

DELIVERED FROM DECEITFUL 'SELF' NATURE **(VIA CLEANSING POWER OF JESUS' BLOOD)**

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(Rom.6:10-11)...

"Death has no longer any power over Him. For by the death which He died He became, once for all, dead in relation to sin; but by the life which He now lives He is alive in relation to God. In the same way, you also must regard yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus."

(We must believe God's Word that the atoning Blood of Jesus Christ is the power that delivers us from a sinful, deceitful nature in our heart (for that belief in Jesus' Blood) is the only way we can be delivered from it, be filled with righteousness that comes from God, and be prepared for Eternal Life).

We do not clearly understand that we have to take our pardon and the cleansing of our heart by faith, when we first start out in the Christian life. Rather, we go by things we see and what we think that we feel in our heart, while God's Word means very little to us. However, if we will believe and accept God's Word that we are to repent, confess and forsake our sins to be forgiven, and then act on God's Word by making a final surrender of our life to Him), .. then the Holy Spirit can take control of our life. God will begin to guide and teach us just as fast as we allow Him to do so (until He brings us to know and understand God's Word just as it is written). No other knowledge on earth could be more valuable to us, than to have that clear knowledge of God and His Word.

As we learn more about God, come to know Him better, and He enables us to understand why He sent His Son to take our place on the Cross to die in our place (and what His Atoning Sacrifice accomplished for us), then we will want to turn only to God in every circumstance of our life. That means nothing more nor less than to be depending fully on God without compromising our faith.

Each time we consider and read God's Word we should receive new 'spiritual light' from it. As it becomes more plain and clear it will also become more valuable to us, and it will bring greater results of answered prayer and victory in our life of faith on God's Word, and on the power of the atoning Blood sacrifice of God's Son (which supports His Word and every Promise that He has given us). We will be taught by God's Spirit what it takes to become a true Christian.

The first step in beginning the Christian life, is called a new birth, which is to confess and forsake sins and be born again of the Spirit, so the Spirit can remove the self-nature from our heart and replace it with a divine nature. We (each individual) can make that freewill choice to confess and repent of sins and be willing to be led and trained by God. Our willingness is what allows His Spirit to take control of us, so God is looking for a repentant and willing heart within a person. That willingness will allow Him to teach them, and

to lead them under His care. Jesus said (Matt.23:37) "How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

When we have sincerely repented and made final surrender of our life to God, only then can we be taught by the Spirit what Jesus' shed Blood really means to true believers. We learn that His Atonement Blood includes pardon, cleansing, and forgiveness (as promised 1 John 1:9), for those who will confess sin and unbelief. That is what Jesus' cleansing Blood does for a truly surrendered person. What that really means is, that we are given a clean heart so that we can make a new and right start in the true Christian life, which is the absolutely necessary foundation for a successful Christian life. Satan can easily deceive and rob anyone who does not have a clean heart.

However, when we have sincerely repented and made full surrender of our life to God, to receive His promised Holy Spirit. Then we are in a position to learn from Him, how to obey His Word, and learn how to trust on God instead of trusting on man and his plans and policies (all of which will misplace a person's trust).

There are lessons that everyone must learn in order to get delivered from their problems, and to have the Christ-life developed within themselves. If they want to get real knowledge of who God really is, be prepared to get to Heaven, and have the things they desire in this life, it will have to come through learning these spiritual lessons of trust. The first is to learn to do as God's Word says in every circumstance of life, which means nothing more nor less than to depend fully on God without compromise (and that is the second lesson to be learned).

Scripture tells us that God is a jealous God, and we will soon learn that we can't go half-way with our trust on Him, while at the same time we have some other place of trust to fall back on. We burn that bridge to self-trust, and we cannot leave an unburned plank on that bridge by which we would return to trusting on self or someone other than God. A compromising (wavering) faith, will not receive answers to prayer. (James 1:6-8) "But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does." (Wey. says) "undecided in every step he takes."

It is through steadfast faith that we learn what it means to be under the Blood of Jesus Christ (the real Passover Lamb of God), and that being the only merit we need to make our claim for deliverance from the hidden nature of self and Satan, also, to be victorious in the prayer life. We must place ourselves in faith under Jesus' Blood!

Abel had no merit in himself for slaying a lamb from his flock and offering it as a sacrifice to God, but all the merit was in the blood sacrifice which brought about his forgiveness for a sinful nature that he had inherited from Adam (his father). (Hebr.11:4) "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous."

God didn't say that anything in Abel was more excellent than Cain, rather, the blood-sacrifice he offered was more excellent than Cain's offering of the first fruits from his grain harvest (of which there was no shedding of blood). Under the law (Hebr.9:22 explains) that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness," therefore, Cain's offering was not acceptable to obtain forgiveness and freedom from the sinful nature in his heart (which is something that is in everyone born since Adam, and it must be removed through one's faith on the Blood sacrifice of the Son of God).

When the Bible says, "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous", that meant he was forgiven and delivered from that sinful nature and was made righteous by the power of God. Again, there was no merit in Abel's actions. The merit for his forgiveness was in the blood sacrifice that he offered to God.

That is what the atoning shed Blood of Christ should mean to each one of us today. Through our believing faith on the power of His Blood sacrifice and the power of His resurrection, we will have the sinful nature removed from our heart and will be made righteous and kept righteous by the power of God. (1 Pet. 1:3-5) "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time." (As is your faith, so be it unto you, Jesus said).

