

# CLEAN FREAK or CLEAN AND FREE

## THE BLOOD PART 3

**The Purpose of This Series:** This series is to provide a greater understanding of the broader picture of the Biblical concept of The Blood. Without an accurate understanding of this Biblical truth, the blessings procured by it, the glory of God seen through it, the Word of God permeated through and through with it, and the hope that it provides for all mankind by it is the loss of the Gospel itself. The key concepts that we will learn is who we are in Christ, becoming a confident and assured believer, freedom from your past, authority as a believer, a purified and overcoming life, power in victory as a “follower of Christ” and the excitement of the reality of eternity in heaven!

**The Purpose of This Message:** In our relationship with Christ, there seems to be the tendency of obsession of attempting to do what the Blood of Jesus has already done. Too many people battle with OCD symptoms of a clean heart before God. The pat answers tossed around to provide relief and comfort ignores the fact that these answers do not satisfy. The person is tormented because they do not understand the full work of the Blood of Jesus Christ. Today we will learn what God provided for us concerning becoming “clean,” really clean, through the work of the Blood of Jesus.

### OCD Obsession Symptoms

**Mayo Clinic made this statement concerning Obsessive Compulsion Disorders are repeated, persistent and unwanted ideas, thoughts, images or impulses that you have involuntarily and that seem to make no sense. These obsessions typically intrude when you're trying to think of or do other things.**

Obsessions often have themes to them, such as:

- **Fear of contamination or dirt**
- **Having things orderly and symmetrical**
- **Aggressive or horrific impulses**

OCD symptoms involving obsessions may include:

- Fear of being contaminated by shaking hands or by touching objects others have touched
- Doubts that you've locked the door or turned off the stove
- Thoughts that you've hurt someone in a traffic accident
- Intense distress when objects aren't orderly or facing the right way

OCD compulsions are **repetitive behaviors that you feel driven to perform**. These repetitive behaviors are meant to prevent or reduce anxiety or distress related to your obsessions.

As with OCD obsessions, compulsions typically have themes, such as:

- **Washing and cleaning**
- **Counting**
- **Checking**

- **Demanding reassurances**
- **Performing the same action repeatedly**
- **Orderliness**

As a believer, I have not only watched individuals become plagued with OCD type of symptoms when it concerns their relationship with Christ, but that I have been consumed with some of the same unhealthy belief that has created a deeper and deeper, unservivable despair or horrendous and odd living. This fear of not knowing if you are accepted by God will cause you to rush to the cleansing over and over or to over obsess about the world that surrounds you as if you can not walk in it without being consumed by it's pollution and the people in it.

### **Cleansing Through the Blood**

***"But 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 sin."***

**1 John 1:7**

Before we get on with this too far, let me point out here that how you see yourself in God's family will have everything to do with you as a Christian. I recall hearing a story about a man whose father came home one day with brand new leather jacket for him. His dad handed it to him while his best friend stood and watched. The next thing that happened is the father pulled out another and gave it to the sons best friend. The boy could not accept it, no matter what the father said, he could accept the jacket that the father had bought for him.

