THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

***1 Peter 1:18-20***

***“18 For you know that God paid a ransom to save you from the empty life you inherited from your ancestors. And it was not paid with mere gold or silver, which lose their value. 19 It was the precious blood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. 20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.”***

This morning I want to talk about one of the most powerful weapons we have as believers.

The Blood of Jesus

Blood Sacrifices

**Blood sacrifices have been practiced in many cultures and civilisations throughout history.**

Traditional Africa Traditional African religions and Egyptian religions employed blood sacrifices to appease their deities and obtain fruitful harvests.

Native Americans Aymara, Incas and Aztec rituals involved blood sacrifices. North of the Rio Grande, many of the Natives practiced blood sacrifices.

Europe, Asia and the Middle East The Greeks, the Romans, the Hindus, the Babylonians, the Canaanites, the Philistines and the Jews all practiced blood sacrifice.

Some cultures also performed human sacrifices. The idea behind sacrifice was the surrender of life. Blood had to be drained. Sacrifice was the pouring out of life and because life is in blood, blood was shed. In many religions, the devotees often consumed sacrificial blood. In addition to prohibiting human sacrifices, God barred the Jewish nation from consuming animal sacrificial blood, because life is in the blood. Blood is life and life must be allowed to return to the God of the universe who gave it.

Life Is In The Blood:

***In Leviticus 17:11 (NLT)***

***“for the life of the body is in its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the Lord. It is the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible.”***

This was a great prophetic sign that was speaking of the blood that would be shed on calvary for each of us.

**We’re told in Leviticus 17:11 that, “the life of the flesh is in the blood.” This is true in both spiritual and physical realms.**

Your natural blood supplies life-giving oxygen and nutrients to every cell in your body. If the flow of blood were to be cut off from an area of your body, that part would begin to die.

**Spiritually speaking, any part of your life that is cut off from the blood of Jesus is dead or dying.**

**Your blood also carries away wastes and toxins from your cells.**

Spiritually, without the blood of Jesus, your life would be filled with filth just like the Pharisees in Matthew 23:27. Thank God for the blood of Jesus that removes the dirt of sin from our daily lives!

God also equipped your body with white blood cells that fight off sickness. Any time bacteria or viruses try to get in, your white cells start destroying the invaders.

When your natural blood is healthy, you are protected from disease; and when you are spiritually healthy, there isn’t anything the devil can bring against you that the blood of Jesus isn’t sufficient to overcome.

There truly is life in the blood!

**The Blood In Genesis:**

The cleansing stream of blood begins in Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned and they were sent out of the Garden, God killed an animal and took the skin to cover them. Blood was shed for their redemption.

That scripture in Hebrew 9:22 was established there

***Hebrews 9:22 “and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”***

We see when Cain and Abel were coming to sacrifice, Cain brought the works of his hands while Abel brought a lamb, and because there was no blood in Cains sacrifice God rejected it and accepted Abels sacrifice because there was blood shed.

Because without the shedding of Blood there is no forgiveness.

In fact John says in Revelation that Jesus dying on the cross was the plan from the creation of the world.

***Revelation 13:8 “the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.”***

***1 Peter 1:20***

***20 God chose him as your ransom long before the world began, but now in these last days he has been revealed for your sake.”***

**That means when Genesis 1:1 was written it was already destined for Jesus to die.**

No gift God has given us is more important than the blood of Jesus Christ. Yet many Christians do not fully comprehend the power of the blood.

What’s worse is that many churches – even whole denominations – have stopped preaching and singing about the blood and its power.

**How about you? Do you understand the significance of the blood?**

The Blood is so Important

Blood is so important to God that it is mentioned in the Bible around 700 times.

* **David referred to the “incorruptible” blood. Psalm 16:10**
* **Peter spoke of the “precious” blood, 1 Peter 1:18**
* **John wrote of the “overcoming” power of the blood. Rev 12:11**

The Shed and Applied Blood

At the Last Supper, when Jesus held up the cup of wine, He said, “…**This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you” (Luke 22:20).**

The blood of Jesus is so significant that this scripture is used every time we receive communion.

