of 'shredded meat'. The Roman Empire used flagellation as a prelude to crucifixion and sometimes as an alternative to it. In this context it was sometimes referred to as scourging. Such a device could easily cause disfigurement and serious trauma, such as ripping pieces of flesh from the body or loss of an eye. In addition to causing severe pain, the victim would approach a state of severe shock due to loss of blood. Typically, the one to be punished was bound to a low pillar so he could bend over it, or be stretched out and chained to an upright pillar. Two floggers alternated blows from the bare shoulders, down the body to the soles of the feet. There was no limit to the number of blows inflicted but thirty-nine lashes was the norm (2 Corinthians 11:24). The number of lashes was left to the floggers to decide, though they were normally not supposed to kill the victim.

Apostle Peter referred to the beating of Christ in his first epistle when he reminded first century Christians of Christ's sacrifice. Apostle Peter is quoting from a Messianic prophecy given by Isaiah in the Old Testament. Isaiah 53:5: He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we might have peace. He was whipped and we were healed! NLT

1 Peter 2:24: He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, so we might die to sin and live for righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

An interesting point to know, is the term 'wounds' and in some translations 'stripes' in the original language is in the singular number. This suggests the back of the Lord was such a mass of bleeding, bruised tissue it appeared as a single wound. After the scourging, the soldiers often taunted the victim. The most blatant violation of Jesus' rights, as described in the Gospels, is the manner of His death. The common 'thirty-nine lashes' could have been practiced using an ordinary whip, as one might have beaten an ancient Roman slave, but the prison guard soldiers used a military-grade flagrum (a whip made with bone) with

multiple tips specifically designed to tear flesh. A Roman sentence of crucifixion was one of the most excruciating forms of punishment ever devised. This leads us to the fourth time in which Christ shed His blood for us.

### **What We Take For Granted**

Throughout human history, concepts such as due process of law, jury trials, protection from double jeopardy and protection from cruel and unusual punishment were introduced in the last 100 years, but they were alien to the criminal justice system in Christ's day, particularly when the defendants were marginalised members of society. Jesus Christ did not receive a fair trial then, and no doubt in today's world He would not now. As Christians, we must understand the trial and execution of Jesus was perhaps the most important life-changing event in all of recorded history. For the Roman officials who killed him, he was just another rebellious Jew who could be made into an example for other would-be troublemakers. For the Jewish residents, walking by the rows of crucified corpses rotting at Golgotha, crucifixion was a horrifying symbol of tragedy, oppressive fear, and the futility of revolt. For the Roman soldiers who set up these crosses, it was just another day of Roman dominance to keep the people under their control.

### **4<sup>th</sup> - The Crown of Thorns**

Isaiah tells us about Jesus taking on the sins of the world. In Biblical symbolism, the thorns often represented the cursing of the earth. Jesus came to take all the curses off our life and through His blood He removed the all the curses that come against us (Genesis 3:18). John 19:2-3: The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on His head. They clothed Him in a purple robe and went up to Him again and again saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They struck Him in the face.

Botanists familiar with foliage in the Middle East have suggested the thorns on Jesus' head most likely came from the lote tree. This tree had thorns averaging one to two inches in length. It was improbable for anyone to form a wreath-like crown using these thorns without being injured. It would be more probable therefore, the crown of thorns was more like a helmet. Unlike the traditional crown depicted by an open ring, the actual crown of thorns more than likely covered the entire scalp. The Gospels state, the Roman soldiers continued to beat Jesus on the head. These blows would drive the thorns deep into the scalp and forehead, causing very severe bleeding. The prophet Isaiah once again, provided a graphic description of the outward appearance of our Lord after He had undergone the flogging and crowning of thorns. Isaiah 52:14: Many were amazed when they saw Him — beaten and bloodied, so disfigured one would scarcely know He was a person. NLT

Just as there were many who were appalled at His appearance, which was disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness, another large company of people have been blessed beyond measure at the sight of Him. Through His suffering they visualise their healing. Christ's body was so disfigured at this point from all He had endured, He did not appear human anymore. Most men would not have survived this torture.

## **An aside that ties in with the crucifixion of Jesus. Goliath Threatened The Nation Of Israel**

As a young man on whose shoulders would fall the destiny of Israel, David bravely fought and defeated Israel's greatest enemy of that day. Part of the reward David was promised should he defeat the giant, was the hand of the King's daughter in marriage. (Christ's death also procured for Him a bride!)

1 Samuel 17:21-25: Soon the Israelite and Philistine forces stood facing each other, army against army.

22 David left his things with the keeper of supplies and hurried out to the ranks to greet his brothers.

23 As he was talking with them, he saw Goliath, the champion from Gath, come out from the Philistine ranks, shouting his challenge to the army of Israel.

24 As soon as the Israelite army saw him, they began to run away in fright.

25 "Have you seen the giant?" the men were asking. "He comes out each day to challenge Israel. Have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? The king will give him one of his daughters for a wife, and his whole family will be exempted from paying taxes!" NLT

1 Samuel 17:45-47: David shouted in reply, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty the God of the armies of Israel, Whom you have defied.

46 Today the LORD will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals and the whole world will know there is a God in Israel! NLT

1 Samuel 17:50-51: David triumphed over the Philistine giant with only a stone and sling and since he had no sword,

51 he ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill the giant and cut off his head. NLT

Following the death of Goliath, David took Goliath's skull back to Jerusalem. 1 Samuel 17:54: David took Goliath's head to Jerusalem, but he stored the Philistine's armour in his own tent. NLT

Outside the walled city of Jerusalem was a distinctively shaped hill resembling a skull. Is it not feasible, David buried Goliath's head there? Many years later, this same site was selected for the crucifixion of Jesus. Is it not further significance, the blood Jesus shed on the cross, would have dripped down into the earth to the very place where Goliath's skull was buried. Since Goliath was a historic figure who had threatened the very existence of Israel, only to be killed by a lone figure who became an ancestor of the Messiah Who would one day deliver Israel, the picture of the blood of Christ flowing down into the soil and upon the skull of Goliath, is a prophetic image of the sacred blood conquering the enemy of Israel and mankind.

What does the Bible tell us about the location? The Gospel writers call the place where Jesus was crucified *Golgotha*—a Hebrew word meaning 'The Place of a skull'. *Calvary* is the

Latin form of the word. Scripture does not reveal the precise location of Golgotha but it still exists today outside the ancient walls of Jerusalem. The Bible states, Jesus' crucifixion took place *outside* the city of Jerusalem, though near it (John 19:20; Hebrews 13:12). Jewish law did not permit executions and burials inside the city. Further, Jesus was undoubtedly crucified near a well-travelled road, since passers-by mocked him (Matthew 27:39; Mark 15:21, 29-30). The Romans selected conspicuous places by major highways for their public executions. The crucifixion probably took place on a hill, because it was at an elevation high enough to be plainly visible at a distance (verse 40). As for the tomb or sepulchre, we are told only that it was in a garden near the place of crucifixion (John 19:41). As maturing Christians, as we learn about the crucifixion itself, it is important to know there was a prophecy that said, not a bone would be broken. 'He protects all His bones. Not one of them will be broken' (Psalm 34:20). He is the Lamb Who takes away the sins of the world. Such Passover lambs were not to have their bones broken.

Exodus 12:46: All who eat the lamb must eat it together in one house. You must not carry any of its meat outside, and you may not break any of its bones. NLT

Numbers 9:12: They must not leave any of the lamb until the next morning, and they must not break any of its bones. They must follow all the normal regulations concerning the Passover. NLT

John 19:36: These things happened so the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of His bones will be broken."

They must not leave any of it till morning or break any of its bones. When the Jews celebrate Passover, they must follow all the regulations. In modern times of this technical generation, we will never have to witness a real and brutal crucifixion. In the 2005 movie by Mel Gibson "The Passion of Christ" we get to view the graphic images of Christ during His suffering on the cross. The movie gives us an insight to understanding the true awful nature of crucifixion but the movie does not show all the prophecies, like, not a bone would be broken.

## **The Crucifixion**

Matthew 27:33-34: They went out to a place called Golgotha (which means Skull Hill).

34 The soldiers gave Him wine mixed with bitter gall, but when He had tasted it, He refused to drink it. NLT

John 19:17-19: Bearing His cross, went out to a place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha,

18 where they crucified Him and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the centre.

19 Pilate wrote a title and put it on the cross. The writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. NKJV

Golgotha is the Hebrew name of the location where Jesus was crucified. This particular area was located just outside the city on a rounded knoll that has the appearance of a bare skull. It was there, flanked by the two thieves, who were both to die that day with Jesus.