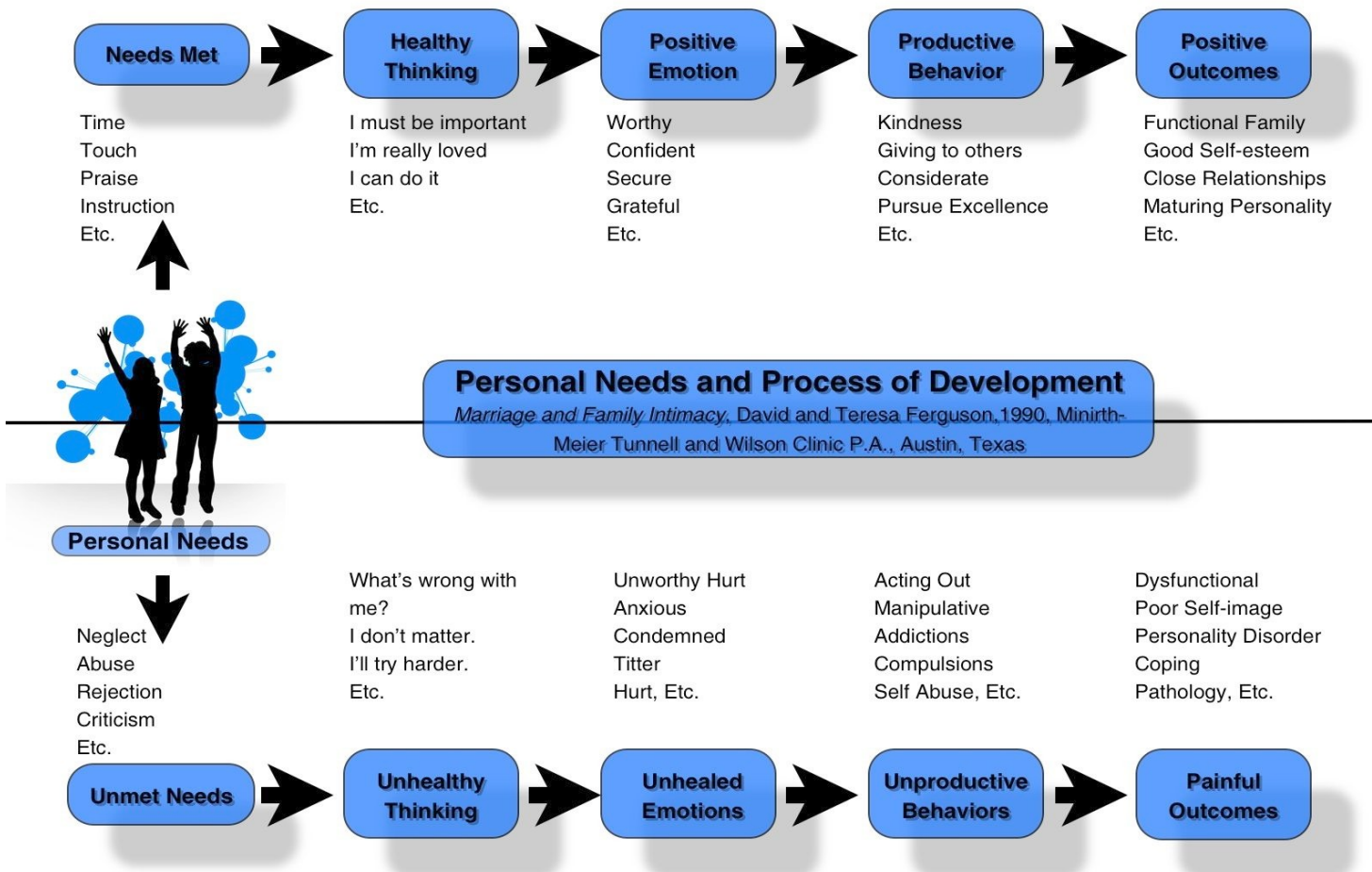
In our walk with God, we **HAVE TO ACCEPT THE WORK OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS** or we will never walk in the freedom that God provided for us in His divine plan for man. How we see ourselves in God's plan has everything to do with our life here on this earth. Like I've said again and again, "If you get God right, you get life right."

Taking another step back from the main focus, I would like for you to observe a diagram I have used on several occasions in pre-marital counseling and helping people restore their relationship in conflict. (On following page) As you will notice, there is a bottom row and an upper row. The bottom row displays the process of an unhealthy environment for a child, neglect, hurt, abandonment, rejection can cause an individual to "Think" different of themselves than they really are...but as a man thinks...! He thinks, "I must not be important" or, "What's wrong with me."

From this point he moves from into feeling, unworthy, hurt, anxious, the foundation for a life filled with fear and the fear of rejection. This painful process leads to an unstable pattern that can recycle into their children and those around them. This unhealthy feeling will lead to acting out or some kind of life patterns that can be self destructive. Life patters of manipulation, control or self destruction such as addictions and self-mutilation. It is a self-hate pattern.

One of the saddest things about this is that too often people look at the individual and all they see is a behavior issue, and so that is where they begin, "behave!" Of course this has to be managed strongly by force or fear.

When we look at the upper row, you find the environment is different in almost every way, and so are the results, when needs are met, thinking and feeling turns into productive behavior.



