

Wlead
the Blood!

A Secret of Spiritual Success

By Joseph Kostelnik, Ph.D.

Plead the Blood!

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A Secret of Spiritual Success

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Table of Contents

My Discovery.....	5
The Case Stated.....	7
The Blood of Christ.....	9
The Blood Speaks.....	21
Plead the Blood!.....	27
Applying the Blood.....	31
About the Author.....	39

Plead the Blood!

My Discovery

My Discovery

I have been greatly blessed by several volumes devoted to the study of the subject of the precious Blood of Jesus. I was first exposed to the works of Andrew Murray and H. A. Maxwell Whyte, while in graduate school, studying for the ministry. I must say it became not a “cold, theological study,” but a vibrant present-day reality to me, particularly in its application in everyday life.

As a young seminarian, funds were not usually abounding, especially for “luxuries” like doctor’s visits. One evening while suffering terribly with a severe sore throat and high temperature, I began to actively “plead the Blood” for my healing, thereby focusing my faith on the work of Christ and its merit for my healing. In my spirit I could see the Blood of Jesus bathing my throat, like a Heavenly Antibiotic, driving out the corruption of disease and effecting a cure. I was amazed at the result. In less than an hour my fever broke, all soreness left and I was raised up to continue my studies.

In subsequent years, I have had the Lord remind me repeatedly of the importance of “pleading the Blood” as I have ministered as a pastor, evangelist, missionary, Bible teacher and media minister. It is truly precious beyond words and worthy of our most serious contemplation and veneration.

Plead the Blood!

While it is not the purpose of this little work to in any way examine this blessed topic in detail, it is my hope that these brief studies will stimulate you, the reader, to more fully explore the wealth of spiritual truth and blessing contained within its boundaries.

One thing is absolutely certain; we are on holy ground.
Let us tread softly.

Joseph Kostelnik, Ph.D.
(White Oak) Cincinnati, Ohio
May, 1988

The Case Stated

The Case Stated

“Plead the Blood!” was once the watchword of the Spirit-filled Church of the Lord Jesus Christ. According to many sources, the practice of actively “pleading the Blood of Jesus” was responsible for numerous miracles in the early days of our “modern Pentecost.”

It seems, however, that the practice of pleading the Blood has receded into the background in many “Full Gospel” circles. In the opinion of this writer, we as Spirit-filled saints of Almighty God have yet to plumb the depths of the provision of the Power of the Blood of the Savior.

In these “end time days,” as the Enemy mounts his final onslaught against the Church, we must, more than ever, understand and utilize every weapon in God’s armory. Holding a central place in the “whole armor of God” is the Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Blood of Jesus Christ is the Sign and Seal of our redemption. It remains for us to live within the boundaries of its glorious provisions.

Plead the Blood!

The Blood of Christ

The Blood of Christ

“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood” (Rev. 1:5).

Blood is indispensable to human life. In the blood, mysteriously, lies the secret of life. The Holy Bible goes so far as to say that the life of our human flesh is actually carried in the blood (Lev. 17:11).

Had it not been for massive transfusions at my birth, I would have died due to loss of blood. When we ponder the importance of blood in the natural, human realm, how much greater significance does it assume when we attempt to estimate the supreme worth of the Blood of the God-man in the supernatural, spiritual realm.

Just as blood is required for the sustenance of human life on this earth, so the sinless Blood of the Son of God is absolutely indispensable to our eternal, spiritual life in Heaven. Apart from the merit of the Blood of the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ, we have no peace in this life nor hope for the next.

Atoning Blood

Let us then study some of the leading aspects of the blessings connected with the Blood of Jesus, shed on our behalf.

Plead the Blood!

“For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul” (Lev. 17:11).

As this scripture reveals, there is no “atonement,” covering or cleansing for sin apart from the shedding of blood. In the Hebrew of this text the Bible says, “For the soul of the flesh, it-it is in the blood.”

There we have it; our immortal “soul life” is somehow—although not understood by us—held in the flow of the blood through our veins. The word “it” is emphatic in the original. The Holy Spirit thus underscores this mystical fact for our spiritual comprehension and profit.

And then the Lord adds, “and I-I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls.”

Again, the “I” is emphatic in the original. It is God, Himself, Who has ordained the method and means of our forgiveness of sin. Just as any earthly court has the power to legislate the proper legal payment required to satisfy its offended law, so Yahweh God of the universe has the final authority regarding the price demanded to appease His offended justice. That price is blood. Elsewhere in the Holy Word, it was recorded that the animals sacrificed must be “without spot” (Num. 19:2; 28:3,9,11; 29:17,26).

All of these references pointed to the sinless, spotless, Son of God Who would, thousands of years later, offer Himself as the Perfect Sacrifice for Sin.

The Bible makes it clear in Rom. 6:23 and other places that the wages or judgment of our sin is death: eternal separation from God in conscious torment in the Lake of Fire, the Second Death (Rev. 20:14-15).

It is impossible that any animal, and certainly not the Lord Jesus Christ, would undergo this exact judgment as an

The Blood of Christ

atonement for our sin. Rather, the shedding of the Blood of the Son of God was provided and accepted by God as a Divinely appointed *alternative*.

