

HOW TO OVERCOME EVIL

Every one of us is confronted every day by the presence and the power of evil in various forms.

Some from without and some from within ourselves.

It must be admitted that many of us do not always succeed in overcoming this force of evil, not because we do not *want* to but because we do not know *how* to.

an MP3 study by Bible teacher *Derek Prince*, from his 'Legacy Radio' series.

This text compilation by *Albert Chipps*

Study No.1 - EVIL IS SOMEONE



If you've ever studied military history at all you'll know that its 'intelligence', (knowledge of what the enemy is doing) that most often leads to victory

Every one of us is confronted every day by the presence and the power of evil in various forms. Some from without and some from within ourselves. It must be admitted that many of us do not always succeed in overcoming this force of evil, not because we do not *want* to but because we do not know *how* to.

I'm going to share with you, out of scripture, the all-important 'how to', how you can actually overcome evil.

First of all we need to see that there is no room for neutrality. We have two and *only two* alternatives:

we either overcome evil or we are overcome by it.

Paul presents these alternatives very concisely in **Romans 12:21**,

"do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"

You see there are just two alternatives. We can overcome evil, but if we do not overcome evil then evil will overcome us. There is no state of neutrality, where we are neither overcome or are overcome. That just isn't a possibility in actual experience. Paul says, *"do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good"* it's important to see that there is only one power in the universe strong enough to overcome evil, and that is 'good'. We have to meet evil with good. With a 'good' that is more powerful than the 'evil' that confronts us. Now the only source of that goodness is God Himself. So in order to overcome evil, we have to be allied with God. We have to have access to Gods resources, to Gods wisdom, to Gods power, to the means that God has placed at our disposal. The goodness of God and all that goes with it are revealed to us and made available to us through Gods word, the Bible. That's why in order to overcome evil, we *have to be acquainted with the Bible*. We have to know what the Bible teaches about it and the

provision that God has made for us which is revealed only in the Bible (and in any other book, of course, that's based on the Bible)

Now when we confront evil and look to the Bible for guidance and wisdom we find there one revelation of God's word which is a key to our whole conflict with evil, if we do not grasp this key and use it, we will be continually frustrated and ultimately defeated. I'm going to put into your hand now this key, this revelation of scripture which so vital and so essential. The key is this:

<p>EVIL IS NOT SOMETHING, IT IS SOMEONE</p>
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Behind *all* evil there is a 'person' and the Bible clearly reveals the identity of that person.

That person has two main names or titles. In the Old Testament he's called 'Satan', in the New Testament he's called the 'Devil'. Each of those titles has a meaning which is significant.

The name Satan means the one who 'resists' or 'opposes' (the one who resists God's purposes and God's people) So, as people of God, we have one who opposes us, Satan, the 'Adversary', the 'Resister'.

In the New Testament, the title the 'devil' means the 'Slanderer' or the 'Accuser'. So one main weapon that Satan uses against us is *slander* or *accusation*.

SO WHERE DID SATAN COME FROM?

At one time, Satan was not Satan, he was 'Lucifer'. He was one of the chief archangels of God, outstanding both for his beauty and his wisdom. Apparently he was in charge of one third of all the created angels but his heart became proud because of his beauty and his wisdom and he determined to seek equality with God and he led the one third of the angels under his charge in rebellion against almighty God. For that rebellion he was cast down from the heaven of God's dwelling but, instead of that, he set his own rival kingdom of rebellious angels in another area of the universe, still in the heavenlies, an area which is sometimes called the 'mid heaven', somewhere between the earth and the heaven of God's presence. So that's Satan's headquarters today. It's in the heavenlies and there he rules a company of rebellious angels and his supreme purpose is indicated by his name "***to resist and the thwart God's purposes and God's people.***"

The New Testament gives us a clear picture of Satan's rival kingdom, where it's located, how it operates and the spiritual beings that are its members. One of the clearest passages is Ephesians 6:12,

"for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against rulers and against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" [NIV]

Notice there are spiritual forces of evil and they're associated with 'rulers', with 'persons' who have authority and seek to exercise it and to dominate and to rule.

We'll look at another translation of this passage:

Ephesians 6:12, ***“for we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies, the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world”*** [The Living Bible]

Lay hold of the phrase, ***“persons without bodies.”*** Spirit beings that are in opposition to God and His people. So our enemies are *persons without bodies* and they're led by one person without a body (Satan) and they are located in the spirit world. That's the nature of our warfare. That's the conflict we're engaged in and unless we understand it we cannot possibly be fully successful in it.