In our relationship with Christ, and through the incredible work of the blood, we have been shifted from the results of sin in the lower row and lifted to the upper row in relationship with God. Actually Paul attempts to help the believers at Colossia to make this connection:

*“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.”*  
**Colossians 3:1-3**

This was one of the first life changing scriptures I put to memory that gave me freedom in my life, (I would encourage you to do the same thing). For too long we believe that God has saved us, and we have to live on the bottom row. If you never get an understanding of what being “raised with Christ” means, you will probably live on the bottom row. But if you understand the redemptive work of Christ, you will have to allow yourself to accept the full work of Christ in your life.

See, we see ourselves with the applied blood of Jesus on us in the atoning work of the cross and God sees our sins no more. Then we learn that He has reconciled us to Him, the middle wall is broken down between us and Him and makes many attempts of embracing us in the new, heavenly environment, but we somehow withdraw not finding worthy of the coat of redemption He has for us. Many people have no problem with this, when they receive Christ

they get it, but for many others, this revelation comes through “faith,” they have to *believe* that God's Word is true in this area of their life. But what is the problem? Well, it has to do with us, and understanding the cleansing work of the Blood of Jesus Christ. Being cleansed, on our part allows us to accept what Christ has done for us.

As God attempts to draw near to us, far too often we can only see our shortcomings, not only of our past but in our present failures. We are stuck on “behavior” but God is stuck on “environment!” He is constantly calling us to Him...but not for the sacrificial work of the blood but for the cleansing work of the blood. This is the powerful message that we are to learn.

**The most important effect of the Blood is REDEMPTION for OUR sin.** As we gain knowledge about the Blood, we are able to apply our faith properly in what God has done for us through the work of Christ on the cross. The REDEMPTION process, (cell phone) has many APS, (applications), as we learned two of them last week: “**ATONMENT**” our sins are covered by the blood, and “**RECONCILIATION**” the pardon and hearty acceptance of God on our behalf.

To understand and enjoy the full power of REDEMPTION, the Blood exerts additional power that results in imparting something that you can not live without. Today I want to share one the greatest keys for every believer who **desires to enjoy the full salvation which God has provided for him**, first we want to understand clearly what the Scriptures teach about **THE CLEANSING BLOOD**.

**CLEANSING** is often spoken about among us as if it were no more than **The Pardon of Sins**, or the **Cleansing From The GUILT Of Sin**. This **CLEANSING has to do chiefly with the “old life,” and the POLLUTION of that sin which must be removed so we can move into our “new life.”** As we look in the WORD of God, we want to gain a greater understanding of this fact so we can apply our faith in that truth.

When we talk about the CLEANSING work of the Blood without understanding it's full truth, it is much like my experience of “Pleading the Blood,” what does “Pleading the Blood” mean? Today we are talking about the **CLEANSING WORK OF THE BLOOD**, but cleansed from what? How is that a factor in our life? What does the Blood of Jesus have to do with that and what all does the Bible have to say about that?

### **Cleansed From What?**

What many people mistakenly hear when **THE CLEANSING BLOOD** is mentioned, is, that it becomes something other than what the Scripture actually says. There are foundational concepts you must grasp about THE CLEANSING BLOOD for it to have it's full affect released within you.

**THE CLEANSING BLOOD of Jesus Does NOT Cleanse US FROM THE “GUILT” of SIN, that is the REDEEMING work of “ATONEMENT” AND “RECONCILLIATION.”** The Bible clearly states that **the CLEANSING WORK OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS is- DELIVERANCE from the “POLLUTION” of sin, not from the “GUILT” of sin.**

- **GUILT of sin HAS TO DO WITH our relationship WITH God**, it is correcting our course, the Blood takes responsibility for our wrong doings and **makes them good before God and shields us from bearing the punishment for them.**
- **POLLUTION of sin HAS TO DO WITH the DEFILEMENT and IMPURITY IN our**

## INNER BEING.

Here are 3 Questions We Need To Consider

I. What Is CLEANSING in the OLD TESTAMENT?

II. How does CLEANSING bring BLESSING in the NEW TESTAMENT?

III. How can we ACTIVATE the full BLESSING of THE CLEANSING BLOOD?

### I. CLEANSING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In Leviticus, Moses instructed Israel to observe two ceremonies in preparation to approaching God.