Perhaps the closest we can arrive at an understanding of this principle is by observing our own legal system. Often, a convicted criminal may be sentenced to two years in prison or a \$5,000.00 fine.

There is no way that a monetary fine is equal to time spent in physical incarceration; yet the court reserves the right to accept such a “substitution.”

Similarly, the great God of Heaven has deigned to offer and receive the Blood Sacrifice of His Only-begotten Son in the place of our suffering eternal torment. As I said in my book, **The Lord Jesus: The Christ**, the reason for this means of atonement may remain forever hidden in the Heart of God.

The Old Testament believers, then, were saved “on credit,” as they sacrificed the proper animals by faith, expecting the coming of the final Lamb of God Who would actually take away the sins of the world. They looked forward to the Lord’s atoning work; we look backward.

That which was foreshadowed in the animal sacrifices was fulfilled in the Cross work of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement” (Rom. 5:11).

It is God Who provided the shedding of blood as both the picture and Price of our atonement from sin (Lev. 17:11). We might have chosen something else.

Indeed, multiplied thousands today are going about to “establish their own righteousness” by appealing to God for forgiveness on the basis of their “good works:” fasting,

Plead the Blood!

praying, Bible reading, etc. But all to no avail! It is the God Whose Law we have offended by our sin Who alone must decree the method and means of atonement. This He has done in the sacred scriptures. The Price of our forgiveness is nothing short of the Life-blood of the Eternal Son of Almighty God!

Praise God for His outpoured Love and Life on our behalf. Indeed, He “poured out His soul (Blood) unto death” *for our sakes* (Is. 53:12). HalleluYah, what a Savior!

Just now, look away from yourself and anything you might offer to God as a means of procuring forgiveness in His sight. Look yonder—by faith—to the Lamb of God dying upon a cruel cross *in your place*. See His Pure and Holy Blood shed as the offering for *your sin*. Receive His Sacrifice on your behalf and begin to delight yourself in the abundance of peace with God.

Redeeming Blood

Not only is the Blood of the Lord Jesus atoning Blood, but it is redeeming Blood. The various forms of the Greek words rendered “redeem,” or “redeemed” in the New Testament signify a “buying back” or “releasing from bondage” to spiritual freedom. What was the ground of our “redemption?”

The Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us that “Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us” (Gal. 3:13, Gk.). Paul goes on to explain just when He “became a curse:” *on the Cross* (when He shed His Blood).

The curse of the Law is death, in all of its forms: spiritual, physical and eternal (Dt. 27:26, LXX). I remind you that Paul's word is “curse,” singular, not “curses,” as in

The Blood of Christ

those delineated in Dt. 28. Some in the Body of Christ mistakenly teach that our Savior's Cross-work was to undue these "curses" (plural) placed upon disobedient Israel by Yahweh's Law. Likewise, these same teachers encourage us to "claim" all of Israel's Old Testament blessings!

But the Lord Jesus came to deal with the root cause of evil and judgment, not the fruit of one nation's failure to uphold their end of God's covenant. Spiritual death is the sole cause of all of humanity's problems. This is what the Blood of Christ has obliterated. Should we inquire what His victory for all humanity includes, we simply need consult Isaiah 53, rather than Dt. 28 and we will find ourselves on solid, biblical ground.

Praise God, because of the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross, because of the shedding of His Precious Blood in payment for our sins, He has redeemed us out from under the penalty of this Law!

We have a "legal" right to the privileges of healing, health, prosperity, longevity and Eternal Life, here and hereafter (see my book, **What Price, Freedom?**).

And let us never forget, He Who paid the Price of our redemption is now our Master and Lord. Are we relating to Him as such, in holy gratitude and obedience to His will for us, not in the slavery of fear, but in the freedom of Love?

Not only are we redeemed from the consequences of God's broken law (Gal. 3:13), but we have been—by the Blood of Jesus—redeemed from our previous unsaved lifestyle.

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1 Pt. 1:18).

Plead the Blood!

The phrase rendered “conversation” in the above verse literally means “manner of life.”

How many of us have wandered in the confusion and darkness of false and deceptive ideas regarding the meaning of life and death, all handed down as “spiritual inheritances” from one generation to another, perpetuating the devil’s works of sin, sickness, tragedy and death?

How much ruin has been caused by the superstitious and silly ideas of fallen human beings, motivated by spirits of darkness, being transmitted, from one family to the next?

Praise God for the manifestation of the Light of God in the Face of Jesus Christ, which has dispelled the darkness of Satan’s kingdom. In Him we see the Truth about ourselves, God and His plan for us, both here and hereafter. The Price has been paid for our redemption from this sin-dominated, Satan-ruled existence. We stand free in the Presence of God from lives lived in conformity to a doomed world system.

It is not by works of “righteousness” which we have accomplished that we were enabled to break free from the chains of the past, but through the Precious Blood of Christ, shed on our behalf as a Love-gift from the King of Glory.

HalleluYah!

Must we continue to “live this way,” because “that’s the way we’ve always done it?” Never! We are free because of the Blood!

According to Peter’s inspired text, it took Something much more valuable than the currency of this world to purchase our deliverance from a sinful lifestyle; it required the Blood of the Son of God.