### **5<sup>th</sup> - His Hands**

Tapered iron spikes from 6 to 9 inches long were then nailed through our Lord's hands into the cross (Luke 24:40). Some people believe Jesus was nailed through the wrists. They believe the bones of the wrist are strong enough to support the body's weight but the bones of the palms are not. Various studies have demonstrated the bony palms cannot support the weight of a body hanging from them. The weight of the body would tear quite easily through the flexor tendons breaking the metacarpal bones as the nails pulled free. It should be noted, in ancient terminology, the wrist was considered to be part of the hand. The nails were driven through His wrists, not into His palms as is commonly portrayed. There is a tendon in the wrist that extends to the shoulder. The Roman guards knew, when the nails were being hammered into the wrist, the tendons would tear and break, forcing Jesus to use His back muscles to support himself so that He could breathe. It was even more appalling for Jesus, unlike other criminals condemned to death by crucifixion, Jesus was nailed to the cross by His hands and feet. Both of His feet were nailed together. Consequently Jesus was forced to support Himself on the single nail that impaled his feet.

### **6<sup>th</sup> - His Feet Nailed To The Cross**

Jesus could not support himself with His legs because of the pain, so He was forced to alternate between arching His back then using His legs just to continue to breathe. Imagine the struggle, the pain, the suffering, the courage. Jesus endured this reality for over three hours. From common images we see wounds to His hands and feet and even the spear wound to His side, but do we realize His wounds were actually made in His body. A hammer driving large nails through the wrist, the feet overlapped and a large nail hammered through the arches, then a Roman guard pierced His side with a spear.

In understanding the horrific pain and punishment of the Roman crucifixion, one will be able to understand the fuller aspects of His pain in this slow form of execution. The Roman punishment deliberately inflicted great wounds on the body to produce intense agony and contribute to the death of the person. The flogging prior to a crucifixion served to weaken the condemned person and the blood loss was a key factor in order to produce orthostatic hypotension and shock. When the person being executed was thrown down on the ground on his beaten and bloody back in the preparation for the transfixion of their hands and feet, either by rope or by the nailing with tapered spikes as in the case of Jesus, the scourging wounds from the beating would become torn open again and contaminated with dirt. With each gasping breath, the painful open wounds would be scraped against the splintered wood of the un-sanded timber cross. Blood loss from back wounds would probably continue throughout the crucifixion ordeal along with flying insects and birds of prey that would could come to feast on the victim alive or dead. In the same way His hands were nailed to fulfil prophecy, we must understand Christ's feet were not nailed in the way most crucifixes or pictures portray him. Remember, there were to be no broken bones of

any kind. The common way for feet to be nailed was through the tendons at the back of the foot in between the anklebones.

## **7<sup>th</sup> - His Side**

Last but not least, the seventh time Jesus bled is when a sword pierced his side. Let's look at the verse keeping in mind that most crucified victims hung on their crosses sometimes for days.

John 19:31-37: It was the day of Preparation and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other, but when they came to Jesus and found He was already dead, they did not break His legs. Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows he tells the truth and he testifies so you also may believe. These things happened so the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," and as another scripture says, "They will look on the One they have pierced."

## **The Legend Of The Spear**

The Jewish leaders did not want the victims hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath at that, because it was Passover), so they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. There is an ancient legend concerning the spear used to pierce the side of Jesus. At the crucifixion of Jesus, it is said the spear was in the possession of the Roman Centurion, Gaius Cassius Longinus. It was said to be Longinus who pierced Jesus' side with the spear, causing blood and water to spurt forth from the wound. The mixture apparently splattered in Longinus' face, restoring his vision, which had been failing. The circumstances surrounding Jesus' crucifixion had such a profound effect on Longinus, he later sought out the surviving Apostles so he could learn from them the way of salvation. He later moved to Caesarea of Cappadocia where he was eventually condemned to death for being a Christian.

Roman crucifixion was only used since probably about a century before Christ. Crucifixion was considered such a humiliating form of punishment, if you were a Roman citizen you could not be crucified, no matter what the offence. It was usually the execution of choice for slaves and people considered beneath the dignity of Roman citizenship. It was an extremely slow and agonizing form of death. Victims of crucifixion could suffer in agony on the cross for several days. The dying process could be shortened by breaking the victim's legs so that the victim could no longer push up with their feet for gasps of air. The thieves on both sides of Jesus had their legs broken, but when the Roman soldiers reached Jesus, one of them, reportedly a centurion, saw he was already dead and proved it to his fellows by using his spear to pierce the Christ's side. There was no need to break his bones. One must remember, prior to the cross Jesus has already been tortured by a very brutal, all night

scourging by Roman soldiers and probably was extremely weak before being nailed to the cross. The spear itself became a religious relic. The piercing was seen as proof of his death and his subsequent resurrection.

### **Spiritual Significance**

Putting this all together concerning the shedding of Christ's blood for us brings forth a powerful revelation. There are many different ways we could group the threes and fours together to make seven by looking briefly at the three times his head bled, and the four times his body bled making up the number seven. As we go through our journey in a life dedicated to Christ, let us remember not only His sacrifice, but the power of His blood to heal us in all our times of need.

### **Christ's Blood Is The Symbol Of Our Victory**

Revelation 12:11: They overcame him (the devil) by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

### **Notes On The Blood Of Jesus:**

The first time Jesus Christ (Yeshua) shed His blood was on the 8th day of His life when He was circumcised. Circumcision is a sign of the covenant and the number eight a symbol of a new beginning!

Luke 2:21-23: On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, He was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.  
22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord  
23 as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord."

Words of Jesus were misinterpreted by several of His disciples who took the words literally rather than spiritually. These men ceased to follow Jesus. John 6:53: Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. John 6:66: At this point many of His disciples turned away and deserted Him.  
NLT

References to Christ's blood still tends to offend certain people. However, it is through the blood alone that we are privileged to be brought near to God. Though initially far from God in sins and degradation, Christ's blood brought us near to God.

Ephesians 2:13: In Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.

We are enabled to enter the Holy place through the efficacy of Christ's redeeming blood. Hebrews 10:19-20: Dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven's Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.

20 This is the new, life-giving way Christ has opened up for us through the sacred curtain, by means of His death for us. NLT

Hebrews 12:23-24: You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God himself, who is the judge of all people. And you have come to the spirits of the redeemed in heaven who have now been made perfect.

24 You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which graciously forgives instead of crying out for vengeance as the blood of Abel did. NLT

It is only the blood of Jesus that can make a person holy. It is the only spiritual cleansing agent in the world. Religion can never achieve this. Hebrews 13:12: Jesus suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through His own blood.

Hebrews 13:20: May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,

1 Peter 1:2: Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

The blood of Christ can only atone for us, as we persistently walk in the light that the Holy Spirit sheds on our path. 1 John 1:7: If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

**This Is A Powerful And Liberating Teaching** that we must fully understand in order to experience true freedom from the guilt and shame of our past and present. It is absolutely essential for us to realize the forgiving and cleansing power of the Blood of Jesus! Nothing we can do will ever add to or take away from the work that Christ did on the cross. As the old hymn says, "What can wash away my sins? **Nothing but the Blood of Jesus!**"

I think one of the reasons why it is so hard to grasp the true forgiving power of Christ's shed blood is because it just seems too good to be true. We cannot possibly comprehend why God should suffer such humiliation, pain and suffering on our behalf. But God's Word is true, and it even tells us that through Christ, we have exceedingly great and precious promises. 2 Peter 1:4: Whereby are given unto us EXCEEDING GREAT and precious promises: by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world through lust.

The word precious in the above verse refers to something extremely valuable or costly! These promises God has given us, cost Jesus dearly. He paid a very great price for our redemption, healing and deliverance! I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me, if you have to do something to receive the forgiveness of your sins, then you will always wonder if you've done enough! Look at this passage in scripture. Galatians 3:11: No man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident for, **The just shall live by faith**. Knowing your conscience is

clear is very important. The Holy Spirit said, "You need to absolutely KNOW that you are clean, because your eternal future depends upon it!"

### **The Blood Of Jesus Was Shed To Forgive And Remove Sin!**

In the Old Testament, the priests would sacrifice lambs, goats, etc. to cover the people's sins. However, this sacrifice was not sufficient to remove the stain of sin, but since Christ shed His blood, our sin can be COMPLETELY REMOVED from our account! In Hebrews 10:1 to 39, it paints us this picture very clearly. Jesus tells us in Matthew 26:28, His blood is shed for many for the remission of their sins. The word remission, according to the dictionary means: *Forgiveness or pardon of sins (letting them go as if they had never been committed), remission of the penalty.*

John the Baptist also confirmed this when He said Jesus, the Lamb of God, takes away the sin not just cover but takes them away forever! John 1:29-31: The next day John (the Baptist) saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

30 He is the one I was talking about when I said, 'Soon a Man is coming who is far greater than I am, for He existed long before I did.'