COMMENTS SO FAR:

1. **Our conflict is cosmic.** It involves the whole universe, not just earth but heaven *and* earth.
2. **It's not in the realm of the senses.** We don't know the nature of the conflict by what we see or hear but it comes to us by revelation through the Holy Spirit and out of scripture.
3. **This conflict and its nature is unrecognized by the majority of people.** They are just are not aware that this is what they're up against. They know they're struggling against something but they can't see it and they can't understand it and they don't know how to define it and they don't know how to deal with it.
4. **The outcome of this conflict in the spiritual realm is *ultimately decisive*.** The result in the spiritual realm, weather its victory or defeat will determine the result in *every other area of our lives*

Now I'm going to describe some of the main ways that Satan works against us (always remember that his name means the 'Resister', the 'Adversary', the 'Opposer')

FIRST A FEW SCRIPTURAL PICTURES OF SATAN:

Revelation 12:9, ***“the great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”***

Notice Satan is depicted as either a dragon or a snake. He can be large and fierce or slithery and slimy but in both cases deadly dangerous.

And this what Jesus says about Satan in John 8:44, ***“you belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies”***

Notice the three titles there, 'Murderer', 'Liar' and 'Father of Lies'

Jesus says again in John 10:10, ***“the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”***

The 'thief' there is of course a person, its Satan and he's contrasted with Jesus.

Satan is the life taker; Jesus is the life giver.

SO LET'S SUM UP THE PICTURES WE HAVE OF SATAN:

1. The **dragon**
2. The **serpent**
3. The **murderer**
4. The **liar**
5. The **father of lies**
6. The **thief**
7. The **life taker**

None of those pictures is pretty but they're honest. They're true to the facts *and we need to know those facts!*

Then notice what Jesus says about the *reason* that Satan comes into our lives: He says,

“the thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy”

THERE ARE THREE PURPOSES THAT SATAN HAS:

1. To steal
2. To kill
3. To destroy

Whenever Satan comes into our lives, that's what he comes to do. He'll disguise his motives, he'll seek to conceal his presence and his activity but his ultimate objectives never change *to steal, kill and destroy*.

1. **To steal** means to take away that which is rightfully ours, our inheritance in God, the blessings God wants us to have.
2. **To kill** is to take our life, physically. Remember he's a murderer, he kills people *physically*.
3. **To destroy** goes beyond time into eternity. To destroy is the on-going eternal destruction of the lost soul that been deceived and ensnared by Satan.

So bear in mind what Jesus warned us about, the enemy comes only to ***steal, kill and destroy***

FOUR MAIN WAYS THAT SATAN WORKS:

1. **Revelation 12:9, “the great dragon was hurled down – that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray.”**

That's the first and most characteristic operation of Satan, he *deceives*. He works through deception. He's a liar, he does not come with the truth, he does not present facts as they really are. He deceives us and only after he has deceived us can he accomplish his other purposes against us. So we need to bear in mind continually that Satan operates on the basis of deception. Deception is the way he initially ensnares his victims. Once he has us deceived then he can do against us the other evil things that are his purpose. So always be on your guard against deception. The real safeguard against deception is the word of God, the truth of scripture. The scripture is *true* and if we are persuaded to anything contrary to the scripture,

somewhere behind that persuasion is the enemy, Satan. And his aim in deceiving us is to destroy us.

2. **Matthew 4:3, “the tempter came to him and said, “If you are the son of God, tell these stones to become bread”**

Notice the title given there to Satan, the ‘Tempter’. To tempt is to ‘entice’. Satan entices us to do evil. He sets before us something that seems desirable and attractive and once we’re deceived by him it’s easier for us to believe that it’s desirable and attractive, then he says, ‘if you want this thing, then *this* is what you have to do to get it.’ But the something you have to do is always something that’s in disobedience to God. He tempts or entices us to disobey God on the basis of something apparently attractive or worthwhile that he’s offering us.

3. **1 Thessalonians 2:18, “for we wanted to come to you – certainly I Paul, did, again and again, - but Satan blocked our way”**

That’s another typical activity of Satan, especially towards the servants of God. He ‘thwarts’, he ‘hinders’, he ‘blocks’ their way, he resists – that’s one of the meanings of Satan, the ‘Resister’.

4. **Revelation 12:10, “for the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down”**

That’s another typical activity of Satan, he ‘accuses’. He accuses us primarily to God. Why does he accuse us? What’s his motive? His motive is to prove us guilty.

