Morality may keep you out of jail, but it takes the blood of Jesus to keep you out of hell.
Charles Spurgeon

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WEAPONS OF WARFARE: THE NAME, THE WORD, & THE BLOOD

PART THREE: THE BLOOD

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of our God and the power of His Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the BLOOD of the Lamb and by the Word of their testimony, and they loved not their lives unto the death.
Revelation 12:10-11

To me the greatest gifts the Lord Jesus Christ left on earth for His people are the Old and New Testament (or Old and New Covenant), the Holy Spirit, and the Blood Covenant. Before we talk about the blood, we need to understand what a covenant was to those in the Bible. Unfortunately in a way, covenants were so familiar to people in those ancient cultures that the Bible did not go at length to explain what a covenant really is. We know, from teaching by Bill Gothard, that a covenant differs from a legal contract in three ways:

1. First, a covenant is based on trust between parties. A contract is based on distrust.
2. Secondly, a covenant is based on unlimited responsibility. A contract involves limited liability.
3. Finally, a covenant is not to be broken, even if new circumstances occur. A contract can be voided by mutual consent.

The most common covenant in our society is the marriage covenant.

Paul Ziegler, in an excellent article about the blood covenant, says that there were 9 steps to the blood covenant. I will paraphrase these steps and show how Jesus is related to each one:

1. Two people exchange coats or robes. The coat or robe represents, to the Hebrews, the person himself. By giving his robe, a person was basically offering himself, even his very life, if need be, to the other person. Jesus takes our robes of sin and gives us His robe of righteousness: 2nd Corinthians 5:21: *He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.* [Remember how the Prodigal Son's father told his servants to bring out the best robe and put on his son! The son types you and me, and the father types God.]
2. Next the two people exchange belts. The belt, often referred to in King James English as the girdle, was used to hold one's fighting instruments, whether a knife, a sword, or some other fighting instrument. When one man gave another his belt, he was saying, "Your battles are my battles," and he was duty bound to offer protection to the other person. We take on the

belt of Truth. Ephesians 6:13-17: *Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand firm, therefore, <u>having girded your loins</u> <u>with truth</u>* [Truth is the Word of God] *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; in addition to all, take up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.* I am not exactly sure what our weapons of exchange with His are, but I do know that they are carnal or of human devising (2nd Corinthians 10:3-4 shows the contrast of human weapons with the spirit-baptized person's weapons after the exchange of the belts-*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal* [of human devising] *but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds*.)

3. The covenant was cut by cutting a sacrificial animal down the middle and laying the two halves opposite each other, after which the two parties would walk between the two halves saying, in effect, "May God do to me and more if I break this covenant." As stated earlier, a blood covenant could not be broken. Jesus shed His blood on Calvary and was our sacrificial lamb. Acts 20:28: *Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.* Hebrews 10:14-18: *For by one offering He has perfected for all*

time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days," says the Lord. "I will put my laws upon their heart and upon their mind I will write them, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. Now where there is forgiveness for these things, there is no longer any offering for sin."

4. Next the men raised their right hands and cut their palms. Then they would clasp hands, allowing the blood of one to flow and intermingle with the blood of the other. This was a sign that the two became one with each other, intermingling their very life. (John 20:25- *The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails and put my finger into the print of the nails and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.")*
5. The covenant makers would exchange names with each one taking a part of the other person's name and incorporating that part in their own name. Jesus took on the name, "Son of Man," (Luke 5:24: ***"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins,"*** *–he said to the man who was paralyzed,* ***"I say to you, arise, take up your bed and go to your house,"***), and we take on the name Christian (Acts 11:26: *And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called*

Christians in Antioch) and are forever in the family of God.