31 I did not know He was the One, but I have been baptizing with water in order to point Him out to Israel." NLT

### **How Do We Receive This Forgiveness?**

We need to understand, the forgiveness of our sins is a free GIFT. This means we cannot deserve it or earn it in any way, but we must gratefully and gladly accept it. Ephesians 2:8: By grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God.

We are told that through faith in Christ Jesus, we can obtain complete forgiveness of our sins through the blood He shed for us. Romans 3:28: Therefore we conclude a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.

Galatians 2:16: Knowing a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ so we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law, for by the works of the law can no flesh be justified.

Galatians 3:11: No man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident, for the just shall live by faith.

Galatians 3:24: Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ so we might be justified by faith."

As you can see through the verses above, it is purely through faith in Christ Jesus that we are made right with God. The Bible goes on to show us, if we try to make ourselves righteous by our own works, then we are missing the whole point, and therefore we are not truly accepting the work that Christ did as sufficient! Galatians 5:1 & 4: Christ has really set us free. Make sure you stay free and do not get tied up again in slavery to the law. If you are

trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace. NLT

### **What It Means To Be Justified**

Justified is another powerful word used in the Bible to describe the total forgiveness of our sins and the complete restoration of our relationship with God. Romans 5:1: Being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

If we take the word justified in this verse and look it up, it means, 'to render (show or regard as) totally just or innocent, i.e. - free, justified to be righteous'. When a person is justified, it makes them completely innocent just as if they had never sinned! This is the very reason we can live a new life in Christ. When we have repented of our sins and sought cleansing through Christ's blood, we are thus made right with God and have the righteousness of God upon us! Romans 3:22: The righteousness of God is by faith in Jesus Christ to all that believe.

This is often referred to as the divine exchange. Christ was punished for our sins so we can receive forgiveness. He was given our shame so we can receive His righteousness. 2 Corinthians 5:21: He has made Him to be sin for us, Who knew no sin so we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

### **Our Life In Christ (The Exchanged Life)**

Galatians 2:20: I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me.

After we repent (confess and turn from) our sins and truly believe in Jesus Christ and the work He has done for us on the cross, our life is in Christ and we are identified with Him and His righteousness, thereby setting us free from guilt and condemnation. For the scriptures say those who are in Christ Jesus are dead to sin and there is no condemnation awaiting them. Romans 8:1: There is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit.

It is however essential we walk, think and live, not according to the natural senses, but according to the spiritual senses activated within us once Christ takes up residence in our lives. We no longer follow after the things that both attract and fulfil the carnal nature. We now pursue those things that feed the new man within us. Our old self was crucified with Christ and buried with Him, and we are raised to new life in Christ Jesus. Romans 6:3-6: Do you not know, many of us as were baptised into Jesus Christ were baptised into His death? Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we should walk in newness of life. If we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we will be in the likeness of His resurrection. Knowing our old man is crucified with Him so the body of sin might be destroyed, so henceforth we should not serve sin.

When we are raised to new life, also known as the born-again experience (John 3:1 to 7), we are also considered a new person; old things having passed away and all things became new.

2 Corinthians 5:17: If any man be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away; behold all things are become new. 1 Peter 1:23: Being born-again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, by the Word of God which lives and abides forever.

### **True Repentance Is To 'Go And Sin No More'**

Luke 13:3: I tell you, unless you repent you will all likewise perish. NKJV

In the above verse, the word 'repent' means, 'to think differently, reconsider (to morally feel compunction). To repent of a sin is not simply to confess it as sin, but to actually completely turn away from it and change your mind about it. It also signifies a complete change of heart and direction. John 8:11-12: She said, "No one, Lord." Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me will not walk in darkness but have the light of life." NKJV

### **What About Restitution?**

If we had to go back and make right every wrong we have ever committed, that would lay an unbearable (if not impossible) burden on us and countless people who have lived a worldly lifestyle for many years. This is certainly not the burden Jesus laid on those people whose sins were forgiven in the New Testament. Jesus said those who are labouring under a heavy burden (remember, Jesus was not speaking of a physical burden here, but a spiritual or soulish burden, - I believe this is clearly referring to guilt), are to come to Him where they will find rest from guilt and condemnation. Matthew 11:28-30: Jesus said, Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." NKJV

Jesus spoke about a tax collector (notorious for stealing and being unfair to others) who was justified at the temple. Luke 18:10-14: Two men went up into the temple to pray. One a Pharisee and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank you I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I possess'. The publican, standing afar off, would not so much as lift his eyes to heaven, but smote on his chest saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner'. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other, for everyone who exalts himself will be abased, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.

Another example of this is when crooked tax collectors approached John the Baptist and asked what they should do. Luke 3:12-13: Then came publicans to be baptised and said to him, "Master, what shall we do?" John said to them, "Collect no more than what is appointed you."

### **This All Lines Up With Ephesians**

Ephesians 4:28: Let him who stole steal no more but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, so he may be able to give to him who needs.

When we first meet Paul, his hands are dripping with the blood of Christians. He went about killing fathers, husbands, women and children. It is not written he ever returned to apologize to the victim's families. Paul never went to anybody we know of to make any offences right, but rather repented of his old ways, turned to God and moved forward with the Gospel. If you think about it, every husband/father he killed, caused a home to lose their breadwinner, so he likely caused financial problems for many Christian families. His actions did trouble him as is written in the Bible but in time he was able to put it all behind him.

Some of the disciples were fishermen, and in those days, fishermen were usually among the lower class and often unfair in their business practices. If it was important for them to make restitution, Jesus would have instructed them to go back and do that before coming to Him, but rather, He merely told them to repent and come follow Him! Matthew 4:18-20: Jesus, walking by the Sea of Galilee saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishermen.

19 Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

20 They immediately left their nets and followed Him. NKJV

The woman caught in the very act of adultery (John 8:3-11) was forgiven free and clear without having to go back to the devastated wives and apologize for what she had done. She was set free with no strings attached! According to the Old Testament law, a woman who lived this lifestyle was to be put to death!! Anybody who has lived a sinful lifestyle has likely stolen or cheated others at some time or another during their life. Another woman was said to have lived a very sinful lifestyle, yet she was forgiven and was never told to go back and make any restitution. Luke 7:46-50: "You did not anoint My head with oil, but she has anointed My feet with ointment. 47. Therefore I tell you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." 48. Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." 49. Those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this Who even forgives sins?" 50. Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." This woman was Mary Magdalene. The woman who sat at His feet and listened to His teaching. She was the only person to anoint Jesus for His burial and was the first person to see Him after He had been resurrected.

Jesus forgave a man of all his sins and gave no further instruction to make any offences right. Matthew 9:2: They brought to Him a paralysed man, lying on a bed, and Jesus seeing their faith said to the man, "Son, cheer up; your sins are forgiven."

It is not preached to repent and seek forgiveness from all the people who we have ever wronged but rather to repent and believe in the Lord Jesus and the work He did on the cross for the remission of our sins. Mark 1:14: After John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, 15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Gospel." NKJV

One man did willingly try to make things right after he met the Lord. Luke 19:1 to 10: Jesus was passing through Jericho. 2. There was a man named Zacchaeus. He was a chief tax

collector and he was rich. 3. He was trying to see who Jesus was and could not because of the crowd, because he was short. 4. He ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see Jesus for He was to pass that way. 5. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and saw Zacchaeus and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for today I must stay at your house." 6. He hurried, came down and received him joyfully. 7. When they saw it they all murmured saying, "He has gone in to lodge with a man who is a sinner." 8. Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Behold Lord, half of my goods I give to the poor. If I have wrongfully exacted anything of anyone, I restore four times as much." 9. Jesus said to him, "Today, salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham. 10. The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

The story of Zacchaeus is a good example of a person who wilfully out of the love of their heart, do something to restore where they have wronged people. Jesus never told him to repay anything, but Zacchaeus wanted to repay four times what he had stolen.

### **Restitution Because Of Love**

Though we are not commanded to correct all of the injustices with those we have offended, we are commanded to love one another, which includes those who may have wronged us or people we may have wronged. There are times when the love of Christ working through you, will convict you to return something you may have stolen, or ask somebody for their forgiveness, simply because it is fulfilling Jesus' command to love our neighbour as ourselves. Matthew 22:37-40: Jesus said, "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind."