Have we received our freedom?

Are we living in the light of it?

Are we liberated from the spiritual, emotional,

The Blood of Christ

psychological and physical “chains of the past” which may have dogged our steps since the moments of our births?

The Price has been paid. The Word has been declared. The work has been done.

What are we doing about it?

Let us cast off all the works of darkness and arm ourselves with the garments of Light. The Church’s finest hour is just ahead. We are the “twice-born ones,” ransomed from the negativity of our pasts, those sinful personality traits, superstitious religious beliefs, and even physical propensities toward “hereditary illnesses,” not because of anything we are, have or have done in our lives, *but because of the Blood of Jesus Christ!*

Beloved, let us take our place!

Justifying Blood

“Much more then, being justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him” (Rom. 5:9).

If the average unsaved individual only really understood the meaning of his inner turmoil and disquietude, he would declare that his search is for acceptance with the “Higher Power.” That is, he desires to know that “all is well” in his relationship with the God of the universe; in short, that he is “accepted by Him.”

But how to find such acceptance?

Certainly, every honest human being recognizes that, in and of himself, there is nothing which could commend him to the good graces of the Infinite, no way to become “righteous” (declared to be in right standing) with Him.

And so, many simply attempt to “drown out” the still, small voice within by bombarding the senses with “wine, women and song.”

Still others pursue a course of “pseudo-salvation”

Plead the Blood!

through religion, metaphysics or other God substitutes. But it is a shame and a sham. Such an existence can only be termed that—existence—certainly not living!

Thank God, He has provided a Way out of this morass: *the Blood of Christ*.

Paul says, “much more then, having been justified through the Blood: His, we shall be saved from the wrath through Him” (Rom. 5:9, AT).

Two beautiful facts are brought out in this verse of scripture.

First, we have been (past tense) justified (declared not guilty, acquitted of all wrong doing) *through the Blood of Christ* (not our works or merit).

We stand “accepted by God” because of the free Gift of the Blood of His Son. We need have no sense of guilt, sin or spiritual inferiority. A Price has been paid for our sins against the Law of God. That Price is the Life-blood of the Son of God.

But not only is our present relationship with the Father mended, our future, also, is made safe from the judgment upon sin yet to come at the Second Coming of Christ (2 Thess. 1:6ff.).

We need have no “guilty fear” of God, either now or then. We are blessedly free from all condemnation, not because of anything belonging to our existence or performance (finite and flawed as they are), but due to the unchanging efficacy of the Blood of Jesus Christ. We stand justified for time and eternity through the Free Gift of the Savior's Blood offered in sacrifice to God for us.

Praise God forevermore!

Just as surely as the Death Angel “passed over” the homes and lives of the Children of Israel while they sojourned in Egypt (Ex. 12:13), so, too, does the wrath of

The Blood of Christ

God “pass over” us both now and in the future because of the Blood.

How blessedly free God has made us to be by the free Gift of His grace. How He longs for us to stand tall in His Love, confident of our continual acceptance with Him.

If we continue to look to ourselves, religion, good works, or the traditions and rituals of man in order to gain acceptance with God, we shall be soundly disappointed. The Heavenly Father, Himself, has provided a Way. That Way is the Lord Jesus Christ and His Blood shed for our sins.

Let us affirm with Paul:

“For if, being enemies, we were reconciled to the (one true) God, through the death of the Son: his, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved through the life: his” (Rom. 5:10, Gk.).

Praise God for a complete redemption in the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is ours and we are His, forever!

Let us, with Paul, “joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Rom. 5:11).

Cleansing Blood

As you can see, even in the beginning of our study, for the Church, “blessings are abounding” in the Blood.

It is as though a wonderful tableland of unexplored riches burst upon our view when first the blinders of fear, guilt and confusion have been removed through faith in the Blood of Jesus to grant us “right of access” into these spiritual blessings reserved for us in the heavenly realms.

The Blood of the Lamb is certainly cleansing Blood.

Under the Old Covenant, the sins of the people of Israel were symbolically “covered from the view” of the austere gaze of God’s justice, yearly when the blood of clean

Plead the Blood!

animals was placed by the high priest upon the mercy seat under which, in the Ark, was a copy of the Law. The worshipers were not cleansed from their sin inwardly, but only outwardly, and that only year by year, a new remembrance of sin experienced continually.

Under the New Covenant, however, our sins are not “covered,” but “remitted” or “sent away.” Our relationship with the Lord is not outward and temporary, but inward and eternal. The Law is no longer engraved in stone tablets hidden in an Ark of wood, but etched in the fleshly tables of our renewed hearts, whereby we are enabled—by the Holy Spirit—to serve God in newness of Spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

What can “wash away my sin?”

Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.

“But if we are walking in the light (in love) as he-he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ the Son: his, is continually cleansing us from all sin” (1 John 1:7, Gk.).

This verse of scripture assures us that if our habit of life is to walk in Love, that is, if we are truly born again, we have fellowship with all of God’s people and the very Blood of the Son of God is, “continually cleansing us” from all sin.

The Blood of Christ avails for all except those who sense no need of it, those who refuse to admit their sin (I John 1:8) and, thus, do not have the Truth (God) in them.