6. The covenant makers would make a scar on their bodies, usually the wrists or palms, so that others could see that that a covenant was made. Then if someone wanted to attack one of the covenant makers, all they had to do was show their palms or wrists, letting their enemy know that if he chose to fight one, he would also have to fight the other. Jesus took the scars of the nails in His hands and feet and the spear in His side. We take on the circumcision of the heart. (Romans 2:29: *But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter; and his praise is not from men, but from God.*)
7. The covenant makers would then give terms of the covenant, basically saying, "Everything I have is yours, and everything you have is mine. In addition, if something happens to me, you will see to it that my wife and children are taken care of." The terms of the covenant are found in the complete Word of God. Thus, we inherit all the promises of God. (2nd Corinthians 1:20: *For all the promises of God in Him are "Yes" and in Him "Amen," to the glory of God through us*, through the covenant we make with God.)
8. The covenant makers would eat a memorial meal, breaking a loaf of bread in half, saying, "This is my

body, broken for you" and drinking wine as a symbol of the other's blood, saying, "This is my blood, which

is now your blood." Of course, this is the communion meal. (1st Corinthians 11:23-26: *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took break, and when He had given thanks, He broke it, saying, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."*)

9. Finally, they would plant a tree as a memorial of the covenant, sprinkling it with blood from the animal that was killed. The cross that Jesus died on was the tree that the blood of Jesus was sprinkled on and is still today our memorial of His covenant with us, as we wear crosses or put crosses in or on our churches, etc. (Acts 10:39: *And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree.*)

Derek Prince's Scriptural Analysis of the Blood

1. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF THE DEVIL.**
   Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalm 107:2).
2. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN.**
   In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace…(Ephesians 1:7)
3. **THE BLOOD OF JESUS, GOD'S SON, CONTINUALLY CLEANSES ME FROM ALL SIN.**
   But 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, cleanseth us from all sin (1st John 1:7).

   But if we [really] *are living and walking in the Light, as He* [Himself] *is in the Light, we have* [true, unbroken] *fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt* [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. AMP
4. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM JUSTIFIED, MADE RIGHTEOUS, JUST AS IF I HAD NEVER SINNED.**
   Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we should be saved from wrath through him (Romans 5:9).

5. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM SANCTIFIED-MADE HOLY OR SET APART TO GOD AND SEPARATED FROM THE DEVIL.**
   Wherefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate (Hebrews 13:12).
6. **MY BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-REDEEMED, CLEANSED, SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS. THEREFORE, SATAN HAS NO PLACE IN ME, NO POWER OVER ME, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, JESUS!**
   What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1st Corinthians 6:19-20).

Kevin Halloran's "By the Blood"

1. We gain bold access to God in worship and prayer. **T**he Bible is clear that every person is alienated and separated from God because of our sin (Colossians 1:21). That means even the best of us are actually unable to approach God to offer worship or prayer. Because of our sins, we remain at a distance from Him. But the Bible tells Christians to come boldly into God's presence, *"We have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus"* (Hebrews 10:19). If you are a **C**hristian today, you can have boldness and confidence as you approach God with your

prayers and your worship, because you are no longer far away from God, *"Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been made near by the blood of Christ"* (Ephesians 2:13). It is because of the blood of Jesus Christ that we have the great privilege of pouring our hearts out to God (Psalm 62:8) casting our cares on Him (1 Peter 5:7) and praying any time and any place in the power of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18). Does your prayer life reflect the kind of relationship you have with God through the blood of His Son?

2. Forgiveness of Sin

In addition to being able to enter into God's presence through the blood of Christ, we are also forgiven of our sins. Ephesians 1:7 says that, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Because of Christ's shed blood, God is able to forgive us for our sins and give the punishment that we deserved to Christ. Christ had a special way of explaining this to his disciples during the Last Supper, which also was the Passover meal celebration. He said, *"For this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many* ***for the forgiveness of sins"*** (Matthew 26:28). He was telling His disciples that just as the blood of the lamb delivered the Hebrews from the night of terrors in Egypt, so Christ's own blood would deliver the people who were covered by it from the judgment of God on the last day.This truth is expressed beautifully in the hymn:

"Nothing But the Blood"

What can wash away my sin?

Nothing but the blood of Jesus;
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Oh! Precious is the flow
That makes me white as snow;
No other fount I know,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus…

Take joy, Christian, that Christ has cleansed you from your sin with his blood!