1. OFFERINGS or SACRIFICES
2. CLEANSINGS or PURIFICATIONS

Both of these ceremonies were to be observed but in different manners.

The purpose of these ceremonies were to help the individual recognize his own short comings and his sins that made him unfit to draw near to a holy God.

Again, the REDEMPTION Jesus Christ provided us by the shedding of His blood could now restore man back into fellowship with God. In most of our observances of the Old Testament procedures, we only recognize the OFFERINGS or SACRIFICES as the means of gaining REDEMPTION.

Hebrews tells us that the ceremonies, the SACRIFICES and THE CLEANSINGS were only figurative actions until the time of the new order came and THEN the CONSCIENCE of the WORSHIPER would be CLEAR.

*"This is an illustration for the present time, indicating that the gifts and sacrifices being offered were not able to clear the conscience of the worshiper. They are only a matter of food and drink and various ceremonial washings—external regulations applying until the time of the new order."*

Hebrews 9:9-10

It is important for us to understand this very important concept, THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF SIN before we can conceive the need for REDEMPTION.

The ninth chapter of Hebrews can seem confusing, but in context, it makes perfect sense. We must read it through the eyes of a Hebrew, who understands what the ceremonies of sacrifices and cleansing means. The 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews describes the tabernacle in the wilderness with its sacrifices and regulations of food, drink, and clothing, is difficult to understand and can be dull. But when you see the point the author is trying to make, it will give us a life changing perspective. The point that the writer of Hebrews is making is found in Verses 13 and 14:

*"He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption. The blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled on those who are ceremonially unclean sanctify them so that they are outwardly clean."*

Hebrews 9:12-13

In these **Old Testament ceremonies**, the **blood** of goats, calves, bulls and ashes of a heifer were **sprinkled on a DEFILED individual**. **This ceremony made them acceptable in the presence of God.**

*"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, **cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!**"*

Hebrews 9:14

### **Clean Freak or Clean and Free?**

The problem we face that this passage so clearly addresses is **"How to handle a nagging conscience."**

**We all have a conscience.** And many, in an attempt to bring you into the freedom of the work of the Blood of Jesus, unknowingly have ignored the nagging sin issue of the conscience of the mind. In an attempt to get you to receive the fullness of Christ, they have fell short in explaining what that fullness was, leaving you forgiven but still stained, shamed and battling within your conscience. Before coming to Christ, our conscience, because of sin has been defined as **"that still, small voice that makes you feel smaller still,"** or, as one person put it, **"It is that which feels bad when everything else feels good."** It says, **"Something is not right."**

I would say that many people's good intentions of attempting to "set you free" continued to ignore the fact that you had a nagging suspicion that something was still wrong. And without much left to say, you were instructed to "get over it," and, "you are no longer under guilt and bondage!" That all sounds fine, but it doesn't totally free you.

**Our conscience is that internal voice that sits in judgment over our will.** There is a very common **MYTH** abroad that says that the **conscience tells us right from wrong.** But **conscience never does that, TRAINING that tells us what is right or wrong. But WHEN WE KNOW what is RIGHT or WRONG, it is our conscience that insists that we DO what we think is RIGHT and AVOID what we think is WRONG.** This is a very important distinction that needs to be made clear.

### **Old Testament Cleansing**

**The Dead-** Moses taught in the Old Testament that if anyone had died in a hut or house and if anyone had touched the **dead body**, the bed where he lay, or even the bones of a dead individual- he was unclean for seven days. **Death was the punishment for sin**, and symbolically, **everyone who came into contact with it became unclean. CLEANSING was accomplished by using the ashes of a young heifer** which had been **burned**, as described in **Numbers 19**, (Hebrews 9:13-14) These **ashes, mixed with water, were sprinkled by means of a bunch of hyssop on the one who was unclean; he had then to bathe himself in water**, after which he was **once more ceremonially clean.**

**Leprosy- Leprosy** is a disease which might be described as the **living death.** It is common in the Bible that the words **"UNCLEAN," "CLEANSING," "CLEAN,"** were used in reference to the healing of leprosy. Leviticus 13-14 tells us that the person who was to be cleansed of leprosy must first be **sprinkled with water**, in which the **blood of a**

bird had been mixed, and must bathe in water. Seven days later he was again sprinkled with sacrificial blood.