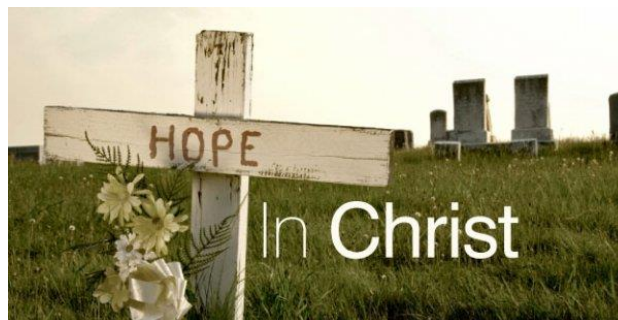
The greatest single tool that Satan has against us is guilt.

If Satan can keep us feeling guilty then we are never a match for him. We can never rise up, take the offensive against him and defeat him. So he is continually accusing us, he’s misrepresenting us, he’s bringing out all our bad points and overlooking our good ones and saying everything bad that can be said against us. His aim being: to make us *guilty*.

TO SUM UP THE 4 MAIN WAYS SATAN OPERATES WITH US:

1. He ***deceives***
2. He ***tempts*** or ***entices***
3. He ***hinders*** or ***blocks***
4. He ***accuses***

Study No. 2 - JESUS HAS ALREADY DEFEATED SATAN



There is one basic scriptural fact which alone makes it possible to overcome evil. The fact is this:

THAT JESUS HAS ALREADY DEFEATED SATAN ON OUR BEHALF.

The victory over Satan is not *going* to be won, it *has been won*. It was won when Jesus died, shed his blood on the cross, was buried and rose again from the dead. That was Satan's total, permanent, irreversible defeat and he does everything that he can to keep us from understanding this fact. He cannot change the fact but he does everything he can to keep us from knowing it, understanding it and applying it.

For a statement of this victory of Jesus over Satan, we'll look in Colossians 2:13-15, ***"when you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which had stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross"***

God the Father did this through Jesus Christ the Son. He disarmed all Satan's forces that he uses against us. He stripped them of their weapons. He defeated them and he not merely defeated them but he triumphed over them. He made a public spectacle of them. A triumph is not merely a victory, it is a public demonstration of a victory that has already been won. It's a demonstration of defeated enemies, led in chains as defeated captives behind the triumphant conquerors chariot. Now we cannot understand how Jesus did this unless we see what took place at the cross. At the cross, Jesus deprived Satan of his basic weapon against us and that was guilt. That's why he accuses, he wants to prove us guilty.

AT THE CROSS, JESUS DEALT WITH THE BASIS OF OUR GUILT IN TWO WAYS:

1. Through the cross, all our sins can be forgiven. So Jesus dealt with the past in forgiving past sins
2. At the cross, God cancelled the written code (that's the 'law' with its written regulations) for it was against us. It stood opposed to us. We could never get to God because of the law and its requirements because we could never meet those requirements. But at the cross God took that out of the way. The law was nailed to the cross. When Jesus died on our behalf, as our representative, he paid the final penalty for all who had broken the law – death. And once he had paid the penalty then we are no longer subject to the requirements of the law. So Jesus made it possible for us to be set free totally from guilt.

So firstly our past sins can be completely forgiven, secondly we are no longer required to observe the law as a means to achieving righteousness with God instead we come to God on the basis of the death of Jesus and our faith is credited to us as righteousness.

THE RESULT OF WHAT JESUS DID:

Colossians 1:12-14, ***“and giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of his holy people in the kingdom of light. 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”***

Notice it all centers around our redemption through the cross. Through that redemption, we have forgiveness of sins, we are no longer required to observe the law in order to achieve righteousness and so, by that, God has done two things:

1. He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and he has brought us into the kingdom of light – notice that darkness has dominion, it’s a real kingdom. Never pretend that Satan doesn’t have power – he does have power. His power initially came from God his only source of power but in his wickedness and his rebellion he has turned it and used it against God and against Gods people but through the death of Jesus on the cross we’ve been delivered from that whole evil dominion of darkness, the kingdom of Satan, and we have been brought into the kingdom of light, the kingdom of Gods son, Jesus Christ. There has been a total transition, we have to see that. Effected through the cross we’ve been delivered from the kingdom of darkness and we’ve been carried over into the kingdom of light. We are no longer under Satan’s dominion rather we are in a kingdom that has dominion over Satan for the scripture says that Gods kingdom rules over all.
2. Once we have been delivered from this dominion of darkness and once we become citizens of the kingdom of God then God sends us forth as his representatives, as his army, to administer the victory of Jesus over Satan. Jesus won the victory but God leaves it to us through faith to understand the victory that Jesus has won and then to administer it, to exercise authority over Satan. We have been translated, delivered from the dominion of darkness. We’re in the kingdom of God. We have the authority of Gods kingdom vested in us.