How wonderful is our privilege of living in the Light of the Love of God, continually free (legally) from every stain of sin because of the Blood of Jesus Christ our Savior.

Because of our Lord’s Sacrifice we have a relationship, not only with God, but with the other members of the Body of Christ. We have fellowship and cleansing in the Blood.

The Blood of Christ

Oh, to fully appreciate and enjoy the manifold provisions of the Blood of Jesus. Shall we not yield to the Holy Spirit and ask Him to enlighten our eyes that we may behold the wonders of our redemption?

Delivering Blood

“Unto him having loved us, and having loosed us from the sins, ours, in the blood: his” (Rev. 1:5, Gk.).

As this literal translation of Rev. 1:5 graphically records, our Savior “loosed” or “freed” us from our very own particular and peculiar sins by the shedding of His own matchless, peerless, sinless, spotless Blood.

All those nagging, threatening accusations of the devil and our own consciences have been silenced forever by the Blood Sacrifice of the Son of God.

Can we really believe it?

When once the Church truly grasps its position in grace as the Beloved of the Father and redeemed by the Son, empowered by the Spirit, and freed by the Blood, the revival will be on. Just as long as Satan can continue to blind us to the efficacy of the Blood of the Son, just that long shall the Body of Christ remain in a prison whose doors are unlocked and whose chains are broken.

The Price has been paid; we have been legally delivered from the devil’s authority by the Blood of Jesus Christ shed on Calvary, 2,000 years ago.

“Who having given himself for the sins: ours, that he might deliver us from this present evil age” (Gal. 1:4).

It is the Blood of Jesus Christ Which has signed and sealed our spiritual passports, translating us out of the kingdom of darkness into the Kingdom of the Son of God’s Love (Col. 1:13).

Because of the Blood of Christ, our citizenship is now

Plead the Blood!

in Heaven (Phil. 3:20).

We have come to remain in the City of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (Heb. 12:22).

Our names have been and remain written in the heavens (Heb. 12:23).

How blessed we are to be enabled—because of the Blood of Jesus—to look right into the eyes of the devil and boldly assert our total independence from all his authority. We may be “in the world;” but we are, spiritually, no longer “of it” (John 17:16).

As we shall see in another chapter, it remains for us to actively “plead the Blood” against the Enemy of our souls in vital spiritual warfare. It is the Blood of Christ that is our Ground of victory and Pledge of the devil’s defeat.

May the Lord, Himself, enable us to rise to the occasion and resist the devil in the evil day, and having overcome all the machinations of the Evil One, to remain standing, victors in the battle of life.

The Blood Speaks

The Blood Speaks

“And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel” (Heb. 12:24).

We have mentioned that the Bible declares our human, natural life is carried in our bloodstream. We do not understand, necessarily *how* it is so, but we can know *that* it is so.

In a similar manner, the scriptures depict the blood of persons, “speaking,” or symbolically offering inarticulate testimony to a particular event or circumstance. Indeed, in the text quoted above, we find an intensely illuminating contrast between two such “voices.”

Paul tells us in Heb. 12:29 that the Blood of Jesus Christ is, “constantly speaking” (present participle, Gk.) “better things” than that of Abel. There is a definite article, “the,” in the Greek text before the name, Abel, indicating Paul has the particular Abel, the brother of Cain, in mind.

Let’s remind ourselves of the leading facts of that story in Genesis, chapter four.

You will recall Abel was a shepherd and Cain a tiller (servant, Heb.) of the ground. Abel offered a blood sacrifice from the best of his flocks and was accepted by God. Cain, however, offered to the Lord the fruit of the

Plead the Blood!

cursed ground and was rejected while admonished by God that he, too, would be readily accepted by the Almighty were he to serve God in an acceptable fashion (by faith, through a blood sacrifice).

Unfortunately, we read, instead of Cain's repentance and godly worship, of his murder of his righteous brother out of envy and hatred. But the story does not end there. God confronted Cain with his deed in this very unusual manner:

"What hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood is continually crying unto me from the ground" (Gen. 4:10, Heb.).

What was it that Abel's blood was "saying" to God?

It was a plea for vengeance and judgment (which was answered, Gen. 4:11-12).

In contrast to Abel's blood "continually crying out for judgment," however, the Blood of Christ is "continually speaking *better things*." Certainly the chief cry is *mercy*.

Praise God!

For over 2,000 years, the Blood of Jesus Christ in the heavenly "Holy of Holies" has been speaking to the Father of mercy and forgiveness for the sins of the world!

If Abel's blood could "cry" and be heard from the ground, how much more certain is it that our Lord's Sacrifice is continually speaking from Heaven about His triumph for us over sin, sickness, Satan and circumstances?

HalleluYah to the Lamb of God!

Christ's Blood is called by Peter and Paul, a Blood of sprinkling (I Pt. 1:2; Heb. 12:24).

Just as the holy things and even the People of God under the Old Testament were often, "sprinkled with the blood" to graphically identify them as belonging to God, so, too, the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ has been

The Blood Speaks

sprinkled with the Blood of the Lamb, a kind of mystical “brand” marking us out for time and eternity as His own.