## **THE CLEANSINGS and THE OFFERINGS**

There was a twofold difference between THE CLEANSINGS and THE OFFERINGS.

1. The **OFFERING** referred to the **transgression for which RECONCILIATION had to be made.** **CLEANSING** had to do with **conditions** which were **not sinful in themselves, but were the result of sin**, and must **be acknowledged as defiled.**
2. **In the OFFERING, nothing was done to the offerer himself.**
  - He saw the blood sprinkled on the altar or carried into the Holy Place to provide RECONCILIATION before God. But nothing was done to himself.

**In CLEANSING, what happened to the person was the chief thing.**

- The person was defiled through **internal disease**, or **outward touch**, so the individual went through washing or sprinkling with water as ordained by God.

**An OFFERING was something done FOR him; by CLEANSING something was done IN him.**

CLEANSING was something that he could feel and experience, it brought about a change not only in his relationship to God, but in his own condition.

- **The OFFERING dealt with his guilt of sin before God.**
- **The CLEANSING dealt with the pollution of sin in his mind.**

David (Psalm 52:2-7,10)

***"Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me."***

Psalm 52:2-3

***"Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge. Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me."***

Psalm 52:4-5

***"Surely you desire truth in the inner parts; you teach me wisdom in the inmost place."***

Psalm 52:6

***"Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow."***

Psalm 52:7

David uses the word, "Cleanse." It is the word used most frequently for CLEANSING anyone who had touched a dead body. David prayed for more than a pardon. He recognized his nature was sinful. He prayed that he might be made pure within. "CLEANSE me from my sin," was his prayer. He uses the same word,

***"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."***

Psalm 52:10

## Ezekiel (Ezekiel 24:13, 24-27)

Ezekiel addresses an inner condition that must be changed, or melted out through the fire of God.

*"Because I tried to cleanse you but you would not be cleansed from your impurity, you will not be clean again until my wrath against you has subsided."*

Ezekiel 24:13b

*"For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols."*

Ezekiel 24:24-25

*"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws."*

Ezekiel 24:26-27

## Malachi (Malachi 3:3)

Malachi uses the same word but it is interpreted as purify, connecting it with fire,

*"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the LORD will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness..."*

Malachi 3:3

There is a **CLEANSING by water; by blood; by fire**; all typical of the **CLEANSING** which would take place under the New Covenant-an inner **CLEANSING** and deliverance from the stain of sin.

## II. How Does Cleansing Bring Blessing?

*"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God."*

Matthew 5:8

*"...who gave himself for us to **redeem us from all wickedness AND to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.**"*

Titus 2:14

*"To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted."*

Titus 1:15

*"The goal of this command is love, which comes from a pure heart and a good conscience and a sincere faith."*

I Timothy 1:5

*"Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart."*

I Peter 1:22

In **Acts 15:9** it says that "**God purified (CLEANSED) their hearts through faith**"

## What Do We Cleanse Ourselves From

*“Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves **from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.**”*

II Corinthians 7:1

All these places teach us that **CLEANSING is an inward work done** in the heart, and that it is **SUBSEQUENT to forgiveness of sins through the sacrificed blood.**

*“But 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 sin.”*

I John 1:7

This word **purifies or cleanse**, does not refer to the grace of **PARDON** received at **conversion**; but to the **effect of grace IN us who walk in the light!**

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.”*

I John 1:9

**Cleansing is something that comes after pardon** and is the result of it, by the inward power of the blood of Jesus in the heart of the believer.

*“How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, [a] so that we may serve the living God!”*

Hebrews 9:14

The Work of the **BLOOD** has so fully delivered us from our guilt and the power of our sin nature and we have entirely escaped its dominion. But **SIN** still dwells in our flesh, tempting us, but it has no power to rule us because of the **Blood Bought Conscience** that is **CLEANSED** by a complete redemption!