OUR WEAPONS ARE SPIRITUAL:

Since our warfare is spiritual, our weapons have to correspond. Physical, material weapons, armaments, guns, tanks, all these things are of no avail in this spiritual warfare.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, ***“the weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ”***

- Our weapons are *divinely powerful*, they have the power of God himself in them and they enable us to destroy Satan’s strongholds. Please note that the Bible does not picture us as on the defensive but on the *attack*. We are not cowering behind our fortresses wondering what Satan can do against us, we are out on the attack, attacking Satan’s strongholds.

- Wherever Satan raises a stronghold, something proud, something arrogant and self-assertive, asserting his kingdom and his claims, that's where we move against him with the weapons that God has given us and we destroy these strongholds

We'll focus now on what I believe to be the most powerful of all God's powerful weapons at our disposal and I say this not only on the basis of scripture but on the basis of my own personal experience over and over again.

Revelation 12: 10-11, ***"then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: 'now have come the salvation and power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them day and night, has been hurled down. 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'"***

That's a picture of total, final victory by believers over Satan and his kingdom. Notice it's the *believers* who won the victory. I personally believe that total final victory has not yet been achieved. I believe it's ahead in the future and I believe it will be totally achieved but in the meanwhile we are advancing stronghold by stronghold against Satan and his kingdom. And there in that description of the victory we see this marvelous display of weapons that brought the victory.

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"

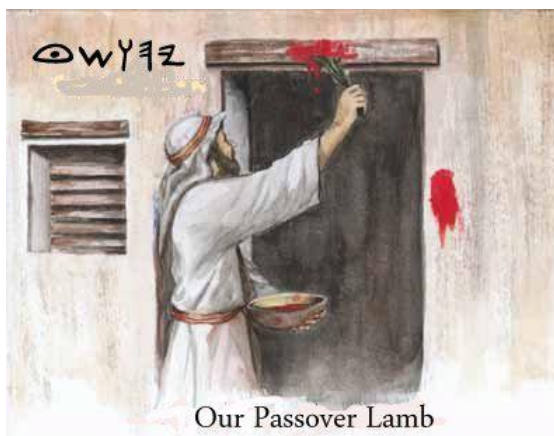
1. *They triumphed over him* – 'they' is the believers, 'him' is Satan. In other words there is a direct conflict with believers on one hand, Satan on the other. Believers confront Satan directly and personally
2. It speaks of total commitment. It says 'they' (the overcoming believers), did not *love their lives so much as to shrink from death.*" That's essential. It's only the totally committed who have the authority to wield these weapons.

It's like a soldier serving in an army, he does not serve with the reservation that he must stay alive. He's prepared, if need be, to lay down his life and that's the same kind of commitment that we have to make in this war against Satan.

AND THEN NOTICE THE WEAPONS:

1. the blood of the Lamb,
2. the word of God and
3. the testimony of believers

THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB AND HOW TO APPLY IT



Exodus 12: 21-23, ***“then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, “go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. Take a bunch of hyssop, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down”***

The entire protection of Israel centered in the lamb that was to be slaughtered and its blood. The only way of protection was through the blood of the Passover lamb. But God was very specific. The blood had to be transferred from the receptacle to the place where protection is needed, the home of that father. And it had to be applied to the entrance of that home, the lintel and the two side posts and only when the blood was applied visibly was protection ensured for those in the home, provided that they remained in the home - that is, behind the blood.

Now, to get the blood from the receptacle to the doorpost, there was only one means provided and that was ‘hyssop’, a little plant that grows very commonly throughout the Middle East. So you see hyssop was a very humble thing but without it the lamb would have been slain in vain and no protection would have been provided for that Israelite family.

Now, in the New Testament, God has given us something which corresponds to the hyssop with which we apply the blood of Jesus and thus avail ourselves of the total protection and provision which is ours through the blood.

Study No. 3 – REDEMPTION AND FORGIVENESS



WHAT IT MEANS TO US TO EXERCISE THE AUTHORITY GIVEN US TO AVAIL OURSELVES OF THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB:

The New Testament shows us clearly that the Passover Lamb was a picture of Jesus, the Lamb of God. All that was typically revealed about the Passover Lamb was actually fulfilled by Jesus and his death on the cross.

