

Three Things the Blood of Jesus Does for Us  
4.14.2019

**We are receiving communion today, so I want to talk about the blood of Jesus from a different angle.**

Leviticus 17:11 - NKJV

For the life of the flesh *is* in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it *is* the blood *that* makes atonement for the soul.

Hymn by William Cowper (1772) (There Is a Fountain Filled With Blood)  
*There is a fountain filled with blood  
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins;  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood  
Lose all their guilty stains.*

Hymn by Elisha A. Hoffman (1878) (Are You Washed in the Blood?)

Have you been to Jesus for the cleansing pow'r?  
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?  
Are you fully trusting in His grace this hour?  
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

Refrain:

Are you washed in the blood,  
In the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb?  
Are your garments spotless? Are they white as snow?  
Are you washed in the blood of the Lamb?

**To the average person today, blood is an unclean thing.**

We grimace when we see blood most anywhere.

A cut with oozing blood brings instant grimaces to onlookers.

Years ago when ties were popular on Sundays, when I cut myself shaving, a drop of blood would get on my white shirt while tying my tie. Blood is inconvenient.

The day after Christmas I fell on my bike while riding, bringing home some pretty nasty wounds on my leg, arm, and hand. Grimaces greeted those wounds filled with blood.

I fainted at the sight of my own blood when Susan and I dated.

## **Historical beliefs about blood:**

*Some believe that blood gives strength and new life:*

In Kenya the Masai warriors drink blood from goats or cows to give them strength for battle

1st century epileptics ran to the floor of the Colosseum in Rome after a Gladiator battle to lap up blood from the floor in hope of a cure.

Blood contracts (covenants) were used for centuries to create a binding contract between two parties.

Even our wedding ring being placed on what was historically called the "leech finger" or we call it the ring finger is from the historical belief that a special blood vessel ran from that finger directly to the heart.

## **From a medical standpoint, blood does three things for us:**

### **Blood feeds, purifies, and protects our bodies.**

#### **1. Blood feeds**

Italicized smaller print in these notes is taken from the book *In His Image* by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, 1984,2008), chapters 4,5,6

*Medically, blood signifies life and not death. It feeds and sustains every cell in the body with its precious nutrients. When it seeps away, life falters.*

*"Such a pipeline exists inside each one of us, servicing not six billion but one hundred trillion cells in the human body. An endless supply of oxygen, amino acids, nitrogen, sodium, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sugars, lipids, cholesterol, and hormones surges past our cells, carried on blood cell rafts or suspended in the fluid. Each cell has special withdrawal privileges to gather the resources needed to fuel a tiny engine for its complex chemical reactions. In addition, that same pipeline ferries away refuse, exhaust gases, and worn-out chemicals. In the interest of economical transport, the body dissolves its vital substances into a liquid (much as coal is shipped more efficiently through a slurry pipeline than by truck or train). Five or six quarts of this all-purpose fluid suffice for the body's hundred trillion cells."*

*"A speck of blood the size of this letter "o" contains 5,000,000 red cells, 300,000 platelets and 7,000 white cells." Sixty thousand miles of blood vessels link every living cell; even the blood vessels themselves are fed by blood vessels. Highways narrow down to one-lane roads, then bike paths, then footpaths, until finally the red cell must bow sideways and edge through a capillary one-tenth the diameter of a human hair. In such narrow confines the*

*cells are stripped of food and oxygen and loaded down with carbon dioxide and urea. If shrunken down to their size, we would see red cells as bloated bags of jelly and iron drifting along in a river until they reach the smallest capillary, where gases fizz and wheeze in and out of surface membranes. From there red cells rush to the kidneys for a thorough scrubbing, then back to the lungs for a refill. And the journey begins anew."*

## Jesus mentions His blood as the agent that gives us his very life:

John 6:53-57 - NLT

So Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you cannot have eternal life within you. (54) But anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise that person at the last day. (55) For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. (56) Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. (57) I live because of the living Father who sent me; in the same way, anyone who feeds on me will live because of me."

So, just as the blood coursing through our veins enables every cell of the body to be fed and stay healthy, so the blood of Jesus places within our spirit the very nature of God Himself.

## **2. Blood cleanses**

Italicized smaller print in these notes is taken from the book *In His Image* by Paul Brand and Philip Yancey (Zondervan: Grand Rapids, MI, 1984,2008), chapters 4,5,6.

*"If you truly wish to grasp the function of blood as a cleansing agent, I suggest a simple experiment. Find a blood pressure test kit and wrap the cuff around your upper arm. Have a friend pump it up to about 200 mm. of mercury, a sufficient pressure to stop the flow of blood in your arm. Initially your arm will feel an uncomfortable tightness beneath the cuff. Now comes the revealing part of the experiment: Perform any easy task with your cuffed arm. Merely flex your fingers and make a fist about ten times in succession, or cut paper with scissors, or drive a nail into wood with a hammer. The first few movements seem quite normal at first as the muscles obediently contract and relax. Then you feel a slight weakness. Almost without warning, after perhaps ten movements, a hot flash of pain strikes. Your muscles cramp violently. If you force yourself to continue the simple task, you will likely cry out in absolute agony."*

*"The pain came because you forced your muscles to keep working while the blood supply to your arm was shut off. As muscles converted oxygen into energy, they produced certain waste products (metabolites) that normally would have been flushed away instantly in the bloodstream. Because of the constricted blood flow, however, these metabolites accumulated in your cells. They were not cleansed by the swirling stream of blood, and therefore in a few minutes you felt the agony of retained toxins."*

*"No cell lies more than a hair's breadth from a blood capillary, lest poisonous by-products pile up and cause the same ill effects demonstrated in the tourniquet experiment. Through a basic chemical process of gas diffusion and transfer, individual red blood cells drifting along inside narrow capillaries simultaneously release their cargoes of fresh oxygen and absorb waste products (carbon dioxide, urea, uric acid, etc.) from these cells. The red cells then deliver the hazardous waste chemicals to organs that can dump them outside the body."*

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from the contamination of sin.

