**New hope sermon – the power of the blood of Christ.**

**Calling on Jesus' Name Dispels Evil Presence Lee Echov**

Today I want to introduce our topic of the power of the blood of Christ with this true story from a pastor in northern Illinois. He says:

“About 20 years ago I had an experience that opened my eyes to the reality of spiritual warfare. While I was sound asleep, I heard the phone ringing (or so I thought). In the darkness, I grabbed blindly for the phone, but I was so groggy that I couldn't really wake up. When I put the phone to my ear, I heard a voice, flat and menacing. He just said, "You thought we'd forgotten you."

On the phone there was just silence, but I was sure he was still there. My mind was racing to think, *Who wanted to hurt me? Who wanted me to cower in fear? The man who got angry a few weeks ago when we wouldn't give him money?* I was getting very scared. I sensed this was something dark and diabolical.

I couldn't even speak, but somehow I simply blurted out, *"Jesus!"* And suddenly the fear left my

heart and my bedroom. I came wide awake and realized I did not have the phone in my hand; that it was still across the room. Yet I knew that what had happened was more than just a dream. I had felt the presence of real evil—the presence of Satan, the Evil One. But now, after calling on Jesus' name, I wasn't frightened. As a matter of fact, I was exhilarated at the power of Jesus' name. I got up, turned on the bathroom light, washed my face, and cleared my head. Then I went back to bed. Surrounded by the presence of Christ, I felt a great peace.

As I was falling back asleep, I heard a melody in my mind. It was beautiful, like a lullaby. I recognized it but couldn't place it. The next morning it came to me: It was a tune from Les Miserables, and the words, which I didn't even fully know then, are *"You will keep me safe, and you will keep me close; I'll sleep in your embrace at last."* I've always felt that my heavenly Father hummed me to sleep that night—that night when the power of Jesus' name conquered the Evil One. (Lee Echov, Pastor in Vernon Hills, IL)

There is supernatural power in the name and person of Jesus Christ. When Pastor Echov cried out Jesus’s name, he was invoking everything that Christ’s name involved - his power and His blood which conquered all the evil forces of the world and covers Christians now in Christ’s victory when we call out to Him.

Actually, when you read through the Bible you discover a scarlet thread that is woven throughout the Old and New Testament. It is the power of the blood. And it is all centered on Christ.

Today I want us to look at this biblical theme from three perspectives. First, the power of Christ’s blood for salvation. Second, the power of Christ’s blood for cleansing of sin in the daily walk with God for believers. And finally, the power of Christ’s blood for victory over Satan.

**We start with the famous story of the Passover.**

In the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, it was the blood of a Passover lamb which saved them from death. Each family was told to fill a one year old male lamb and smear the blood of that sacrificed lamb on the sides and door posts of the door frames of their houses. Then the family was to roast the lamb over the fire and eat it with bitter herbs and unleavened bread (Exodus 12:11). At midnight of that Passover sacrifice, the Lord struck down all the firstborn in Egypt (Exodus 12:29). But, the angel of death passed over every Israelite household covered by the blood. (This was the final of the 10 plagues God brought upon the Egyptians in judgment for Pharaoh’s refusal to let them go.) Later that night the Israelites received Pharaoh’s edict to leave Egypt immediately. They journeyed into the wilderness and from there through the Red Sea to their freedom from slavery Egyptian taskmasters. The lambs’ blood had saved them.

Centuries later, Jesus came and filled this Passover story with new meaning. The book of Hebrews describes what is called this new covenant centered around Jesus’ sacrifice as the Lamb of God.

11*But now the Anointed One has become the King-Priest of every wonderful thing that has come.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT" \l "fen-TPT-10120a" \o "See footnote a)] For he serves in a greater, more perfect heavenly tabernacle[*[*b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10120b)*] not made by men. 12And he has entered once and forever into the Holiest Sanctuary of All, not with the blood of animal sacrifices, but the sacred blood of his own sacrifice. And he alone has made our salvation[*[*c*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10121c)*] secure forever!*

*13Under the old covenant the blood of bulls, goats, and the ashes of a heifer were sprinkled on those who were defiled and effectively cleansed them outwardly from their ceremonial impurities. 14Yet how much more will the sacred blood of the Messiah thoroughly cleanse our consciences! For by the power of the eternal Spirit he has offered himself to God as the perfect[*[*d*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10123d)*] Sacrifice that now frees[*[*e*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10123e)*] us from our dead works[*[*f*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10123f)*] to worship and serve the living God. The Passion Translation)*

**Here is a summary contrast** between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant: In the old covenant man says ‘I will’ and breaks his word again and again. In the new covenant God says ‘I will” and keeps his word forever and ever.”

“Jesus is the One who has enacted a new covenant with a new relationship with God so that those who accept the invitation[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+9%3A11-15&version=TPT#fen-TPT-10124g)] will receive the inheritance of eternal life he has promised to his heirs.” This is what we celebrate in Holy Communion – as Jesus told his disciples: This cup is the new covenant in my blood which is poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 22: 20.