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 A second is equally important, 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

40 All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." NLT

When we realize how precious and costly the gift of God is, it will change the way we think, the way we live and will empower us to live a new and transformed life in Christ! It should motivate us to walk in love, as we are loved, and do unto others as Jesus has done for us. Once we realize the love of God for us, it should prompt us to treat others as we would like to be treated! Romans 13:8: "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another. He who loves another has fulfilled the law."

### **Reconciliation Because Of Love**

Galatians 5:6: When we place our faith in Christ Jesus, it makes no difference to God whether we are circumcised or not circumcised (Jew or Gentile). **What is important, is faith expressing itself in love.** NLT

There are times when it is important to do what we can to mend broken relationships. The Bible tells us to be at peace with all men whenever possible (Romans 12:18). If we have wronged our brother and refused to be reconciled with him, then we cannot expect God to honour our worship. We cannot expect to have a close relationship with God and neglect our relationships with other fellow believers. Matthew 5:23-25: If you are standing before the altar in the Temple offering a sacrifice to God, and you suddenly remember someone has

something against you,

24 leave your sacrifice there beside the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person then come and offer your sacrifice to God. NLT

The Bible is clear, if we love God we will love our brethren too. 1 John 4:21: This commandment have we from Him, he who loves God loves his brother also. 1 John 1:7: If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.

Our goal should never be to rush into the room yelling, "I'm sorry!" and then run away. Our goal is to be fully reconciled with that person as a result of our love for them. If you go to somebody and they are not willing to forgive or be reconciled, then the responsibility is off your shoulders. Do not hold it against yourself if you were unable to restore the relationship. It takes two people to be reconciled and you cannot force that other person to forgive. I want to make it clear, this does not mean we have to go back to every person we have ever wronged and apologize (that would be legalism), nor does it mean we should live at peace with others even if it causes us to compromise with their lifestyle. Jesus was not afraid to make enemies if they were out of line and doing what was wrong. The goal here is, if somebody was wounded by your wrongdoing, then your goal is to love them as Christ loved you, and that may mean going to them and attempting to restore the broken relationship.

### **We Are Entitled To A Clean Conscience!**

Because of the costly work Christ did for us on the cross, we can be totally forgiven of our sins, and the stain of guilt removed. So much so, God's Word states clearly we can enter the throne room with boldness because our sins are removed from our account! Hebrews 10:2,19,22: The worshipers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins ... Having therefore brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus. Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water (of the Word of God).

This is powerful my friend, VERY powerful! This means because of the work Jesus did for us on the cross, you and I are entitled to a GUILT FREE conscience!! Colossians 1:22-23: He has brought you back as His friends. He has done this through His death on the cross in His own human body. As a result, He has brought you into the very presence of God, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before Him without a single fault. But you must continue to believe this truth and stand in it firmly. Do not drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Gospel. The Gospel has been preached all over the world and I, Paul, have been appointed by God to proclaim it. NLT

Beloved, today we are in a New Covenant relationship with Jesus Christ – a covenant sealed by His own blood. And likewise today, when His precious blood is sprinkled on your soul, it is for purposes of spiritual communion. It is so you can go boldly – with ease, without fear of judgment – without any condemnation into God's presence for communion with Him. You are given access to Him, with no sin condemning you. You are free to talk to God and enjoy His company!

### **Forgiving Yourself**

It is certainly a very wonderful thing to know God has forgiven you. However, you also need to then forgive yourself in order to truly experience forgiveness. If you look in the mirror and look yourself in the eyes but you don't like the person you see, then you need to forgive yourself and learn how to love the person God has made you into! This is what we call a stronghold, or an incorrect thinking pattern that needs to be torn down in your mind. If you have repented of your sins, and taken them before the Lord for His cleansing, then you are forgiven and now you need to come to realize the power of that. You need to stop associating your failures with your 'new creation' image, for God's Word says, 'If any man be in Christ he is a new creature. Old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new' (2 Corinthians 5:17). Can you honestly look in the mirror and tell yourself, "I love you" and mean it with your heart? I am not talking about conceit or pride, but a humble means of accepting whom God has formed in you. We need to love and accept the person Christ has created in us, and forgive ourselves as Christ has forgiven us!

### **The Importance Of Forgiving Yourself**

When you look inside, you could sometimes blame yourself over and over for your past failures and choices. However, once you have come to Jesus and truly repented, you haven't really accepted the truth about what Jesus has done for you yet if you still dislike yourself; if you still feel ashamed and guilty over your past and you keep holding it against yourself. The way you may see yourself is often not an accurate picture of what Christ has done for you. It is basically denying the work that Jesus accomplished for you on the cross! Once your sins are forgiven, then you need to see yourself as separated from your sins. The enemy will try constantly to remind you of your past and continue to berate you over sins that were actually nailed to the cross. If you are wrapped up in guilt and condemnation you definitely NEED to fully forgive yourself. You can even go through deliverance, but if you don't forgive yourself for the mistakes you've made, you won't experience the breakthrough you need to be totally set free.

When the recipient of a gift receives it gladly and with joy, the giver is glorified. But when the recipient receives the gift, but ignores it, the giver is mocked, belittled and feels unappreciated. Think how your heavenly Father feels when He looks down and sees His children walking around berating themselves over things that He shed His blood for so that they could be forgiven and set free from? It is clear, failing to forgive ourselves from our past mistakes is denying the work of the cross and the shed Blood of Christ in our lives. When God's Word tells us that we've been washed clean with the Blood of Christ, and our sins are removed through the atoning work that Jesus did for us, yet we still 'blame ourselves' for our mistakes, then we are basically saying, "I don't care what the Blood of Jesus has done, I still hate myself for what I've done!" It's ridiculous to think such a thing, but that is what often happens when we refuse to forgive ourselves. Having suffered and died to cancel out our sins Jesus will never now condemn us. If ever we think thoughts of self-condemnation, those thoughts never come from God. God may at times convict us but He will never condemn us. Any such thoughts should therefore be firmly rebuked and dispensed with. Refuse to entertain any such intrusions.

If you don't see yourself as a new creature in Christ, then you have a serious problem. You will be hindered and are held back from freely and confidently living out whom you really

are in Christ! You will be hesitant and feel unworthy to approach your Heavenly Father, because you feel you're a failure and unworthy ... this is why it is vital for your conscience to be cleansed of dead works (your past failures). Hebrews 9:14: How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Failing to forgive yourself will put blinders on your spiritual eyesight. It will cause you to see things through the eyes of guilt, shame and condemnation. It will ruin your faith, and cause you to go blind spiritually. 2 Peter 1:9: He who lacks these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and has forgotten he was purged from his old sins.

In the following verse, we are told to forgive one another, but did you know that the root word for the phrase "one another" actually includes yourself? Colossians 3:13: Bear with one another and forgive one another, if any man have a quarrel against any. As Christ forgave you, so you do also.

Unforgiveness is a well-known door opener to torments from evil spirits. Matthew 18:23-35 tells us how the unforgiving person is turned over into the hands of tormenters (that is, tormenting spirits). If we are unforgiving towards ourselves, we open that door for tormenting spirits to come against us because we are not really accepting the work that Christ did for us on the cross. Another key to the demonic is bitterness, and when we become bitter with ourselves, we become defiled spiritually. Hebrews 12:15: Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God, lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

God's Word tells us Jesus purged (that is, removed) our sin. Hebrews 1:3: 'When He had by Himself purged our sins'. If we fail to forgive ourselves, we are actually calling God a liar! We are saying, "I hate myself because I did that sin. I won't forgive myself for it!" when God's Word tells us the sin has been PURGED or REMOVED from us and from His memory who are we to say it is still part of our lives? We are in essence, calling God's Word a LIE! It is extremely important to realize, when the recipient of a gift, i.e. you and I, receives a gift of Jesus' shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. We should with great joy receive it and enjoy it to the fullness. The giver of that gift, Who is Jesus, is then glorified! Failing to forgive ourselves is denying or rejecting the gift of God and brings no glory (actually dishonour and humiliation) to what Jesus did for us.

### **Step 1, Be Completely Honest With Yourself**

Realize and acknowledge down deep inside, you're not happy with the person of your past. If you are in denial, then forget trying to treat the root of your problem. You need to actually see the problem before you can apply the solution. It might even be helpful to list all of the things you hate about your past, and one by one, give them to the Lord and release yourself from each failure.