Of what does the Blood of Christ speak?

It speaks of forgiveness. He Who counseled His own to love their enemies and forgive and bless their persecutors, lived out His message on the Cross as He prayed for His enemies in His dying breath (Luke 23:34).

The Bible tells us that His Blood continually cleanses the believer from all sin (I John 1:9) and is the atonement also for the sins of the world (I John 2:2; I Tim. 4:10).

Thank God, the Blood of Jesus Christ provides and eternal cleansing from sin (Heb. 1:3). By the one offering of His Body in death, He has perfected forever those of us who have accepted His Sacrifice on our behalf and are being sanctified by Him (Heb. 10:14).

The saints under the Old Covenant were reminded of sin yearly; but we in the New Covenant, having been once truly cleansed in the inner man (conscience) have no more consciousness of sin (Heb. 10:2).

And then the Blood of Christ, as we have seen, speaks of redemption. It is the precious Blood of Christ that has purchased our redemption from sin’s penalty (Heb. 1:3), its lifestyle (I Pt. 1:18) and this world system (Gal. 1:4).

Because of the Power of the Blood of Jesus, we have the ability to serve the Lord in newness of spirit, with the righteous requirement of the Law actually being fulfilled *in* us, who walk, not after the flesh, but after the Holy Spirit of God (Rom. 8:4).

Paul reminds us in Heb. 9:14, that the Blood of Christ has purged our consciences from “dead works” and freed us to really serve the Living God.

What does he mean?

“Dead works” are those “good deeds” which are done

Plead the Blood!

out of a guilty fear of the Almighty, in an attempt to placate the Divine wrath and gain approval from the King of Glory. When once the Blood of the Son of God has been applied by faith to one's conscience, when a person really trusts the Blood and the Blood alone as the Payment for his sin, he is then wonderfully freed in spirit to serve God out of love and gratitude instead of fear and dread.

The Blood of Jesus also speaks of our boldness of access into the Divine Presence in prayer. The Bible assures us of, "boldness for the entrance into the Holiest by the Blood of Jesus" (Heb. 10:19, Gk.).

It is not our works, preparation, prayers or human merit of any kind which have gained us access into the Father's favor. It is the Blood of the Son of God. This is why Paul is emboldened to exhort us to "draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having the hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience (by the Blood of Jesus)" (Heb. 10:22, Gk.).

What joyous, confident approach to the Throne of Grace is ours as we come humbly through the Savior's Blood (Heb. 4:16ff.).

Have we taken our place in intercession in the Holiest of All, with the Blood of Jesus as our only plea?

The very Shekinah Glory of the Living God which was shielded from the view of the average Israelite by the veil, has now been opened to us by the Blood of Christ.

And then the Blood of Jesus speaks of our fellowship, both with the Trinity (I John 1:7) and with one another (I John 3). There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither male nor female, neither bond nor free in the Body of Christ. The Cross-work of the Master has joined us with the Godhead and one another in a Blood Covenant, eternal in its efficacy. All apparent differences between us are wonderfully

The Blood Speaks

blotted out by the Blood until we stand as One Man in Him (Eph. 4:15).

As we will see in the final chapter, the Blood of Christ also speaks of our victory over the Evil One. The enemy is called Satan (opponent, Gk.) and the devil (false accuser, Gk.) in the scriptures, and the Blood of Jesus gives us power over him in all of his guises.

The work of Christ on the Cross forever canceled the devil's authority over us since by the shedding of the Blood of the Master, the sin question was forever settled. The Blood of Jesus testifies eternally to the devil's defeat (Col. 2:14ff.). Because of it, Satan has no legal claim over anyone who has received the Atonement by faith. We are free indeed.

May the Lord, Himself, by the Power of the Holy Spirit, enable us to rightly esteem the merit of the Blood of Jesus Christ and live forever in the light of its blessings.

Plead the Blood!

Plead the Blood!

Plead the Blood!

*“And they-**they** overcame him by the blood of the young Lamb, and by the word of the testimony: theirs; and they loved not their life unto death” (Rev. 12:13, Gk.).*

I was invited to preach a series of crusade meetings in January of 1988 in Athens, Greece. The Lord was moving in spectacular ways with many being saved, filled with the Spirit and miraculously healed.

However, one evening, near the end of the crusade, as I sat on the platform during the worship service, I discerned an evil presence in the auditorium. I remarked about this impression to Rev. Zachariou, my interpreter, who affirmed a similar intuition. We then both located the source of the spiritual resistance: a young leader of a “mind science” cult sitting with a defiant expression on his face, flanked on both sides by female assistants.

Instinctively, I requested that all those present continue to vigorously praise the Lord in the Spirit (other tongues) and I began to *plead the Blood* audibly in English.

After a time we could sense the demonic powers in the visitors drawing back. They left before I had finished the introduction to my message!

Although their native tongue was modern Greek, apparently the evil spirits in them understood English!

Plead the Blood!

Such is the power of God!

The Blood of Jesus is the “legal ground” of our victory over the world, the flesh and the devil. The active pleading of the Blood of Jesus Christ irritates and confuses the enemy as perhaps little else in our spiritual arsenal.