John 1:29, ***“he next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”***

John, by revelation, pointed out to the people of his time, Jesus as the ‘Lamb of God’ who takes away the sin of the world. Every Israelite who heard that phrase the ‘Lamb of God’ was immediately reminded because of his background and his tradition of that unique, sacred ceremony of the Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7, ***“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.”***

That’s a fact of history. When Jesus died on the cross, he was the Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world. He was the Passover Lamb who was slain that by his blood, protection and *total* victory might be made available to all the people of God

LET’S SEE HOW EXACTLY IT APPLIES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT PATTERN:

In the Old Testament ceremony the blood of the lamb had to be shed and it had to be caught into a receptacle. There it was, in the basin and available but the blood in the basin actually protected no Israelite home or family. For protection, the blood had to be transferred from the basin to the home, to the place where the person lived, to the place where the protection was needed and there was only one way to do that, with a little bunch of hyssop. The father dipped the hyssop in the blood in the basin and then sprinkled it on the two door posts and on the lintel. Now, the same principle applies in availing ourselves of the blood of Jesus, the Passover Lamb who’s been slain on our behalf. His blood *has been* shed and through it protection and total victory are made available to all Gods people. But in terms of the pattern of the Passover, the blood of Jesus shed on the cross is, as it were, in the basin. It’s there, it’s available, it will do everything we need but in order to enjoy the protection and the victory made available to us through the blood we have to transfer the blood to our own lives, to the place where we

live. We've got to apply it *personally*. Now in the Passover lamb ceremony they used a bunch of hyssop. Obviously we don't do that but God has provided something for us that just as real and just as effective as the hyssop.

Revelation 12: 11, ***"They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony"***

Let me share with you now one of the most precious truths that God has ever revealed to me, one of the most effective in my own life. It's this:

In order to transfer the blood of Jesus to the place where we need protection and victory we do not use hyssop, but we use our personal testimony. Our testimony in the New Testament takes the place of the hyssop in the Old and so we transfer the blood of Jesus to our lives when we testify personally to what the word of God says the blood of Jesus does for us.

We overcome Satan when we testify personally to what the word of God says the blood of Jesus does for us. It's our testimony that's the hyssop that takes the blood of Jesus shed on the cross, made available, and applies it to our own lives

NOTICE AGAIN THE WEAPONS THAT WHEN PUT TOGETHER BRING *TOTAL VICTORY*:

4. the blood of the Lamb,
5. the word of God and
6. our own personal testimony

Now, the blood of the Lamb, since Jesus was slain, is always there in the basin. It's *always* available. The word of God never changes, it's unvarying. The only variable factor in that operation is our testimony. Our testimony corresponds to the hyssop. It's something simple, it's something available to everybody and yet it's crucial. Without the hyssop under the old covenant, the blood of the Passover lamb did nothing for anybody. It was available but it was ineffective. Likewise, in the New Covenant, without our testimony, the blood of Christ is available, everything we ever need is contained in the blood, all its provisions are revealed through the word but it's our testimony and our testimony alone that makes all that effective.

SO, LISTEN CAREFULLY AGAIN: to overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony means that we use our personal testimony and with our personal testimony we say about the blood of Jesus what the word of God says. Everything that the word of God says that the blood of Jesus will do we say it is doing for us. And when we make it personal, when we state it boldly with our lips, when we affirm it before all the unseen world, when we say, 'this is what the word of God says the blood of Jesus does for me and its doing it right now' then that's the hyssop which takes the blood and makes it available to us and gives us total protection and victory through it.

NOW LET'S LOOK AT CERTAIN STATEMENTS IN SCRIPTURE ABOUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS:

Ephesians 1:7, ***"In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace"***

THERE ARE TWO THINGS WHICH ARE PROVIDED FOR US THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS:

1. Redemption
2. Forgiveness of sins

So through the blood of Jesus we are redeemed and our redemption is based on the fact that through the blood of Jesus our sins are forgiven. But in order to make them effective in our lives, we have to make the appropriate testimony. This is clearly brought out in regard to redemption in a verse in the Old Testament, Psalm 107:2, ***"Let the redeemed of the Lord tell their story—those he redeemed from the hand of the foe"***

So to make our redemption effective, we have to say so. We have to declare boldly, we have to make our personal testimony, 'I am redeemed from the hand of the enemy!' The enemy, of course, is Satan. Now we need to understand briefly what redemption is. Redemption is buying someone back. We were, as sinners, exposed in Satan's slave market, exposed for sale. We had no option, we had no choice. The grace and mercy of God is that Jesus walked into Satan's slave market and bought us back out of the hand of Satan with his own precious blood. Listen to what Peter says in 1 Peter 1:18-19, ***"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."***

Notice again the use of the word 'Lamb'. Jesus is compared to the Passover lamb and with his precious blood, we have been redeemed from the hand of the enemy because our sins have been forgiven.