### **Step 2, You Need To Realize That Your Debt Has Been Fully PAID**

The only way that you can berate yourself, after Jesus has paid your debt, is if you aren't truly accepting the gift that He has given you. If He's paid the debt, and you keep denying

that fact, then you are rejecting the very gift that God has given you! You need to fully accept what Jesus has done for you by faith. Galatians 2:16: Knowing a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, so we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law for by the works of the law will no flesh be justified.

### **The Blood Of Jesus Was Shed For The Payment Of Your Sins**

Matthew 26:28: This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.

Because of the powerful work that Christ did for us on the cross, God's Word tells us to come boldly unto the throne of grace so we can obtain mercy. Hebrews 4:16: 'Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace so we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need'.

The price for your redemption has been paid in full. It's up to you to gladly receive it and realize the blood of Jesus actually removes the sin from your record. Now you need to see yourself as being forgiven and justified. Jesus took a very sinful woman (possibly a prostitute) and freely washed her clean without hesitation. Luke 7:47: "I say unto thee, Her sins which are many are all forgiven for she loved much, but to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."

The above verse is just one example of how freely Jesus would forgive a person of their sins. It is absolutely true, if we take our sin to Jesus He will freely forgive us without hesitation. Romans 3:24: "Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption in Christ Jesus."

There is no sin you can take to Jesus that He will not forgive for the Bible tells us He is prepared to cleanse us of ALL unrighteousness if we will turn to Him with our failures! 1 John 1:9: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

### **Step 3, Allow The Holy Spirit To Heal Your Soul**

You need to let God heal you. As long as you keep holding something against yourself you are blocking the Holy Spirit's power from entering and healing that area of your mind and life! You need to open up your heart and allow the light of Christ to shine into the darkness of your soul.

### **Step 4, Begin To See The "New Creature" Of Christ Within You**

You are not seeing yourself as you really are. If you have repented of your past and sought God's forgiveness, then you are totally forgiven and justified. It's not that you should try to forget what happened (don't remind yourself of it either though), but the important thing is to see your past through the Blood of Jesus. You need to see your past as "paid in full" by the work Christ did for you on the cross! Seeing things with this perspective changes everything! You definitely need to begin seeing yourself through the blood of Jesus.

## Some Bible Verses To Meditate On

I encourage you to repeat these scriptures out loud, for there is indeed power in the spoken confession of God's truth. Do this on a regular (daily) basis and it will begin to renew your mind according to the truth found in God's Word. 2 Corinthians 5:17: "I am a new creation in Christ, old things have surely passed away and all things become new." What this means is, those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun so say this verse to yourself consistently. Also, say to yourself, "When I confessed my sin, He is faithful and just and will forgive me, regardless what kind of unrighteousness I may have committed."

Say to yourself frequently, "I will love and forgive myself, as Christ has so wonderfully forgiven me." Psalms 103:12: "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." Say to yourself, "My sins are not simply covered, but they are completely removed from me, taken so far from me, that there is no way that they can be considered a part of me anymore!"

Revelation 1:5: 'From Jesus Christ Who... washed us from our sins in His own blood. Say to yourself, "I am completely washed from my sins by the Blood of Christ Jesus Himself, and because the Blood of Christ was shed for me, I am as if I have never sinned.." Matthew 26:28: "This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Remission means be released or set free from sin. Let the sins go as if they had never been committed. Accept complete remission of the penalty.

Romans 5:1: "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Say to yourself, "I have been justified by faith and have peace with God through my Lord Jesus Christ." Galatians 2:16: "Knowing a man is not justified by the works of the law but by the faith of Jesus Christ, we have believed in Jesus Christ so we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law, for by the works of the law no flesh will be justified." Say to yourself, "I cannot be justified by works of the law or acts of righteousness, but by my faith in Christ Jesus." Romans 3:22: "The righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ is to all who believe, for there is no difference."

Say to yourself, "Because I believe, the righteousness of God is upon me." Abraham was, humanly speaking, the founder of our Jewish nation. What were his experiences concerning this question of being saved by faith? Was it because of his good deeds God accepted him? If so, he would have had something to boast about, but from God's point of view Abraham had no basis at all for pride. The Scriptures tell us, "Abraham believed God, so God declared him to be righteous." When people work, their wages are not a gift. Workers earn what they receive. People are declared righteous because of their faith, not because of their work. King David spoke of this, describing the happiness of an undeserving sinner who is declared to be righteous. Psalm 32:1 & 2: "Oh, what joy for those whose disobedience is forgiven, whose sins are put out of sight. Yes, what joy for those whose sin is no longer counted against them by the Lord." NLT

Say to yourself, "The righteousness of God is upon and within me, not as a result of works of the law, but purely through faith in Christ Jesus and the grace of God. I did not earn it, yet He gave it freely to me, and I receive it by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 2:20: "I am crucified

with Christ, nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God Who loved me and gave Himself for me." Romans 6:4: "We are buried with Him by baptism into death so as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Say to yourself, "The old me has been crucified and my old man has been buried with Christ. Now my present life is in Christ as I have been raised to life with Him and I am free to walk in the newness of life." Isaiah 43:25: "I, even I am He Who blots out your transgressions for My own sake and I will not remember your sins." NKJV. Say to yourself, "My Heavenly Father chose to forget my past sins for HIS sake. When He looks at me, He doesn't want to see my sin. He wants to see His precious new creation which was purchased and justified with the Blood of His Son Jesus Christ."

Hebrews 9:14: "How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Say to yourself, "Because of the Blood of Christ, my conscience can be purged of dead works (past failures) so I can serve the Living God."

Hebrews 10:22: "Draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water." Say to yourself, "Not only did God choose to forget my sins, but He also wants me to forget them as well. He wants me to draw near to Him with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, being sprinkled clean from an evil conscience."

Romans 8:1: "There is no condemnation (blame, guilt, disapproval, criticism) to them who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit." Say to yourself, "I am in Christ Jesus, and therefore free from condemnation."

Failing to see yourself as God's Word sees you is denying the work Jesus did for us when He suffered and died on our behalf. Don't let this continue in your life another day. Accept the free gift of God and begin to see yourself as a new creation in Christ Jesus; a new creation whose past failures have been purchased with the precious Blood of Jesus! If you dislike or even hate the person you are, but God's Word tells us you are a new creation who has been washed clean with the Blood of Christ, whose "past" has been purchased with the work Christ did for us on the cross, do you hate that person? Do you hate the new creation God's has made you? Or are you still a sinner in need of salvation? Are you in Christ or not? Do you want to bring glory and honour to Jesus? Then accept His gift with great joy and begin to see yourself as that new creation. Begin to see your past failures as being "paid in full" by the great sacrifice Christ made for you. Begin to see yourself the same way your Heavenly Father sees you! It is sad and tragic, so many believers do not actually appropriate the power and virtue of the blood of Jesus. After receiving Christ they continue to condemn themselves.

In the Old Testament, Moses and the Levitical priests sprinkled the blood of animals in the children of Israel. Exodus 24:8: 'Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people and said, "This is the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you concerning all these words." Matthew 26:28: Jesus said, "This is My blood of the New Covenant, which is poured out for many for the remission of sins." Hebrews 12:24: 'Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant and the blood of sprinkling...'. Jesus covers us with His own blood by faith

when we receive His finished work at Calvary. This is not a physical sprinkling, it is a legal, spiritual transaction. He 'sprinkles' the blood on our spiritual hearts in response to our faith, and until we truly believe in the power of His sacrifice at Calvary, the blood of Jesus cannot produce any effect upon our souls!

Many Churches around the world partake of holy communion regularly, yet Paul warns us not to "drink the cup unworthily." This doesn't mean merely partaking at a communion service after we've failed in some way. We know if we repent of our sin, Jesus will forgive us and cleanse us of all iniquity. Paul is saying we are to discern Christ's body properly. He's talking about coming to the Lord's table, drinking of the cup symbolic of His blood and yet not believing in the true power of that blood! It has to do with sitting in condemnation and fear even of oneself, not believing that Christ's blood has justified and sanctified us in God's sight. Many believers are condemned out of the wonderful experience of the Lord's table because they do not partake of the blood in faith. Paul is saying, "No wonder so many are sickly among you. You are left weak because you do not believe in the total victory of Christ's blood!"

Such Christians are saying, in essence, "I know it's wonderful to be justified through the blood of Jesus Christ, but I still have trouble believing the Lord reckons me righteous. After all, I still haven't arrived. I still struggle."

The truest evidence of faith is rest! If you believe with all your heart, it brings your conscience and soul into rest. When you come to the Lord's supper and partake of the cup, you can say, "I believe I am saved, forgiven, healed, because I believe in the blood. I completely trust in it!"