Our text reminds us that we (born again, Spirit-filled believers) overcome him (the devil) by the Blood of the Lamb.

The context of this verse of scripture is the accusation of the devil against the saints (the brethren) before the Throne of God.

What can Satan possibly accuse mankind of to God?

Sin.

Praise God! This is where the Blood of Jesus Christ becomes infinitely precious in spiritual warfare. Our sins have been “blotted out” by the Blood. Satan has no “legal footing” in the “Supreme Court of Heaven.” This is why pleading the Blood is so important. It publicly affirms our freedom from the guilt and condemnation of sin and its judgment. This leaves the devil (false accuser, Gk.) “speechless” in God’s Presence!

These believers, the Bible says, did not love their (soul) life unto death. They would rather die physically than compromise their testimony of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

Why were they impervious to fear of death?

The sting of physical death is sin (1 Cor. 15:56), because after death comes the judgment (Heb. 9:27). The strength of sin is the Law (I Cor. 15:56).

But praise be to God, we are free from the Law through the Body of Christ sacrificed on our behalf (Rom. 7:4)!

Our relationship with the Law and its condemnation and control ended at the Cross of Christ where Jesus poured out His Blood on our behalf (see my book, **The Lord**

Plead the Blood!

Jesus: The Christ).

- His Blood loosed us from the guilt of our sins (Rev. 1:5).
- His Blood purged us from our sins (Heb. 1:3).
- His Blood redeemed us from our past life (I Pt. 1:18).
- His Blood has paralyzed the devil (Heb. 2:14).
- His Blood has freed us from Satan's grasp and authority (Col. 2:14ff.).

We are free, indeed!

Notice our text says they overcame the devil by the Blood of the Lamb (historical fact) and by the word of their testimony (experiential fact).

These Spirit-filled saints were not content to view the Blood of Jesus as simply a monument to a long-forgotten battle. They brought the reality of that Blood's efficacy right into the midst of their contemporary situation. Boldly, they confessed their faith in Christ and the blessings which the Blood of Christ has procured, those spiritual gifts we have been studying in this book.

Jesus said if we would save our (natural) life, we would lose it eternally (Mt. 10:39).

Whence the faith of these believers to boldly lay down their physical lives if need be to remain stalwart soldiers of the Cross?

The Blood of Jesus Christ, shed for their eternal salvation.

We must begin to boldly affirm the Power of the Blood to grant us all we need in our earthly pilgrimages.

Are we bombarded by the devil regarding sins that have been confessed and repented of?

Plead the Blood (1 John 1:7, 9)!

Are we in need of healing and taunted by the Adversary that we have not sufficient faith?

Plead the Blood!

Plead the Blood (1 Pt. 2:24)!

Does the fowler insist that we must inherit all of the misfortunes (spiritually, physically, emotionally, etc.) of our forbears simply because, “it’s in our family?”

Plead the Blood (1 Pt. 1:18)!

Are we in need of finance to meet our material needs and those of our ministry?

Plead the Blood (Gal. 3:13; 2 Cor. 9:9)!

He Who was rich became poor on the Cross for our sake. His Blood is the payment for our deliverance from the curse of poverty.

Are we in desperate need of the peace of God in our hearts?

Plead the Blood (Is. 53:5)!

He was chastised to pay for your peace of mind and heart.

Does the prince of darkness jeer that you must remain forever bound by the fetters of some besetting sin or bondage?

Plead the Blood (Is. 53:7)!

He was oppressed that you might go free!

Do you long for the Gift of the Spirit, yet feel unworthy to receive it?

Plead the Blood (Acts 2:29ff.)!

His Blood, alone, has purchased the Gift of the Spirit for His children.

Let us look away from ourselves, our goodness or worthiness, and look off unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith Who has overcome *for us*.

When we honor the Blood of Christ, we honor the Life of Christ, for His Life is in His Blood (Lev. 17:11)!

Let us worship Him, Who alone, is worthy!

Plead the Blood!

Applying the Blood

Applying the Blood

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony” (Rev. 12:11).

When You Need Salvation

As we come to the close of our study concerning this most important theological and vital truth, I want to provide you with the opportunity to *personally* appropriate the power of the Blood of Jesus in your life, wherever you may require it.

Certainly, first and foremost is the necessity of trusting in the merit of Christ’s shed Blood in the area of you own, individual salvation. A personal relationship with God can only be initiated through a living, personal act of faith, apart from any “good works” or religious observances we may feel appropriate or necessary. It is faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith *alone* which will secure our eternal salvation.

If you have never experienced the miracle of the new birth, or if you are uncertain of your personal salvation, please pray the following prayer *aloud* and *from your heart*.

"Dear God, I confess that I have sinned. But I believe that you sent Jesus to the Earth. I believe that

Plead the Blood!

He lived a sinless life. I believe that He died in my place; I believe He shed His Blood to forgive my sin; and I believe that He was buried and raised from the dead in order that I may have Eternal Life. Lord Jesus, I surrender my heart and my will to you. Come into my heart; come into my life; and make me the kind of person you want me to be. By your grace, I'll live for you, all the days of my life. Thank you, Jesus, for coming into my heart. Thank you, Jesus, for saving my soul."