Let's go back to Eph 1:7, it's the key to what we're speaking about right now, ***"In him [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace"***

So we make redemption and the forgiveness of sins effective through our personal testimony and now I'm going to show how to do it.

WE SAY IT LIKE THIS:

- **Through the blood of Jesus all my sins are forgiven**
- **Through the blood of Jesus I have been redeemed out of the hand of Satan**

That testimony, when we make it personally with our own lips is like the hyssop, it transfers the blood from the basin to the place where we need it, where we live.

So that's how we sprinkle the blood of Jesus. With our testimony we say out loud with our mouths what the word of God says the blood of Jesus does for us, that's the hyssop with which we take the blood of Jesus and sprinkle it over our lives.

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS I HAVE BEEN REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF SATAN

Study No. 4 - CLEANSING AND JUSTIFICATION

CLEANSING FROM SIN

1 John 1:7, *"if we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Christ, his son, cleanses us from all sin"*



Notice that the cleansing is conditional because there's an 'if' there, *if* we walk in the light

Then the first consequence is that we have fellowship one with another and the second result is the cleansing of the blood of Jesus. Now all those three verbs, 'walking', 'having fellowship', 'being cleansed' are in what we call, the 'continuous present tense', they are not things that just happen once, they are things that must go on continually. We must continually go on walking in the light and as we do so, we continue having fellowship with one another and as we continue walking in the light and having fellowship one with another, the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us. It's very important to see the conditions and the consequences otherwise we're in danger of deceiving ourselves. We can be laying claim to the cleansing of the blood of Jesus when actually we're not really being cleansed because we're not meeting the conditions.

I've summed it up sometimes by stating it this way, *'the blood of Jesus does not cleanse us in the dark, only as we walk in the light'* and the first test of whether we're walking in the light is if we're having fellowship one with another.

So, if we're not enjoying fellowship with our fellow believers and with the Lord, then we're not in the light and if we're not in the light, the blood of Jesus doesn't cleanse us.

Now, that raises a very important question, how do we walk in the light? I want to suggest to you two important basic conditions:

1. We must walk in obedience to the word of God. Psalm 119:105, says ***"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path."*** What we walk *with* is our feet, what we walk *on* is a path, and the word of God provides us with the light for our feet on the path. In other words, as walk in obedience to the word of God, that sheds the light on our feet and on our pathway and we are walking in the light but if we are not walking in obedience to the word of God, then we are not walking in the light. So the first requirement is obedience to the word of God.

2. Our relationship with our fellow believers we have fellowship one with another. This is summed up by Paul in Ephesians 4:15 ***“speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ.”*** There, walking in the light is relating to our fellow believers in truth and in love. We have to be honest, no hidden reservations, no suspicions, no jealousies. We have to be willing to speak the truth, to act out the truth in our relationship with one another but we have to do it in love. So, walking in the light consists in those two things put together – walking in obedience to the word of God and walking in truth and love with our fellow believers. **When we meet those conditions, then we can say with full assurance, the blood of Jesus *is* cleansing us from all sin.** It’s a continuing, on-going cleansing. We live in a polluted atmosphere that we’re very conscious of today but it’s not merely physical, in another sense, the spiritual atmosphere is polluted by sin and corruption and ungodliness and in order to be kept clean from all that pollution that surrounds us in the spiritual atmosphere, we need the continual, ever-present cleansing of the blood of Jesus. Now, having made sure that we are meeting the conditions of 1 John 1:7, we are in a condition to make the appropriate confession. It goes like this:

**AS I WALK IN THE LIGHT, THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS CLEANSING ME
NOW AND CONTINUALLY FROM ALL SIN**

If you believe that you have to start thanking God, and as you do that, you’re going to start feeling clean in a new way!

JUSTIFICATION:

Romans 5:8-9, ***“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him!”***

Notice the key phrase there, we have been justified by His blood. The best definition I have ever heard of that word ‘justified’ is this:

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS I AM JUSTIFIED, JUST-AS-IF-I’D-NEVER SINNED!