3. Consciences Cleansed

Through the blood of Christ, Christians receive the cleansing of their consciences. Hebrews 9:14 says, *"…how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."* This is an amazing promise! Christ cleansing our consciences from acts that lead to death! How does He do it? By the blood of Christ, because on the cross He offered Himself unblemished to God! He offered Himself—His unblemished, perfect life—as a sacrifice to God for us on account of our sins. Therefore, He alone is able to cleanse our consciences through His blood. Even though all of our minds have been corrupted by sin and seared as with a hot iron (1 Timothy 4:2), Christ can cleanse our consciences. We are able to live right lives and think right thoughts once again in Christ. This is great news for those who are burdened by a sinful past and corrupted consciences.

4. We are progressively cleansed from more and more sin.

Not only are we forgiven from sin, but we are also sanctified through the blood of Christ. Hebrews 13:12 tells us that *"Jesus also suffered…in order to sanctify the people through his own blood"* (Hebrews 13:12). God is calling his people be holy as He is, which is one of the reasons Jesus suffered. Without holiness, no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). After we are forgiven of our sins and able to enter into a new relationship with God, it makes sense that God wants us to be in a new relationship with the sin that previously condemned us as well. That is why he gives us the power, through the blood of His Son, to be cleansed from our sinful behaviors.

5. We are able to conquer the accuser of the brethren.

Because of Christ's sacrifice and the pouring out of His blood on our behalf, we can trust in the righteousness of Christ and not our own righteousness when we are accused by our enemy. Revelation 12:11 says, "And they have conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death." As believers, we know that we cannot stand on our own merit or because of our own deeds. We know that our good deeds are as filthy rags before God (Isaiah 64:6) and that the Christ's righteousness attributed to us is how we are able to stand up against accusations.

Charles Spurgeon spoke these comforting words: "I know what the devil will say to you. He will say to you, 'You are a sinner!' Tell him you know you are, but that for all that, you are justified. He will tell you of the greatness of your sin. Tell him of the greatness of Christ's righteousness. He will tell you of all your mishaps and your backslidings, of

your offences and your wanderings. Tell him, and tell your own conscience, that you know all that, but that Jesus Christ came to save sinners, and that, *although your sin be great, Christ is quite able to put it all away."*

6. Rescued Out of a Sinful Way of Life

…you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. (1 Peter 1:18-19) Being ransomed from futile ways is another benefit Christians have through the blood of Jesus. We are rescued from a life lived devoid of meaning and are brought into a relationship with God and the ability to live in his will and with purpose. Compared to the precious blood of Jesus Christ, the most valuable things of this earth (like silver and gold) are reduced to meaningless, perishable things. That is because the blood of Jesus gives Christians salvation of their souls, forgiveness from sins, access to God, victory over the enemy, and the power to live with a clear conscience, something that the gold and silver items in the Old Testament temple could never do.

The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power
Andrea Crouch

Verse 1:
The blood that Jesus she'd for me,
Way back on Calvary;
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day,

It will never lose it's power.

Chorus:
It reaches to the highest mountain,
It flows to the lowest valley;
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day,
It will never lose it's power.

Verse 2:
It soothes my doubts and calms my fears,
And it dries all my tears;
The blood that gives me strength
From day to day,
It will never lose it's power.

Chorus

THE BLOOD BOUGHT CHURCH
NANCY HARMON

They shall lift up their voice
They shall sing for joy
They shall cry aloud and be free,
They shall glorify the name of the Lord.
It's the blood bought church, The Redeemed

Oh pick up your heart, oh Zion of the Lord.
Let the earth ring forth with His Praise.
All His Children rejoice from the Island of the sea
It's the blood bought, church, the redeemed.
Let the earth be silent, All wind cease to blow.
Every created being fold your wing.
There's a new song being sung with a new meIody. It's the Blood Bought, The Church, The Redeemed. And We Are In That Army Of The Lord.
We've Been Washed In The Blood,
And We Are Going Forth.
There Is Nothing That Could Stop
This Mighty Moving Force.
With A Shout Of Praise, A Two - Edged Sword.
Every Stronghold of Bondage must Fall
Beneath Our Feet.
Every Prisoner Held Captive Must Be Freed.
For Our Deliverance Has Come
Through The Power of The Son.
It's the Blood Bought, The Church, The Redeemed.