At this point you may be wondering, "How can I know whether the blood has been applied to my heart?" Here are three ways you can know if you have been sprinkled by the blood:

1. If you are now completely desirous to walk in the light and allow the Holy Spirit to expose all darkness in you, you can know you've been sprinkled. 1 John 1:7: 'If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.' John is clearly talking about someone who is in love with the Word, unafraid of reproof, who says, "Lord, shine Your Holy-Spirit light into every crevice of my heart. I want to walk in the light." If you love the light, it's a sure sign you've been sprinkled!
2. If you call on the power and authority of Christ's blood when you're under enemy attack, you can know you've been sprinkled. When those who have not been sprinkled are in trouble, they call their best friend or a counsellor, or they wallow in fear and condemnation but those sprinkled with blood immediately stand upon the authority of Jesus' blood! We often hear the phrase "Pleading the blood" used in Christian circles. That is not a Scriptural term. The word plead here means 'argument'. It suggests begging and beseeching. That is a defensive mode. Our attitude must be stronger than that. We are not pleaders and beggars. We are blood-bought, blood washed, more than conquerors through Jesus Christ! We are not in a courtroom with the devil, pleading his cause against us. No, we are his victors! We are enforcing our legal victory. Jesus has won the victory for us. His blood has prevailed. Our battle cry should be, "I proclaim the victory of the blood of Jesus! I am

blood-washed, blood-bought, blood-justified, blood-ransomed, blood sanctified and I proclaim the victory of the blood of Jesus!"

3. When you are so secure in the cleansing, justifying power of the blood that your conscience no longer ever condemns you, you can know you've been sprinkled. Your conscience does an evil work when it does not wake you or stir you to obedience to the Gospel. It does evil when it unnecessarily condemns you, accuses you, constantly reminds you of how you failed God, causing distress, depression and fear, but when you fully rest in the cleansing, justifying power of the blood of Jesus -- when you take command of your conscience in the Spirit -- your conscience is no longer an accuser but rather, it works properly. When the devil rises up with an evil accusation, your conscience proclaims the victory of the blood! Hebrews 10:22: 'Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience...'. A peaceful, purged conscience is a sign of being sprinkled with His blood!

### **What Are the Benefits That Flow From the Blood of Jesus Once Your Heart Has Been Sprinkled?**

Jesus' blood redeems us from sin and the powers of darkness. Ephesians 1:7: 'In Whom we have redemption through His blood'. We are no longer under condemnation or fear! A lot of people have been redeemed and justified by the blood but they don't truly believe it because they live in fear and condemnation. They've given credence to the Lord, but they haven't entered into the rest of being justified by the blood. Jesus' blood has purchased the whole church of God. Acts 20:28: 'Feed the church of God, which He has purchased with His own blood'. Colossians 1:13-14:

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins'. Ephesians 5:8-9: 'You were once darkness but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness and truth'. NKJV

### **God Sees Our Sins Through The Blood Of Jesus**

If we look at a red object through red lens, it appears to be white. God now sees us through the blood of His Son. Isaiah 1:18: 'Come now, and let us reason together," Says the Lord, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, they will be as white as wool'. 1 Thessalonians 5:5: 'You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness'. 1 Peter 2:9: 'You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people so you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light'. NKJV

### **Jesus' Blood Breaks Down All Walls That Separate**

Our sins were like an impenetrable wall, completely separating us from God but the blood of Jesus has broken down that wall giving us glorious access to God. Through Christ's sacrifice we are not only made near to God. We Gentiles are also made near to Israel through God having broken down the wall that separated Jew from Gentile. Ephesians 2:13-14: 'In Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. He is our peace,

who hath made both (Jews and Gentiles) one, and broken down the middle wall of partition between us’.

This has great meaning. We are all one in Christ -- a blood-sprinkled church. Indeed, those who are blood-sprinkled no longer have any walls. They have all come down! Christ's blood overcame Satan and put him to flight. Revelation 12:11: ‘They overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony’. What is the word of our testimony? It is this, "I fully believe in the blood! I testify to the prevailing, overcoming power of the blood of Jesus -- and I proclaim its total victory!"

If you want to overcome the devil, rely completely on the blood and proclaim its power! Never trust in your own efforts. The blood gives us access to the Holy of Holies -- to our heavenly Father -- without reproach. Hebrews 10:19: ‘Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest of holies by the blood of Jesus’.

### **We Can Come To Our Father Boldly -- Without Fear!**

What does God expect of us once we are sprinkled with the blood of Jesus? Are we obligated in any way by this sprinkling? Yes, very much so! If we have been sprinkled by the blood of Jesus, we are commanded to do two things:

1. We are to go in peace and doubt no more! When Moses sprinkled blood on the Israelites, they never once doubted they were pardoned and accepted by God. They trusted in that sprinkling! Today, the blood sprinkled on us is not that of bulls, goats or sheep -- but of Christ, the Lamb of God, yet we have more doubt and more fear than the Israelites! Martin Luther said it is blasphemy to take back to ourselves all the sins that were laid on Christ. It is absolute sacrilege to go about in fear, guilt, and condemnation to say, "The Bible says that by faith I am cleansed, justified and protected from Satan's power -- yet I can't believe such a glorious thing is possible!"

2. We are to praise God continually without doubting! We are commanded to thank God for the precious blood of Jesus, with high praises. Romans 5:11: ‘We joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by Whom we have received the atonement’. Psalm 32:11: ‘Be glad in the Lord and rejoice ye righteous. Shout for joy all ye who are upright in heart’. Isaiah 61:10: ‘I will greatly rejoice in the Lord. My soul will be joyful in my God for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation. He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness’. Proclaim the victory of Jesus' blood in and over your life. Begin praising Him now for the promise of that great day of redemption ahead.

### **How To Claim The Blood Of Jesus For Deliverance And Protection**

Many churches talk about the power of pleading the Blood of Jesus – but they do not tell you exactly how to do it, or what to base it on, what to claim it against, and how frequently you need to do it in order to get God’s maximum protection on you and your loved ones. Learning how to enforce the power of the Blood of Jesus will give you the most powerful form of offensive prayer you can use for any kind of deliverance and/or protection you may need. This form of offensive prayer cannot only be used to get God’s protection on you

before any type of adversity ever strikes you, but it can also be used for physical, emotional and mental healings, for battling demons, and for battling any kind of enemy that may come your way. We are truly heading into End Times as prophesied in the Bible. We are entering an extremely pressurised time in history. Learning how to properly claim the power of the Blood of Jesus for deliverance and protection is going to be needed by all Christians in order to help keep them out of harm's way as things really start to heat up in the years ahead. The number one reason why so many Christians are coming under heavy attacks from both demons and evil people in this world is because they do not have God's full protection on them, and the reason they do not have God's full protection on them is because they have never been taught how to spiritually defend themselves using actual spiritual warfare principles!

### **Being Good Soldiers**

There are numerous verses in the Bible telling all of us we are to be good soldiers of Jesus Christ and we have to fight the good fight of faith. We are certainly in a spiritual battle and we need to be soldiers. Philippians 2:25: 'I (Paul) thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, a faithful worker, **and a courageous soldier**. He was your messenger to help me in my need'. 2 Timothy 2:3-4: 'Endure suffering along with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus and **as Christ's soldier**, do not let yourself become tied up in the affairs of this life, for then you cannot satisfy the One who has enlisted you in His army'. NLT

Like it or not, we are all living in a war zone as a result of the Adamic curse that is still in full operation on this earth. We are living in a fallen, imperfect and cursed world that is subject to death, corruption, demonic spirits and evil humans who have chosen with their own free wills to live this life on the dark side. What this means is, anyone of us at anytime can come under direct human or demonic spiritual attack. Places where we thought we were safe are no longer safe. Criminals are becoming more brazen and more evil. The Bible has already warned us, evil, lawlessness and immorality will abound in the end times. There are verses telling us, in the end times men will become lovers of self, unholy, blasphemers, having no self-control and only living life for what they can get out of it. The Bible tells us the love of many will grow cold during these times, and many people will only be out for themselves and for whatever pleasures they can get out of this life while they still can. As a result of this kind of deterioration in man's moral structure, many people will become more impulsive, brazen and evil than ever. They are losing all self-control over their evil, sick desires and impulses, and they are acting out on them without any thought of the consequences of their actions. We have officially entered into End Times as prophesied in the Bible, each Christian is going to have to make a big personal decision as to how they are going to live the rest of what time they still have left, down here on this earth. Christians can either choose to continue to remain passive with their heads stuck in the sand, hoping neither they nor any of their loved ones will ever come under any kind of direct human or demonic attack, or they can choose to learn how to rise up in the power of their Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and learn how to spiritually defend themselves using spiritual warfare techniques as given to us in the Bible!