If you were sincere as you prayed the preceding prayer, you are now a child of God! Tell someone *publicly* of your decision!

When You Need a Miracle

As we have seen, the atoning work of Jesus Christ upon the cross purchased a *full* salvation, redeeming us: spirit, soul *and* body. All of the blessings of the atonement come *from* the Blood of Christ but are received by us *through* faith. This faith comes by *hearing* (spiritually) and this spiritual hearing is given to us through a *spoken word from God* (Rom. 10:17, Gk., see my book, **Creative Faith**). When once this faith has been received into our hearts, we must then *act* on the word or *believe* by means of corresponding actions.

Over 40 years of ministry, the Lord has used me as an instrument of His healing and delivering power in a number of different ways including the "laying on of hands," anointing with oil, etc.. We have also had excellent results through the use of "prayer cloths" sent to the sick and afflicted (feel free to write and request one). Just recently, a young woman requested one for her little niece who had

Applying the Blood

fallen from a porch deck, suffering severe injuries to her head and brain. Physicians offered little hope for recovery. After taking the cloth to the little girl and praying for her, she came out of the coma, is awake and aware and currently undergoing physical therapy. She is expected to make a complete recovery.

The information which follows details yet another way God has instructed me to be of assistance to seeking, suffering humanity. I trust you will take a few moments to read carefully the next few pages. Because of the Blood of Jesus shed on your behalf, you may be just *minutes from your miracle!*

Divine Impartation

I have included the following information in this book as well as on our ministry website, at the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Sometime ago, the Holy Spirit informed me that I was about to enter a new phase of ministry. I have been praying diligently that this transition will be smooth and successful. I believe part of it has to do with a renewed emphasis upon the supernatural.

As I have written in other volumes, during over 40 years of ministry I have seen about every conceivable kind of miracle, from opening of blind eyes, to creative ones like making barren wombs fertile and even raising the dead.

Miracles began to take place in my ministry from the beginning (September, 1974), but they increased in frequency and depth after an encounter I had in the summer of 1982. My family and I had spent six weeks in Australia in the spring of that year in an attempt to gain sponsorship from some full-gospel organization there so that we might return to the nation as full-time missionaries. I ministered

Plead the Blood!

about 20 times in six weeks in various churches of various denominations.

While I was attending a chapel service at L.I.F.E. Bible college in Strathfield, a suburb of Sydney, the Spirit of the Lord impressed me that when I returned to the States, I must see a particular man of God in person before returning to Australia in September.

To make a long story short, this man of God (one of the key ministers in the *Voice of Healing* Revival of the 50's) came to Cincinnati for a week of meetings just prior to our leaving for Australia. I was able to arrange a private conference with the gentleman (after having told him on the phone of my encounter in Australia).

While he was cordial and willing to answer my questions, give general advice, etc., it seemed nothing special was taking place during that week of his meetings which I attended. I was a little discouraged when the time for the last meeting—a morning teaching seminar—arrived.

After teaching on the subject of faith, he said, "I'm not going to pray for people today. Instead, I'm going to stand here and anyone with a need, just come up and shake hands with me in faith for your miracle." As I anticipated going up to the front of the auditorium, I assumed he would stop and pray for me, speak a prophetic word over me, etc. However, as I filed past him, *nothing happened!*

I returned to my seat, having shaken hands with him, feeling very dejected, knowing he would be leaving the city that afternoon and I would be leaving the country in a few weeks. I couldn't understand how or where I'd "missed it."

A Question of Faith

Just then the Holy Spirit spoke clearly to my heart, "*Did you do what I instructed you?*" I knew I did.

Applying the Blood

“*Did you release your faith when you shook hands with the man of God?*” I knew I did.

“*Do you believe you received?*” I sat for a moment and realized I did.

Suddenly, my right palm began to tingle and burn. I asked the man of God what it meant as I left the building.

He calmly replied, “Ask God.”

I did and He gave me the verses in Mt. 16:17-19 about the *Keys of the Kingdom* and the power to “bind and loose.”

My hand tingled and burned for nearly 24 hours.

Divine Confirmation

Upon my arrival in Australia, miracles became startling and commonplace. I ministered in 55 churches, three Bible colleges and several auditoriums during that first 14 months (I’ve made three additional short trips there since).

We were eyewitnesses to healings of: blindness, deafness, cancer, short limbs being lengthened, crippled limbs being made straight, arthritis, diabetes, heart conditions and deliverance from all manner of addictions.

Five months after I arrived in the country I received a long-distance phone call from some colleagues in the ministry to the effect that this mighty man of God had gone to Heaven.

Only God could have known and thus orchestrated our meeting in order to effect a *Divine Impartation*.

Your Point of Contact

As I have prayed about my authority to *bind and loose*, the Holy Spirit impressed me to scan an image of my right hand and place it on our website as a point of contact for anyone requiring a *miracle*. I am including that image in this publication in the hope of providing the supernatural

Plead the Blood!

relief and release you desire to receive from God.