1 John 1:7 - NKJV

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 1:8-9

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 9:12-14 - NKJV

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

### **3. Blood protects**

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*"Battle imagery is particularly appropriate to describe what happens inside our bodies, for with an array of menacing weapons and defenders, our bodies, quite simply, declare war on invaders. At the first sign of invasion, a chemical Paul Revere alarm sounds, and numerous body systems hasten into action. Capillaries dilate, like inflatable tunnels, to allow a swarm of armed defenders into the combat zone. White blood cells of five distinct types form the initial assault forces. Transparent, bristling with weapons and possessing a Houdini-like ability to slip between other cells, the white cells are the body's chief fighters. Flattened on a microscope slide, white cells resemble fried eggs sprinkled with pepper, each dot marking a deadly chemical weapon. As the white cells circulate in the body they assume roughly spherical shapes and resemble pale glass eyes aimlessly adrift in the blood vessels. When an invasion hits, they abruptly come alive. Some white cells, armed with crude chemicals, serve as shock troops and attempt to overwhelm the invaders through sheer numbers. Others with massively shielded cell walls roll in with heavier ammunition, like battle tanks. Attack strategy differs also. Some white cells free-float in the bloodstream, sniping at strays. Some stalk the vital organs, alert for any invader that may slip through initial defenses. Others try to corral invaders into a fortresslike lymph gland for execution. And still others, the sanitary corps, linger until the battlefield is strewn"*

*"During healthy periods, twenty-five billion white cells circulate freely throughout the blood and twenty-five billion more loiter on blood vessel walls. When an infection occurs, billions of reserves leap from the marshes of bone marrow, some in inchoate form like beardless young recruits pressed into service. The body can quickly mobilize ten times the normal number of white cells; in fact, doctors use a census of them as a diagnostic blood test to*

*judge the severity of infection. We need vast numbers of white cells for one reason: some lymphocytes are "specific" defenders, programmed against only one type of disease. In truth the battle within resembles not so much a one-on-one infantry assault as a furious mating dance in which white cells crowd against the bacteria or viruses seeking the right "fit" before calling up reserves. The average white cell lives merely ten hours. But a select few live for sixty or seventy years and preserve the chemical memory of dangerous invaders, all the while checking in at their assigned lymph gland every few minutes. These master cells safeguard the chemical secrets that remind the body how to respond to any invader previously encountered. A white cell must somehow hone in on the actual invaders who are camouflaged by the chemical smoke-screen of battle and the rubble of leaking cells, clotting agents, and broken membranes. Antibodies (a misleading name, since no substance in the body is so pro-body) guide the white cell through the fray to its intended target. Only 1/1000 the size of bacteria, antibodies cling to the enemy like moss to a tree, softening them up for the approaching white cells and neutralizing their destructive spike shapes.*

*"Because of the staggering range of invaders confronting a person in a lifetime, the body must stockpile an enormous arsenal of weapons. Immunologists share a little joke which they cite when asked how the body can possibly prepare every type of antibody required in our parlous world: "GOD," they reply. In this case GOD is an acronym for Generator of Diversity, expressing the body's astounding ability to manufacture whatever defense is needed. Dr. Ronald Glasser calls the process "a mixture of mystery and chemistry . . . a combination of physics and grace down at the molecular level.""*

*"If I cut my hand, roaming antibodies tag the known invaders, or antigens, almost immediately. In the event a new one is spotted, a circulating lymphocyte cell touches it, memorizes its shape, and rushes to the nearest lymph node. There, that lymphocyte transmogrifies into a veritable chemical factory and conveys the newly acquired information to thousands of other lymphocytes that in turn produce billions of antibodies. Once the lymph produces an antibody, it permanently stores the formula so that a subsequent invasion will incite a fast-motion repeat of the process.\*"*

The blood of Jesus delivers us from Satan's snares and traps.

Revelation 12:11 - NKJV

And 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.

Colossians 1:14 - NKJV

In whom we have redemption through His blood; the forgiveness of sins.

Romans 8:31-39 - NLT

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? 32 Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us. 35 Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all

these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

38 And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalms 46:1 - NLT

God is our refuge and strength, always ready to help in times of trouble.

Psalms 34:19 - NLT

The righteous person faces many troubles,  
but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

**As we receive communion, be aware that the blood of Jesus Christ builds us up spiritually, it cleanses us from the contamination of sin, and it protects us from Satan's attacks.**

1 Corinthians 11:23-26- NLT

For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread (24) and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. (25) In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this in remembrance of me as often as you drink it. (26) For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