When the enemy does come, and he will come at each one of us from time to time, you can either choose to run and hide hoping that you will somehow survive the attack and

make it out in one piece, or you can choose to learn how to spiritually defend yourself and engage with the enemy head on like David did with Goliath. The choice is ours. Too many Christians are taking the first approach, and they are literally getting killed and taken out of this life too early. The pain, torment and agony of losing loved ones, especially to any kind of violent crime, is beyond human comprehension. Too many Christians are living defeated lives with no real joy, peace or power in their lives. Storm cloud after storm cloud keeps coming after them, beating them down to a pulp. Many Christians, since they have not been properly taught how to engage with the enemy when he does come their way, are drowning in their sea of troubles. Too many Christians have never established any kind of genuine personal relationship with the Lord, they have never developed any real working knowledge from His Word. They have no real knowledge of the enemy, his tactics and how he operates, and have no real knowledge on how to properly pray or stand in the gap for someone else to get God to move in with His supernatural power to bring freedom, healing or deliverance to a particular situation. Learning how to claim the Blood of Jesus may be one of the greatest spiritual weapons you can have in your arsenal. For those of you who really want to learn how to arm and defend yourself and your loved ones when these attacks do come your way, closely study God's Word particularly with regard to how spiritual warfare is waged. For those of you who will choose to remain passive hoping that nothing bad will ever come your way, at least keep this message in your heart in the event any serious adversity ever does strike you or any of your loved ones. Before I go into exactly how to claim the Blood of Jesus and all of the different things you can claim the blood against, I will first give you the Scriptural grounds that entitles all Christians to be able to use this form of offensive prayer.

### **Scriptural Grounds For Claiming The Blood Of Jesus**

There are many Christians who despise this form of prayer. They ask where in Scripture is there proof that we can use this kind of prayer for either protection or deliverance when we will really need it. They may say there was no evidence the early apostles ever pled the blood to heal, to cast out demons, or to get God's basic protection on them. There are at least three things contained in the Blood of Jesus – **forgiveness, deliverance and protection**. Many Christians only know about the first one – forgiveness. They have no idea there are two other things available to them that will enable them to live a victorious and overcoming life in the Lord while still living down here on this earth. Here is a brief discussion on each one of these three things.

#### **Forgiveness**

As Christians, we all know there is definitely forgiveness in the Blood of Jesus. This is the basic, central message of true Christianity – God the Father sent His one and only begotten Son Jesus Christ down to our earth in the flesh to physically die on a cross in order to save us and give us total and permanent forgiveness for all our sins. If you ever have any doubts about your salvation, remember the complete power of Christ's blood to thoroughly and wonderfully cleanse you from every stain of sin and to gloriously reconcile you to God. Remission means be released or set free from sin (Acts 2:38; Hebrews 9:22), meaning, forgiveness is more than a passive act on God's part. Through the death of His Son, God has

taken the initiative to break the grip of sin and set man free for a new way of life in God's Spirit.

Without Jesus dying and shedding His blood on the cross, there would be no forgiveness and no remission of any of our sins. Here are some extremely powerful verses from Scripture specifically telling us this.

1. Matthew 26:28: 'This is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins'.
2. Ephesians 1:7: 'In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace'.
3. Ephesians 2:13: 'In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ'.
4. Leviticus 17:11: 'The life of the flesh is in the blood ... for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul'.

Notice the emphasis on the word "blood" in these verses. There is no question, these verses and others in the Bible, inform us the blood Jesus personally shed for us on the cross is what leads all of us to be able to receive eternal salvation, the forgiveness of all of our sins and entrance into heaven when we die.

## **Deliverance**

What are the Scriptural grounds that will give us the legal right to be able to use Jesus' Blood when facing any attacks that may come our way? As you will see in some of the stories in the Bible you can claim the Blood of Jesus against specific types of attacks such as attacks from demons or evil people, any kind of physical illness or disease, or any kinds of addictions like drugs and bondage to alcohol. Many Christians are not aware of this second component in the Blood of Jesus, which will entitle us to be able to use His Blood to go on the offensive against any adversary, or adversity that may come our way. Something else happened that day when Jesus died on the cross for all of our sins. The Bible tells us Jesus also defeated Satan and all of the powers of darkness that day! Here are several good verses from Scripture proving this point to you:

1. Hebrews 2:14: 'Through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage'.
2. Colossians 1:13: 'He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the Kingdom of the Son of His love, in Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins'.
3. Colossians 2:15: 'Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them'.
4. 1 John 3:8: 'For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, so He might destroy the works of the devil'. Revelation 12:11: 'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death'.

What defeated Satan and all his dark powers? It was the physical death of Jesus on the cross. What did Jesus do when He died that day on the cross for all of us? He shed His Blood! This is why claiming the Blood of Jesus works so well in real life to combat situations when it really is needed to defeat attacks that are coming against us from the dark side. Many Christians are not fully aware of this second fact about the Blood of Jesus – the Blood of Jesus can also be used to engage with our enemies when they do try to launch any kind of an attack against us. All of the above Scripture verses definitely tell us the blood Jesus shed that day on the cross, has totally defeated Satan and all of his dark powers. The only thing left is for all Christians to fully realize this incredible fact, and to grab hold of this powerful truth and not to be afraid to use when they need it, especially when demons or evil people are attempting to come against them with any type of unjust action or attack.

Here are four more powerful verses from Scripture showing us all Christians now have God's supernatural power and anointing available to them so they can use it whenever they will need it to engage with the dark side of this life.

1. Luke 10:19: 'Behold, I (Jesus) give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over **all** the power of the enemy, and nothing will by any means hurt you'. Notice in this verse we have God's power over all the power of our enemies, not just against some or part of their powers. This means we have the ability to come out completely victorious in life's battles and struggles, but only if we learn how to properly use what is available to us.
2. Luke 9:1: 'He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over **all** demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick'. Notice in this verse Jesus gives the twelve apostles' power over all demons, not just some of them. If we have God's power available to us to defeat all demons, then we also have God's power to defeat any and all humans who may try to come against us with any type of unjust action or attack.
3. Daniel 11:32: 'The people who know their God will be strong and carry out great exploits'. 'Knowing their God' means we have spent quality time in establishing a good, intimate, deep personal relationship with the Lord. If we do this, then this verse is telling us God will strengthen and empower us when we need His power to be able to carry out great exploits and great adventures for Him.
4. 2 Chronicles 16:9: 'The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him'. This verse is telling us God is actually looking for people He can anoint with His power and show Himself strong through them, but the implication appears to be, He really cannot find many people who are willing to pay the price to be able to really walk with His anointing.

As you can see from the way all of the above Scripture verses are worded – true Christianity is not a weak or passive religion. As born-again believers, we all have the

Spirit of Christ literally living on the inside of us. However, we must learn how to use the power given to us in Christ. As a result, all our bodies have become the temple in which He lives in. His supernatural power is fully available to all of us, to help us handle some of the storm clouds that can come against us in this life. Learning how to properly claim the blood of Jesus for any deliverance and protection you may need is just one part of our arsenal.

## **Protection**

Claim the blood of Jesus on specific things you want protected before any kind of adversity could strike them – like your body, family, house, car and finances. The goal is to claim the blood of Jesus on those things to protect you before any kind of adversity can ever come your way. If the above verses are showing us we can claim the blood of Jesus against any attacks that may have already come our way, then it only stands to reason we can also go one step further with the blood of Jesus – and that is to use it for protection before any kind of actual attacks can come our way. In this case, you simply claim the blood of Jesus on whatever you want God’s full protection on before any attacks could possibly come your way.

There is something else in the Bible that gives us another clue entitling us to be able to claim the blood for this specific purpose. In the Old Testament, God the Father had arranged with His chosen people, the Jews, for them to be able to enter into a covenant relationship with Him, they had to have some kind of temporary covering for their sins. Jesus had not come yet so there was no full remission for any of the sins that had occurred at that time. What God the Father had set up was the sacrifice of blemish free animals such as bulls, goats and lambs. Their blood had to be shed once per year on what was called the Day of Atonement. The shedding of these animals blood was what gave the Jewish people a temporary covering for their sins so they could then enter into a covenant, personal relationship with God the Father. This is why Jesus is called the ‘Lamb of God’. He is an extension of the lambs used by His Father in the Old Testament to give the Jewish people a temporary covering for their sins. Once Jesus had come to shed His own blood on the cross, there was no more need for any more animal sacrifices. His death on the cross had completed and fulfilled what His Father had started in the Old Testament with the sacrifice of these animals.