If you believe the natural can become *supernatural* when God gets involved, you, too, can receive your miracle. Moses' rod could become a serpent, opened the Red Sea and brought water from a rock. Elisha's mantle opened the Jordan River. His dead bones resurrected a dead army commander. Peter's shadow, Paul's handkerchiefs and Jesus' clothing were *natural* things that became *supernatural* conduits of Divine Power when God got involved.

I urge you to release your faith to God as you place your hand on the photograph of mine on the following page and expect a *miracle*! As the Spirit of the Lord meets your need *by means of a miracle*, be sure to write and testify.

Let's pray:

"Father, we come to you in Jesus' Name. Thank you for the keys of the Kingdom, that whatsoever I bind on the earth shall have been bound in Heaven, whatsoever I loose on the earth shall have been loosed in Heaven. Thank you for the commission to use these keys to set people free. I join my faith with this precious one reading this book. I loose them from sickness, disease, pain, infirmity and bondages of any and all kinds. Let them be released from anything and everything that is not of God. May their symptoms be removed from their person as far as the east is from the west. Send Your Word and deliver them from all affliction. Bring them into the fullness of the blessing of the Gospel."

Applying the Blood



That's it, my friend! Now begin to rejoice & praise God!

“By the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people...” (Acts 5:12)

“And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

Plead the Blood!

About the Author

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Joseph Kostelnik is founder and president of **Gospel Truth Ministries**, an apostolic ministry with a three-fold vision: a local church (**White Oak Chapel**), training up and sending out of God-called ministers of the Word (**The Prophetic Voice Institute**), and short-term mission trips and other international outreaches to nearly 160 nations.

He holds a B.A.,cum laude, from Point Park University, an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, a Th.D. and Ph.D. from International Seminary, an honorary D.D. from Kingsway Christian College & Theological Seminary and an honorary Litt.D. from International Seminary.

He has served as: pastor, assistant pastor, evangelist, Bible teacher, missionary, author, educator, and media minister. He has ministered in the United States as well as completing nearly 50 short-term mission trips to countries overseas, including: England, Scotland, Australia, France, Greece, Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, Crete, Haiti and New Zealand. Dr. Kostelnik also served as an adjunct professor for International Seminary (Plymouth, FL, USA) for 15 years, having authored lesson material for their curriculum, and remains a seminary representative.

Joseph is assisted by his son, J. Solomon and his wife, Barbara, with whom he regularly co-hosted a local, Christian television program for over 15 years.

Plead the Blood!

His ministry has continued over 40 years and is consistently confirmed by startling signs, wonders and miracles of the Holy Spirit.

All Books by the Same Author

At the Master's Feet	Creative Faith
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The Perfect Weapon	The Presence of God
The Stranger on the Road	Walk with God
What Price, Freedom?	When You Need a Miracle
Why Not Women?	Wonder Working Words
You Must Be Drunk!	Your New Life

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WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT THIS MINISTRY...

“Dr. Kostelnik's book, **The Lord Jesus: the Christ**, is one of the most edifying and uplifting books I've ever read...and working with Dr. Cerullo, I've read a lot of good books." - **Ruth Meadows, European director, Morris Cerullo World Evangelism**

“To know Joe is to know he is an anointed minister of the gospel, striving to hear and do as the Holy Spirit directs. His revelations on women in ministry have surely been directed of God." - **Mary Laird, station manager, Trinity Broadcasting Network**

"His anointed teaching has inspired me and many others in Australia; after having Dr. Kostelnik minister in our church and in a citywide crusade, I recommend that you acquire more of this Divinely inspired material through which you will undoubtedly be blessed also." - **Rev. Merv Westbrook, Outback Evangelism, (Darwin, Australia)**

“I appreciate Joe's books, teaching and great evangelistic ministry; he has a unique combination of intellectual and educational depth, strict scriptural adherence and outstanding preaching ability.” - **Rev. Dick Taylor, founder & president FOCAS, (Cincinnati, Ohio)**

“We recommend Dr. Kostelnik and his ministry highly, he has been a great blessing in all of our churches in Holland and Belgium, with many saved, healed and filled with the Holy Spirit. We have published his articles in our magazine and are busy translating **Prayer in the Spirit: The Missing Link**, into Dutch." - **Gerie van der Dussen, secretary, Maasbach World Mission (Holland)**

About the Author

“Now that we have translated your book on ministry into Greek, we can start on your others; the people here desperately need this anointed ministry.” - **the late Rev. D. Jimmy Zachariou, Assemblies Of God, (Athens, Greece)**

“Brother Joe has a real touch of God on his ministry. We saw this in Haiti in great outdoor mass crusades... many were saved, healed, baptized in the Holy Ghost and delivered! We are very anxious for his next crusades here.” - **Bishop Octamoliere Liberius (Port-au-Prince, Haiti, W.I.)**

"Love, truth and compassion are what I sense after seeing the Lord Jesus glorified through the ministry of Brother Kostelnik.” - **Xavier Mainguy, deacon, New Life Church (Paris, France)**

“Through the revelation of the Spirit and also the manifestation of God's Power to His children through him, I believe Dr. Kostelnik is qualified to tell God's people that signs, wonders and miracles are for the Body of Christ today.” (from the foreword to *Miracles and the Ministry*) - **the late Rev. Dr. Brian Graham, pastor-evangelist (Darlington, England)**