**Jesus’ blood was shed for everyone on the face of this earth but it is only those who apply it that receive it’s power.**

**In Exodus 12:22, the Israelites were commanded to kill a lamb and dip a branch of hyssop (a common herb) into its blood.** They were then to sprinkle the blood on the lintel and side-posts of their front doors. That night, as the death angel came, he passed over every door where he saw the blood on the doorposts. Everyone whose doorposts had no blood lost their firstborn; those with the blood were spared.

If an Israelite had left the blood in the basin instead of applying it, the death angel would have struck their home. Killing the lamb would have done them no good.

The shedding of blood was not enough – the blood only had saved them when it was taken out of the basin and applied!

Applying the Blood

Just as the blood had to be sprinkled on the doorposts, you also must apply the blood of Jesus. It was already shed for you, but it becomes powerful in your life when you apply it.

**Under the old covenant, the blood of animals was applied by sprinkling with the hyssop.**

**Under the new covenant, we apply the blood of Jesus with our words and by faith.**

***“For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:10).***

You apply the blood of Jesus when you say, “the blood of Jesus was shed on the cross for me.”

* **You can apply the blood of Jesus to receive healing (Isaiah 53:5).**
* **You can apply it to protect your household (Exodus 12:13).**
* **It can be applied to cover your children and their circumstances (Job 1:5).**

**You can apply the blood to anything you have authority over or influence upon.**

**And whatever you apply the blood of Jesus to becomes redeemed by Christ, and Satan cannot touch it.**

The Powerful Blood of Jesus

The Bible tells us many powerful things that the blood of Jesus does when applied.

When you apply the blood, it:

**1 - Gives you life.**

***“Then Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you.”***

***(John 6:53 NIV)***

**2 - Provides forgiveness of your sins.**

***“The law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.”***

***(Hebrews 9:22, NIV)***

**3 - Brings you near to God.**

***“Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.”***

***(Ephesians 2:13 NLT)***

**4 - Purifies your conscience.**

***“Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our consciences from sinful deeds so that we can worship the living God.”***

***(Hebrews 9:14 NLT)***

**5 - Gives you boldness to approach God.**

***“And so, dear brothers and sisters, we can boldly enter heaven’s Most Holy Place because of the blood of Jesus.”***

***(Hebrews 10:19 NLT)***

**6 - Sanctifies you.**

***“Therefore Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate.”***

***(Hebrews 13:12 NLT)***

**7 - Cleanses you.**

***“But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”***

***(1 John 1:7)***

**8 - Heals you.**

***“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by His wounds you have been healed.”***

***(1 Peter 2:24, NIV)***

**9 - Gives Power to Overcome.**

***“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony…”***

***(Revelation 12:11, NKJV)***

**10 - Sets Me Free.**

***“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”***

***(Galatians 5:1 NIV)***

***Prayer***

***Heavenly Father, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I ask you to cleanse me from all sin, come into my heart today, as Lord and Saviour, from this moment forward, I will serve you, with all of my heart, soul, mind and body,***

***Jesus is Lord, now and forever, in Jesus Name.***

Declaration:

I declare that there is power in the Blood of Jesus Christ to save me and set me free from all the works and power of the devil.

I Plead the Blood of Jesus over my life

I Plead the Blood of Jesus over my family

I Plead the blood of Jesus over my home

I Plead the Blood of Jesus over my possessions

I Plead the Blood of Jesus over my health

I Plead the Blood of Jesus over my finances

In Jesus Name, Amen

DBS Section:

**Read Hebrews 9:11-28 & 1 Peter 1:18-20**

Read these scriptures in two versions, preferably the NIV / NKJV and then another version like the NLT / Message Bible.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. From these passages what are some things the Blood of Jesus is said to be representing or doing in our lives?
2. What does the blood of Jesus Christ mean to you, and how can you apply the Blood of Jesus in your life?
3. What are some of the benefits that flow from the blood of Jesus in our lives?
4. Are there areas of your lives where you need victory through the blood of Jesus? (Please share it together and pray together)
5. What can you do differently this week in obedience to this word?
6. Who can you share this with this week?