## **Now Watch This Analogy**

In the shedding of the lamb’s blood on the Day of Atonement, there was a temporary covering for the sins of the Jewish people. Jesus came and the shedding of His blood now gives all believers complete and total forgiveness for all of their past sins that have been confessed and forsaken. Something else occurred back in the Old Testament that may entitle us to be able to use the blood of Jesus for divine protection. In the story of the Passover, God had sent His servant Moses to rescue the children of Israel from their captivity under the Egyptians. God had thrown ten huge plagues at the Pharaoh in an effort to try and get him to release His people from his rule. Before the last plague, God told Pharaoh He was going to allow an angel of death to come through their camp to kill all of their firstborn children. However, before God set all of this up to occur, He told His people to shed the blood of a blemish free lamb and to put that shed blood on the door posts and lintels of their

houses. God told His people the angel of death would bypass their house if the angel saw this shed blood on their doorposts and lintels. The angel of death would thus not kill any of the Israelites – but only if he saw the blood properly applied to the doorposts and lintels of their houses. In other words, the blood of this blemish-free lamb was being used for divine protection before this attack would come their way. Had each person not properly applied this blood on their doorposts, their firstborn children would have been killed, along with the rest of the firstborn children of the Egyptians.

If the shed blood of the Old Testament lambs used for the temporary covering of sins, eventually led to the shedding of Jesus' blood for permanent and total forgiveness of all of our sins, can we not also use that same analogy and say the shed blood of the lambs used in the Passover for divine protection could also lead to the shed Blood of Jesus having divine protection in it? The answer is yes, and that is why God the Father seems willing to honour and work with any believer who will claim the blood of Jesus on whatever they want protected before any attack can come their way, just like He did in the story of the Passover with His own chosen people. There is one more area each Christian must make a personal decision on before God will give you this kind of full, divine protection.

### **Saved and Fully Surrendered**

To be able to claim the Blood of Jesus for any kind of deliverance or protection you may need, there are two essential requirements that must be met. You must be a saved and born-again Christian. A non-believer cannot use the blood of Jesus. In the story of the Passover, only God's chosen people were allowed to apply the blood of the lamb on their doorposts and lintels to get His full protection on them. It is the same way in the New Testament. Only born-again Christian believers can use the blood of Jesus for deliverance and protection. Being born-again is much more than an understanding and acceding to a doctrine intellectually. It is an actual experience when Christ, on your sincere invitation comes into your life experientially. Through gladly receiving Jesus, He comes to live within you and to initiate a new beginning in you. However, for those who are already saved and born-again Christians, there is one more thing you will have to do before you can get God's best to start flowing into your life – which will include getting His maximum protection on you and your life. You must be willing to make a full and complete surrender of your entire being and your entire life over to God the Father. Jesus surrendered fully and completely for us and we must surrender in like manner to Him.

You have to be both saved and surrendered in order to be able to sincerely walk with the Lord. God wants you to fully surrender four specific things to Him.

- Your body
- Your soul – imagination, memory, carnal thoughts
- Your spirit – your connection to God
- Your entire life

The Bible tells us we have three parts to our beings – body, soul and spirit. God wants all three parts of our being completely surrendered to Him. The fourth thing God wants from

you, is for you to fully surrender your entire life over to Him – literally everything in your life. The Bible tells us, with the measure we use, will be the measure that will be measured back to us. In other words, if you want God's best to start flowing into your life, then you will have to give God your personal best – and your personal best is being willing to fully surrender every part of your being and every part of your life over to the Lord for His full direction and handling. This area is where many Christians are really missing the truth with the Lord. They are saved, but they are not walking in this full surrender with God the Father. As a result, God is not working full force in their lives. The only way to get God to start working full force in your life is to come under a complete and full surrender with Him. God's knowledge and wisdom is perfect in all matters – yours is not! God can see into the future and knows exactly what is going to happen to you – you cannot. God knows you better than you can ever know yourself, and as a result, He knows what your true potential and capabilities are going to be in this life. Your powers are limited, but God's powers are not. The Bible tells us God is all-powerful and there is nothing He cannot do or accomplish. Nothing is impossible with God.

After thinking and meditating on all of the above, whom do you want running your life? Yourself, with your limited powers, wisdom and knowledge, or God the Father, who has maximum power and complete knowledge to do and accomplish whatever He wants to do? This lack of a full surrender to God the Father is what is getting so many Christians beaten in life. They do not have God's full protection on them, and as a result, they are coming under severe attacks from demons and evil people. Just some of the natural cause and effects can occur at a moment's notice, such as different kinds of accidents, catastrophes, mishaps and illnesses that can hit anyone of us at anytime. Without God's maximum protection on you, anyone of us can get hit by these types of severe storm clouds. Only God's protection can keep you safe and out of harms way from some of these types of storm clouds – and the only way to get God's maximum protection on you and your life is to come under this complete and full surrender.

### **Postscript:**

#### **Islam And The Death Of Christ**

It is a well-known fact Mohammed literally hated the cross. He firmly instructed his followers, wherever they may find a cross, they should destroy it. He obvious discerned the tremendous spiritual power inherent in the cross. Considering the fact the death of Jesus on the cross, as the sacred Lamb of God, is the very core and utterly indispensable centre of the Christian faith, it is extremely alarming, the cross hardly features in the modern message of Christianity. This is a very regrettable fact. Until a few years ago, one could scarcely attend church without hearing powerful expositions on the cross, the blood and the death of Jesus. Now it is possible in many churches to attend for months and even years without hearing any mention of the centrality and significance of the cross, sin and the blood that is the only cleansing antidote for sin. Is the fact many churches today are not preaching salvation through the blood the reason why few people are being saved in those churches? It is sad and alarming in an era when the mention of the cross is severely diminishing in the Church, it is rapidly gaining importance to Islam. However, from their perspective this is true because Muslims are so adamantly opposed to the historic fact, Jesus died on the cross. In the early

history of Islam, Mohammed had such a strong hatred of the cross, he commanded whenever a Christian town or city was conquered by Islamic forces, every cross in that place must immediately be torn down and utterly destroyed. Surely this says something remarkable about the cross as perceived by Muslims. It graphically illustrates the power of the cross that terrifies Muslims. Why are Muslims so adamantly opposed to the message of the cross? Why do they so fervently deny Jesus died on the cross? It is precisely because they realize the true importance and significance of the death of Jesus and His subsequent resurrection. This powerful theme is at the very heart of true Christianity. Without this emphasis the Church is powerless. If Jesus had not died and subsequently risen from the dead, Islam would have the power to ultimately rule the whole world.

The Muslim religion is possibly the fastest growing religion in the world today. Among its many differences from Christianity, is it adamantly denies the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Whether Muslims believe in a substitution theory (in which another person was crucified in Jesus' place), or the ascension theory (Jesus was rescued from the cross and ascended to heaven), or the swoon theory (Jesus did not actually die while on the cross and survive the rigors of the crucifixion), each one of them clearly denies the death of Jesus by crucifixion. This Islamic belief is not just something Muslims conjured up in response to Christianity. Instead, the Quran clearly denies the crucifixion of Jesus in Surah 4:157-158 which says, “. . . they [the Jews] said, ‘We killed Christ Jesus the son of Mary, the Messenger of Allah’ – But they killed him not, nor crucified him, but so it was made to appear to them, and those who differ therein are full of doubts, with no (certain) knowledge, but only conjecture to follow. For of a surety they killed him not – Nay, Allah raised him up unto Himself.

1 Commenting on the above verses, the renowned Quranic translator and commentator Yusuf Ali states, “The Quranic teaching is Christ was not crucified nor killed by the Jews.”

2 The Muslim apologist and author Ahmed Deedat agrees, “On the subject of the crucifixion, the Muslim is told in no uncertain terms in the Holy Quran, they (the Jews) did not kill Him, nor did they crucify Him.”

3 Therefore the Quranic teaching is clearly, Jesus did not die by crucifixion, which is in direct and defiant contrast to Christianity, which says there is no salvation apart from the cross (Matthew 26:28; Mark 14:22-24; 1 Corinthians 1:18). Putting aside all theological beliefs, what does the evidence suggest? Did Jesus really die by crucifixion or did he simply appear to be dead? If Mohammed and his followers so hate and despise the cross as a despicable and hated thing, is that not a good reason why Christians should love, honour and uphold it with an even greater passion? Since Muslims are taught to detest the cross, should not we Christians faithfully uplift, exalt and cling to it? 1 Corinthians 15:14 & 20: ‘If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain and your faith is also vain’ ... But Christ is risen from the dead and became the Firstfruits of them who slept’. KJV