The New Covenant is about our salvation through Christ. Paul tells the Romans and the Ephesians:

25 “*God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Romans+3%3A25&version=NIV" \l "fen-NIV-28017a" \o "See footnote a)] through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith.” (Romans 3:25).*

*7“In Christ we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace” (Ephesians 1:7).*

*13“Now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away [from God] have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13).*

And so, the salvation for all peoples through Christ’s blood is sung about in heaven:

9“*And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation” (*Revelation 5:9).

#1. The power of Christ’s blood for salvation.

**Secondly, there is the power of Christ’s blood for daily forgiveness of sins.**

As we live out our Christian life, we still sin throughout each day in ways which separate us from God. **(pp)** But, I John 1:7 says: *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[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+John+1%3A7-9&version=NIV#fen-NIV-30548a)*] sin. 8If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness”* (1 John 1:7-9). Claiming this covering of the blood of Christ is what we need daily as we sin in thought, word and deed. When we come to God in confession and repentance, Christ’s blood washes away all our deeds of unrighteousness. We confess what we know as sin and God forgives that sin but also cleanses us from all unrighteousness in us which we don’t even know about. Amazing..

**Third, Christ’s blood brings victory over Satan. Rev. 12:11 -**

11“*They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death”* (Revelation 12:11).

This is a critical text to memorize, beloved, if you want Christ’s victory in your daily battle with Satan. We overcome him at every point when we claim the blood of the Lamb and a scripture which speaks of the promise or character of God. D.A. Carson says:

“We overcome the accuser of our brothers and sisters, we overcome our consciences, we overcome our bad tempers, we overcome our defeats, we overcome our lusts, we overcome our fears, we overcome our pettiness, on the basis of the blood of the Lamb.” (D.A. Carson, *Scandalous*).

Christ has provided this pathway to victory. But to experience it, we have to **claim** the power of His blood.

Unfortunately, this is not a magic bullet that destroys evil in our daily life once and for all. We need to understand that even though Satan is defeated, Satan is still dangerous as he trashes about. This practical story explains it:

“As a kid, I loved Mission Sundays, when missionaries on furlough brought special reports in place of a sermon …. There is one visit I've never forgotten. The missionaries were a married couple stationed in what appeared to be a particularly steamy jungle. I'm sure they gave a full report on churches planted or commitments made or translations begun. I don't remember much of that. What has always stayed with me is the story they shared about a snake.

One day, they told us, an enormous snake—much longer than a man—slithered its way right through their front door and into the kitchen of their simple home. Terrified, they ran outside and searched frantically for a local who might know what to do. A machete-wielding neighbor came to the rescue, calmly marching into their house and decapitating the snake with one clean chop.

The neighbor reemerged triumphant and assured the missionaries that the reptile had been defeated. But there was a catch, he warned: It was going to take a while for the snake to realize it was dead.

A snake's neurology and blood flow are such that it can take considerable time for it to stop moving even after decapitation. So, for the next several hours, the missionaries were forced to wait outside while the snake thrashed about, smashing furniture and flailing against walls and windows, wreaking havoc until its body finally understood that it no longer had a head.

The missionaries [were sweating in the heat, and they had felt frustrated and a little sickened by the destruction this decapitated snake was causing in their home. But they] were also grateful that the snake's rampage wouldn't last forever. And at some point in their waiting, they told us, they had a mutual epiphany:

"Do you see it?" asked the husband. "Satan is a lot like that big old snake. He's already been defeated. He just doesn't know it yet. In the meantime, he's going to do some damage. But never forget that he's a goner."

The story [still] haunts me because I have come to believe it is an accurate picture of the universe. We are in the thrashing time, a season characterized by our pervasive capacity to do violence to each other and ourselves. The temptation is to despair. We have to remember, though, that it won't last forever. Jesus has already crushed the serpent's head. *Carolyn Arends, "Satan's a Goner: A lesson from a Headless Snake," Christianity Today (February, 2011)*

So when we feel the thrashing around us, we call out the name of Jesus and claim the powr of His blood and watch to see Satan flee from us.

This is the threefold power of the blood: 1. We claim Christ’s blood for our salvation and relationship with God; #2. we claim Christ’s blood when we sin in our daily living so we can receive forgiveness and cleansing from all unrighteousness. And #3, we claim Christ’s blood in our battle with Satan because Christ’s victory on the decapitated the principalities and powers to the Cross and Christ rose, triumphing over them.

This is the power of Christ’s blood – one of the strongest aspects of the power of the gospel.

It brought to mind an old gospel song, beloved, which we will sing now: **There’s power, power, wonder working power in the blood of the Lamb. Oh There’s power, power, wonder working power in the precious blood of the Lamb.**

Let us pray. Dear Lord, You have opened the way for us through Your sacrifice so we can have peace with God, daily forgiveness for sin and victory over all the assaults of the evil One. Praise You for these truths, Lord. May we live in terms of Your power from now on! Dr. M.L., Codman-Wilson 3/10/19