

The Lords Supper - Part IV

The Power of the Blood in the Life of the Believer

Do you know the key to living a victorious Christian life? The key is the power of the blood of Jesus. There is power in the blood to enable all believers to live a life of victory. Now that the Lord has made us at one with God and we are now in him, this means that we are also able to share in his victorious triumph. In order to receive the same victory that Jesus had and for it to be a reality in our lives however, we must come to know what Jesus' shed blood has accomplished for us. As we receive revelation knowledge about these powerful truths and receive them, we can overcome all things through Christ, win the victories over each and every battle we face in life and bring glory to God in the process!

Mere words written in ink on paper cannot convey the depths of the sacrifice of Christ and all that he has actually obtained for us. This is why we need divine help. When we study the New Testament to learn of all the blessings and benefits that have been given to us through the atonement, we should also ask the Holy Spirit to give us divine revelation knowledge concerning these things. When we do this, we are also well on our way to actually receiving the reality of what Jesus died to give us. The Lord told us in the Bible that the Holy Spirit would take from what is his (Jesus) and make it known to us. (John 16:13-15) This would include all that he has provided for us through the atonement. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to teach us, help us understand the truths of God and also to help them become a living reality in our lives. (John 14:16-17, I John 2:27, Colossians 2:17)

Jesus Took Away the Power of Sin to Condemn Us through the Blood

Jesus not only took our sins on the Cross, he also took away sin's power to condemn us. The book of Hebrews is a powerful epistle that teaches the Church of the magnitude of the sacrifice of Christ and what it means to us as believers. Many Christians may have already learned the truth that the Lord has made atonement for our past sins but may not yet know that he actually *took away* the power of sin to condemn us in the present and future as well.

“But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, so Christ was sacrificed once to *take away* the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.”
(Hebrews 9:26, 28 NIV)

The Lord's sacrifice was a one time sacrifice. There is no other sacrifice for sins, his is the only one. (Hebrews 10: 26) This teaches us that through his sacrifice, all of our sins have been forgiven, past, present and future. The scriptures support this for it is written:

“...We have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all...when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.” (Hebrews 10:10-12)

If only our past sins are forgiven through the blood of Christ but not our present or future ones, then Jesus would have to sacrifice again and again. The scriptures declare however that he is finished with sacrifice and now sits at the right hand of God. (Hebrews 10:12)

How is it possible for us to be forgiven of future sins that we have not even committed yet? On the cross, the Lord provided forgiveness for all our sins by actually taking away sin's power to condemn us *forever*. The apostle Paul taught this awesome truth in Romans chapter 8:

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man...”

Jesus provided a one time sin offering for all sins for all time. The blood that Jesus has poured out for us has not simply redeemed us from eternal death and made atonement for our past sins but has literally taken away sin's power to accuse us both now and in the future.

The book of Romans is another powerful epistle which teaches us about what the sacrificial atonement of Christ means to us. Paul teaches us that because we are now in Christ, that when he died, we also died *to sin*. Paul goes on to make this powerful point, **“We died to sin, how can we live in it any longer?” (Romans 6:2)** When we drink of Lord's cup which holds the wine, we should also receive the substance or reality that he has provided for us through his blood. Jesus took away sins power to condemn us for this reason:

“...in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.” (Romans 8:4)

The Lord took away sins power to condemn us so that we could now be free to go on to live the righteous life that God demanded to begin with. Once again, we see a divine exchange take place. Christ took our sins and gave us his righteousness. Now that we have received Christ, we have also become a new creation and have received his Spirit. This fact makes it possible for us to live according to the Spirit instead of according to the sinful nature. Since we have actually died to sin through the sacrifice of Christ then we should no longer live a life of sin anymore. (II Corinthians 5:17, Romans 6:1)

We Have been Washed in the Blood of the Lamb

Jesus took away our sins. Another biblical term for this is Jesus washed away our sins. Unlike the Old Covenant Israelites, our sins are not simply covered; they are completely washed away by the blood of the Lamb.

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.” (Revelation 1:5 KJV)

Halleluiah to the Lamb of God!

We Have Been Brought Near and Draw Near to God through the Blood of Jesus

Before we were saved we were separated from Christ and without God in the world. But now that we are in Christ we have been brought near to God through the blood of Jesus. (Ephesians 2:12-13) The blood of Jesus *draws us to* God. Now that we have been made acceptable to God by having our sins washed away by the blood of Jesus, we are now able to enter into his holy presence and have a personal relationship with him.

“Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. (Hebrews 10:19-23)

We are able *to enter into* the Most Holy Place through *the body* of Jesus but we are able *to approach God*, worship and speak to him personally because of *the blood* of Jesus. The Lord has given us access into to the Most Holy Place where God dwells because he is the way to God. Jesus declared,

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)

We are able to have personal access to God and relate to him because we have now been cleansed of all sin, made the righteousness of Christ and adopted as God’s very own sons.

“For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs- heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ...” (Romans 8:15-17)

The Spirit of God bears witness with our spirits because we have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. Those who are washed in the blood of the Lamb also have the seal of God in their foreheads and are sealed until the day of redemption. (Ephesians 1:13-14) When we receive Christ as Savior, we also receive the magnificent truth that he has made us sons of God. (John 1:12-13)

Fathers and sons have a close, intimate, personal relationship. When we truly receive what the Lord has done for us through the atonement we know that we can approach God in all confidence as sons. We will not draw near to God with a guilty (or condemned) conscience or fear of punishment. We will understand that we have already had our hearts cleansed from all sin and that we serve him in our bodies in righteousness because of the body and blood of the Lord.

The Crushing of the Serpent’s Head

In Part III of the Lord’s Supper, we learned that God foretold of Christ’s ultimate triumph over the devil. Through the blood atonement, Jesus Christ crushed Satan’s head. How did he do this? By taking our sins upon the cross and washing them away, the Lord disarmed our enemy’s power to accuse us of sin that brings condemnation and death. He also disarmed the devil and his demons from holding us captive to sin, bondage and death by setting us free. Jesus not only delivered us from *ourselves* but also from our *evil captors* that are against us. The word declares:

**“God disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it (the cross)”.
(Colossians 2:15 the Amplified Bible)**

Jesus triumphed over not only the devil, but all the hosts of hell as well. He now has the keys to death and Hades. Jesus’ victory has now become ours!

Although time does not permit me to teach much more on this subject right now, it is imperative to know that because the Lord defeated Satan and all of hell, this has enabled him to also restore God-given dominion and authority back to his followers. Along with this dominion (rule), we have also been given authority over Satan and his demons/evil spirits. This too, is a great benefit that the Lord has provided for us in the atonement. Jesus had authority in the earth that was given to him by our Father in heaven, and he in turn gave the Church or believers in Christ authority to tread or trample on (have dominion over) snakes and scorpions. (Luke 10: 18-20, Colossians 1:18) Now that the Lord has crushed Satan’s head by disarming him and his entire kingdom, we are now to enforce the defeat of the devil and his demons by trampling on them. We do this by exposing works of darkness and casting out devils. (Ephesians 5:11, Mark 16:17)

Translated Out of the Kingdom of Darkness and Into the Kingdom of Light

Jesus crushed the head of the serpent through the atonement. He also paid the ransom of men’s souls that had been taken captive of the devil. Because of this fact, the Lord was then able to translate men back into the Kingdom of God. Many may not realize that when Adam and Eve received the lies of the devil, they also received the sinful nature that came from the devil. Unknowingly, by receiving what the devil said, they were also actually translated out of God’s kingdom of light and into Satan’s kingdom of darkness. From that point on they came under the dominion of the devil. This may sound farfetched to some but according to the very own words of the Lord, this is absolutely true.

The New Testament teaches us that now that Jesus has come and made atonement for all men, when someone believes on him and receives his sacrifice, they are literally translated out of Satan’s kingdom of darkness and into God’s kingdom of light. This teaches us that unbelievers are under the dominion of the devil and his kingdom until they come to Christ. Jesus came to expose the works of darkness and destroy the works of the devil. This is one work that Jesus came to expose and destroy. He came to pay the ransom for our souls, deliver us from the captivity of the evil one and to translate us back into God’s Kingdom. He has made this possible through the shedding of his blood.

**“He has delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins.”
(Colossians 1:13 KJV)**

“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13 NIV)

We find in the story of Paul’s dramatic conversion and calling on the road to Damascus that the Lord spoke to him concerning this powerful truth of being translated from one kingdom to another. Concerning Paul’s calling to preach the Gospel of Christ to the Gentiles the Lord said:

“I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them to darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.” (Acts 26:17-18)

What power there is in the blood of Jesus! Through his blood he destroyed the power that the devil had over us. Jesus came as the second Adam to reverse the damage done by the first Adam. The first Adam was taken captive by the devil; the Second Adam delivered the captives from the devil. The first Adam abdicated his dominion and authority, the Second Adam restored kingdom dominion and authority to men. The devil's tyranny over God's people has been overthrown through the sacrifice of Christ! Now we can rule and reign with Christ as kings and priests in God's Kingdom. Now that we have been translated from Satan's dominion to God's, we should now walk in the light of God and his Kingdom. (I John 1:5-7)

We Overcome the Devil by the Blood of the Lamb

As was given at the beginning of this teaching, the key to our being able to overcome and have victory is in the blood of the Lamb. While living in exile on the Isle of Patmos, the Spirit of the Lord took the apostle John into the future of the events surrounding the end-times and the Second Coming of the Lord. One thing that John saw and heard in that spiritual realm was the final victory of the saints of God over devil. That victory was possible through the blood.