That’s being made *righteous*. How can we say that? Because when we’re made righteous by the blood of Jesus, we don’t receive our own righteousness, we receive *His* righteousness. And Jesus Christ never sinned.

Let me show you that in 2 Corinthians 5:21, ***“God made him who had no sin to be sin[a] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God”*** Notice the exchange - on the cross, Jesus became sin with our sinfulness, he received the penalty and judgment of our sin and paid the full price of redemption when He shed His blood.

Now, the exchange is, through faith in what Jesus did on our behalf on the cross, we become, in Him, [always notice that phrase *in Him*, it’s a key phrase, none of these provisions of the blood of Jesus operate unless they are through faith, in Christ] in Him, we become the righteousness of God. Not our own righteousness, not any kind of human righteousness but the very righteousness of God Himself. God has never *known* sin. He’s never been *touched* with sin. He’s never been *defiled* with sin. And *that’s* the righteousness that we receive through faith in the blood of Jesus.

So, I am, through the blood of Jesus, I am JUSTIFIED, made righteous with Gods righteousness, I become JUST-AS-IF-I'D-NEVER SINNED!

That's the answer to Satan's accusation. Remember, Satan's accusing us day and night continually before the throne of God. Why is he accusing us? Because he wants to prove us guilty. How can we overcome Satan accusations? This is the primary testimony that overcomes Satan's accusations -

Through the blood of Jesus, I am JUSTIFIED – made righteous, JUST-AS-IF-I'D-NEVER SINNED!

There's no guilt in that, there's no *room* for guilt! The kind of righteousness I see through faith in the blood of Jesus does not admit guilt. So I can stand before God without shame, without spot and I can answer Satan with total boldness, *"Satan, it's in vain for you to accuse me because I'm not meeting you in my own righteousness. I'm meeting you in the righteousness which I've received by faith in the blood of Jesus, the righteousness of God which is without spot, without sin, without stain"*

That's the testimony!

Through the blood of Jesus, I am JUSTIFIED – made righteous, JUST-AS-IF-I'D-NEVER SINNED!

It may be that as you begin to say these confessions out loud, you begin to feel a strange reaction, physical or emotional or something in your mind. Something seems to rise up and fight against it. I want you to know that if that happens, the enemy inside your walls has been revealed. That's the enemy fighting against you. The enemy has been laid bare by this testimony and you need to stand against him and go on until he's defeated and driven outside.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS:

1. THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN.
2. THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF THE DEVIL.
3. AS I WALK IN THE LIGHT, THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS CLEANSING ME NOW, AND CONTINUALLY, FROM ALL SIN.
4. THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM JUSTIFIED, MADE RIGHTEOUS, JUST-AS-IF-I'D NEVER SINNED

STUDY No.5 – SANCTIFICATION AND THE COMPLETE TESTIMONY



We've now come to see ourselves as Christians involved in a tremendous conflict that spans the whole universe, from heaven to earth. A conflict of God and the forces of good on the one hand and on the other hand, Satan and the forces of evil. We've seen Satan as the enemy, the adversary, the resistor, the one who opposes God, His purposes and His people. Who rules over a kingdom in the spirit world of fallen rebellious angels and does everything that he is able to do against the people of God, to frustrate us, to harm us and actually, to destroy us.

In the light of this revelation from scripture, we could easily become fearful or discouraged unless the scripture had also provided us with an unshakable basis for courage and for strong confidence. So let me give you some of the scriptures that are there to counterbalance this picture of evil and show us how we are designed to be victors and how we have all that is needed for victory supplied to us by God.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, ***"The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."***

Our spiritual weapons, supplied by God are divinely powerful. They are literally powerful *through* God. In other words, as we operate these weapons which God has given us in faith and in dependence upon God, the very power of God Himself is available to us through these weapons. So these weapons are divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. That is *Satan's* fortresses. Notice, we are not on the defensive, we're not wondering where Satan's going to strike us next but we are moving out on the attack. We're moving out against Satan's fortresses to destroy them with these spiritual weapons that we have been talking about in this study.

Then it says, *We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God*" Everything that opposes Gods knowledge, Gods purposes, Gods people. Wherever Satan has raised up a fortress, it's our responsibility, in God, with the weapons that God has supplied us with to come against these things and destroy them. We must not remain passive, we must not remain on the defensive. We've got to realize who we are in God, what God has supplied us with and then move out actively, in faith to attack.