If my conscience is **CLEANSED** so is my **HEART**,

*“...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.”*

Hebrews 10:22

Not only must the conscience be **CLEANSED** but the heart also must be **CLEANSED, THE MIND, WILL AND EMOTIONS**, with all **IT'S** thoughts and desires. By the death and resurrection power of Jesus, sinful lusts, emotional trappings, and mental strongholds are slain.

## The Wound In Jesus' Side

I've often wondered the purpose of the spear being thrust into the side of Jesus as He hung on the cross. Was there something significant about that?

*“...one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.”*

John 19:34

**"...the blood of Jesus Christ...purifies us from all sin."**

I John 1:7

**From original sin as well as from the present sin.** This blood surpasses the ability to cover us in atonement and unite us to God in reconciliation, but it has a cleansing power, a power in the soul. The pollution of the old nature is hindered from manifesting its power, its lusts and desires are subdued and slain.

God, through the blood deals with sin as a whole both the guilt of sin and the pollution of it. The REDEEMING work of God, ATONEMENT, RECONCILIATION AND NOW CLEANSING always go together, and the blood is ceaselessly operative.

### **Zechariah (Zechariah 13:1)**

Zechariah prophesies that there would be a time when God brings a full work,

*"On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity."*

**Zechariah 13:1**

The eternal power of life of the Eternal Spirit works through the blood. Through Him the heart can abide always under the flow, and CLEANSING of the Blood.

There is a fountain filled with blood  
drawn from Emmanuel's veins;  
and sinners plunged beneath that flood  
lose all their guilty stains.  
Lose all their guilty stains,  
lose all their guilty stains;  
and sinners plunged beneath that flood  
lose all their guilty stains.

In the **Old Testament CLEANSING was necessary for each sin.** In the **New Testament CLEANSING depends on Him who ever lives to intercede.** **When faith sees and desires and lays hold of this fact, the heart can abide every moment under the protecting and CLEANSING tower of the blood.**

### **III. HOW CAN WE ACTIVE THE FULL BLESSING OF THE BLOOD?**

Everyone who, through faith, obtains the FULL WORK of the blood of Christ, has a share also in its CLEANSING efficacy. But the experience of its power to cleanse, is, for several reasons, sadly imperfect. It is therefore of great importance to understand what the conditions are for the full enjoyment of this glorious blessing.

1. **Gain the Appropriate Knowledge.** Many think that pardon of sin is all that we receive through the blood. They ask for and so obtain nothing more.

It is a blessed thing to begin to see that the Holy Spirit of God has a special purpose in making use of different words in Scripture concerning the effects of the blood. Then we begin to inquire about their special meaning. Understand that CLEANSING through washing can take away stain, and be convinced that we can expect a blessed inward

operation of the CLEANSING work of the effects of sin, by the blood.

2. **There must be desire.**

It is not enough to recognize that PURITY OF HEART is an important characteristic of every child of God. There is too little inner longing to be really in all things, at all times, well pleasing to the Lord. Sin and the stain of sin trouble us too little.

God's Word comes to us with the promise of blessing which ought to awaken all our desires. Believe that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin. If you learn how to yield yourself up aright to its operation it can do great things in you. Put God to the test to work out in you what He as the Faithful One has promised:-CLEANSING from all unrighteousness.

3. **Gain a willingness to separate yourself from every thing that is unclean.**

Through sin everything in our nature, and in the world, is defiled. CLEANSING cannot take place where there is not an entire separation from, and giving up of everything unclean. "Touch not the unclean thing" is God's command to His chosen ones. I must recognize that all the things surrounding me are unclean.

4. **Exercising faith in the power of the blood.**

The blood in itself is power and efficacy for each one of us, **but our unbelief closes our hearts, and hinders its operation. Faith is simply the removal of that hindrance, the setting open of our hearts, for the divine power by which the living Lord will bestow His blood.**

Yes, let us believe that there is CLEANSING through the blood. Lift up your eyes and see by faith how ceaselessly a stream flows from heaven above to earth beneath. It is the blessed Spirit's influence, through whom the power of the blood of Jesus flows earthwards over souls, to heal and to purify them. Oh! place yourself in this stream, simply believe that the words,

***"The blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin."***

**I John 1:7**

Believe that it is the Lord Jesus Himself who will cleanse you in His blood, and fulfill His promise in power in you. You can confidently abide in what Christ has done for you!