“For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.” (Revelation 12:10-11)

The devil knows what Christ has done for the believer through the atonement, so the only areas that he can try to defeat us would be by taking advantage of our ignorance or through deception. As believers, when we really understand the power behind the atonement, we will no longer receive the accusations and condemnation of the devil *because we will understand the truth that they are no longer valid*. Remember, the Lord crushed not only Satan, but his entire kingdom as well. He disarmed their ability to defeat us in our personal lives and in the Church as a whole. (Colossians 2:15, Matthew 16:18) These facts, when received, will bring much victory to those believers today that are still under the condemnation of sin, the law or the devil. God wants every one of his children to know that there is no more condemnation for them because they are now in Christ.

Do you see my friend, how it is of paramount importance that we understand, receive and live in the power of what Christ has given us through the atonement? When we share our testimony with others of what he has done for us, we are not only having a powerful impact on their lives, we are also reinforcing the defeat of the devil and overcoming him at the same time. When we live in the victory that Christ has obtained for us through the Cross, this brings glory and honor to God in the earth.

Live What We Know

I want to interject something here. Real faith shows itself by deeds. If we say that we have faith, we will also prove it by our works. (James 2:14-26) When we truly receive the substance behind the symbolism of the Lord's Supper, we will also, in practical terms, be willing apply these truths in a practical way by stepping out and telling others of the Lord's death (atonement) until he returns by spreading the Gospel to those within our sphere of influence. We should be obedient to the Lord's command to preach the Gospel to the world.

When we lead souls to salvation, lay hands on the sick so that they can be healed and cast out devils by the power of God, we are helping others to receive the reality of Christ's atonement in their lives as well. This is the gift that keeps on giving. It is not enough for us to receive these wonderful gifts ourselves; God wants us to demonstrate his love by sharing it with others. In this way the Lord's sacrificial atonement will be a blessing multiple times over! This is God's will and the way that he intended for the Church to operate. (Matthew 10:1, Mark 16:15-20, Luke 9:1-2, 10:1-11)

The Reconciliation of all things through the Blood

Jesus' blood reconciles. Did you know that God has declared the reconciliation *of all things* through the blood of Christ?

“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (Colossians 1:19)

The sacrifice of Christ is so powerful that everything on the earth *and* in heaven is reconciled to God through his blood! Of course, we are included in the “everything on earth”, but I also believe that the earth will also be redeemed and reconciled back to God in the future after it goes through a purification process. (II Peter 3:10-13)

When Jesus provided the sacrificial atonement, he made peace between God and man. He spared us from eternal death and also took the punishment and wrath of God that was due us because of sin. He reconciles us back into not only a personal relationship with God but has also literally made us his sons. Since God put all of his fullness into Christ, then everything we need or ever will need is now found in him. Unfortunately some do not know this astonishing fact and seek for what they need elsewhere. When we understand what the Lord has done for us and receive what he ministers to us, then we will also know that whatever we need it is found *in him* and given to us by him.

Death, the Last Enemy to be Destroyed

Jesus died so that we might receive eternal life. The final and perhaps greatest victory that the Lord accomplished through the Cross was over death. Our blessed hope is Christ himself and when he comes again, we will also receive the final victory over death. This blessed event is made possible because he destroyed death's hold on us through his death. We know and believe that his death was not the end however, but the beginning of life and life eternal. Jesus did not remain in the grave but was resurrected in glory and power. This is the season that we celebrate that fact. The death and resurrection of Christ vanquished death completely. The apostle Paul wrote of this final victory in I Corinthians 15:51-57.

“Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed- in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Death does not have the last word, Christ does. Aren't you thankful for the complete sacrifice that the Lord has provided for us? When we take the Lord's Supper by eating the bread and drinking the cup, we are able to receive all the blessings and benefits that he paid for through the suffering of his body and the shedding of his blood in this life and the life to come. Had there been no resurrection,

there could have been no power behind the blessings, but this is not the case. Not only was the Lord resurrected to glory, we shall be too.

We are now in him. Jesus is our life. He is our hope. He is our *everything*. The next time we hear his words, “**This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you,**” realize that he wants to minister to you the good things of the New Covenant. He wants you and me to receive all that he died to give us. Please keep this uppermost in your hearts and minds the next time you take the Lord’s Supper.

Go to Part V