You might say, “Well, I’m so weak, I’m so unworthy” Be careful how you use those words, because sometimes the Devil puts those words in your mouth. In a certain sense it’s true, you *are* weak but then look at these words of Paul in **1 Corinthians 27-28**,

“But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are”

So in a certain sense you are weak and unworthy but remember, in His infinite wisdom, God has chosen people of *that* kind, people just like you and me, to overthrow the things that are and that is primarily, Satan’s kingdom.

Our confidence, you see, is not in ourselves, but in our weapons and you remember the three weapons that we’ve been speaking about? The blood of Jesus, the word of God and our testimony. And we’ve applied that this way: **We overcome Satan when we testify personally to what the word of God says that the blood of Jesus does for us.**

SANCTIFICATION

To sanctify means to make holy. In the original language the word ‘sanctify’ is directly related to the word ‘holy’ and to make ‘holy’ means to set someone or something apart to God. A holy person is someone who is ‘set apart’ to God.

Let’s see what scripture says about how we are sanctified through the blood of Jesus:

Hebrews 13:12, ***“And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.”*** (In other words He was crucified outside the city) Why did He do that? That He might sanctify the people through His own blood. In other words,

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, WE ARE MADE HOLY, SET APART TO GOD!

So the testimony is:

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM SANCTIFIED, MADE HOLY, SET APART TO GOD

I’m sure that many of you have had awful problems thinking that you’ll never be holy no matter how hard you’d tried. See, just take the ‘hyssop’ of your testimony, dip it in the blood, and it will do its work!

Now go on with the consequences of your testimony:

THE DEVIL HAS NO PLACE IN ME, NO POWER OVER ME, NO UNSETTLED CLAIMS AGAINST ME.
--

<u>ALL</u> HAS BEEN SETTLED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS!

You have the *privilege* of repeating these proclamations. Do it aloud, do it in faith. Remember you're not just speaking to yourself or to an empty room, but you're speaking to the whole unseen world, infinite numbers of angels are watching on. God Himself, the devil himself, the holy angels, the evil angels, the demons, you're meeting all of them with this testimony, are you ready?

1. FORGIVENESS:

THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN

2. REDEMPTION:

**THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS I AM REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF THE
DEVIL**

3. CLEANSING:

**AS I WALK IN THE LIGHT, THE BLOOD OF JESUS IS CLEANSING ME NOW AND
CONTINUALLY FROM ALL SIN**

4. JUSTIFICATION:

**THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM JUSTIFIED, MADE RIGHTEOUS,
JUST-AS-IF-I'D-NEVER SINNED!**

5. SANCTIFICATION:

**THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM SANCTIFIED, MADE HOLY, SET APART TO
GOD**

**THE DEVIL HAS NO PLACE IN ME, NO POWER OVER ME, NO
UNSETTLED CLAIMS AGAINST ME.**

ALL HAS BEEN SETTLED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS!

Hebrews 12:22-24, ***“But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”***

You, the true believer have come to Mount Zion, that’s the heavenly Mount Zion. Spiritually, we have come there and it says we have come to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. One of the things in the heavenly Mount Zion is the blood of Jesus which was sprinkled in the Holy of Holies before the very presence of God on our behalf. He entered there as our forerunner, our representative having attained eternal redemption through His blood and He sprinkled the evidence of that redemption in the very presence of almighty God the Father and that sprinkled blood, speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Now there’s a very interesting and important contrast. You’ll remember that earlier on in human history, Cain murdered his brother Abel and then tried to disclaim responsibility. But the Lord challenged Cain and said, ‘how can you say you don’t know?’ He said, ‘the voice of your brother’s blood cries to Me from the ground.’ He said, ‘there’s no way you can conceal your guilt because the blood of your brother that you shed on the earth is crying out to Me for vengeance.’

Now, compare that with the blood of Jesus sprinkled in heaven. The blood of Jesus, sprinkled in heaven doesn’t cry out for vengeance, it cries out for mercy. It’s a continual plea in the very presence of God for God’s mercy.

Contrast the two:

<p>the blood of <u>Abel</u>, shed on the earth cried out for <u>vengeance</u>.</p>
<p>The blood of <u>Jesus</u>, sprinkled in heaven, cries out for <u>mercy</u></p>

The writer of Hebrews says, *“The sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.”*

I want you to see that, once we’ve testified to the blood of Jesus, once we’ve made our own personal testimony, we don’t have to keep on repeating these words every five minutes because the blood of Jesus is speaking all the time in the very presence of God on our behalf.

Every time you’re troubled, tempted, fearful, anxious, just remind yourself:

‘the blood of Jesus is speaking in God’s presence on my behalf, right now!’