Each one of us must believe that Jesus Christ made a perfect and eternal sacrifice for us (one that we cannot improve on). We just have to believe on the power of that sacrifice of His life on our behalf (to be delivered from the sinful nature, and to be enabled by faith to enter into every benefit that a true believer stands to inherit from that offering). (As said before) "no other knowledge on earth could be more valuable to us than to have that kind of knowledge and understanding of God and His Word, to be enabled to realize what Christ's Atonement Sacrifice accomplished for us, then we will want to turn only to God in every circumstance of our life." Only the Holy Spirit enables us to realize that, after we have repented and made final surrender to do God's will in our life. God wants to remove the sinful nature from our heart if we will deny self and allow God to do that.

When the Bible says (Gen. 4:4) "And the Lord respected Abel and his offering," what God was saying to Abel in reality, was that 'this lamb's death is going to be your death, and I will accept it as if you had died. You are delivered from sin through the blood of this lamb, forgiven and cleansed, and filled with my righteousness. Now you are the same as if your father (Adam) had not fallen into sin, and as if you had no evil nature in you. [That is what the Atonement Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ should mean to each one of us.]

It became quite obvious however, that Cain was not delivered from that evil nature he was born with, because he became angry and sullen, did not repent it, and he eventually murdered his own brother. (Cain had not put himself under a blood sacrifice.)

Each one of us must be willing to listen to what God's Word is telling us about what His Son accomplished, and we must believe that Jesus Christ made a perfect and eternal sacrifice for us (one that we cannot improve on). We have to believe on the power of that sacrifice of Jesus' life on our behalf (to be delivered from the sinful nature which must be removed from our heart) and be enabled by faith to enter into every benefit that a believer stands to inherit from that offering). We are not delivered from a sinful evil nature because of some good deeds on our part, rather, our good actions come as a result of being guided by a divine nature instilled in us, after we surrender self and allow the Holy Spirit to remove the sinful nature from us.

The 10th. chapter of Acts gives us a very clear story that follows up exactly what God said concerning Abel's blood sacrifice. It is about a Centurion named Cornelius, and that he feared God, prayed to Him always, and gave alms to the people. Yet he was still unsaved and on the way to the Lake of Fire, because despite all the good things that he did, he had not yet learned that he must place himself under the Blood of Christ and claim his deliverance from the sinful nature in his heart. He had not yet been cleansed, forgiven, and freed from the iniquity of a life of self, that desperately wicked deceitfulness in our heart (which God warned us all about through Jeremiah. "Thus says the Lord" (Jere.17:9) "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it?"

The devil wanted to use good outward actions on the part of Cornelius, to keep his inward sinful nature covered up, so that he did not know that it was still in his heart. The devil did not care how much Cornelius feared God, just so he still had an evil nature in his heart, because the devil knew that it would take Cornelius to the Lake of Fire blindfolded. Anybody who dies with that sinful nature of dependance on 'self-righteousness' still in their heart, will go unrepentant to the Lake of Fire just as Judas Iscariot did. (Luke 18:17) "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, will by no means enter it."

However, God saw in Cornelius, a man who had a willingness in his heart to listen, and to be open-minded to hear God's Word without bias. If there ever was a place that we ought to be open-minded and willing to learn, it is where our eternal interests are involved. God saw that willingness, and He sent an angel from Heaven to give light to Cornelius that he needed. God will do that for any willing soul He sees (for He does not want any soul to perish, but for all to repent). The angel said(Acts 10:5-6) "Now send men to Joppa and send for Simon whose surname is Peter. "He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea. He will tell you what you must do." (In other words, you must believe on the Atonement Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, to have self-righteousness removed from your heart, by faith.)

When Cornelius met Peter, he told him that an angel had told him to send for him, and "When he comes, he will speak to you." (Acts 10:33) "So I sent to you immediately, and you have done well to come. Now therefore, we are all present before God, to hear all the things commanded you by 'God'." Meaning, he was willing to listen to what God told Peter to say to him, and that is all that God asks of anybody.

We don't know if he thought that Peter would tell him to give more to the poor, or to pray more often, but Cornelius was ready and willing to listen to the Word of God (through Peter).

We should take notice that Peter did not tell Cornelius to do one more thing from the sinful nature of the self-life that was still in his heart. Instead, Peter ignored what he had been told about Cornelius' fear of God, his giving of alms, and making daily prayers. Peter told him about someone else, about Jesus Christ, and of "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for 'God' was with Him." (Acts 10:38),

Peter explained (Vs.40-43), that this was He "whom they(the Jews) killed by hanging on a tree." "Him God raised up on the third day and showed Him openly." "And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead." "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission (forgiveness) of sins."

In other words, whoever truly accepted Jesus, would receive righteousness through what He (Jesus) had done, instead of anything they had done. Since Cornelius and his household were open-minded and had a willingness in their heart to believe the Word of God (vs.44 says), "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word." That nature of sin and self disappeared, and the Holy Spirit took possession of them. They now had to simply believe God's Word that they were cleansed, forgiven, and delivered by the Blood of Jesus Christ, from that sinful nature.

(Rom.6:1-4 explains a true believer's position under the Blood of Christ very clearly), "To what conclusion, then, shall we come? Are we to persist in sinning in order that the grace extended to us may be the greater? No, indeed; how shall we who have died to sin, live in it any longer? And do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Well, then, we by our baptism were buried with Him in death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from among the dead by the Father's glorious power, we also should live an entirely new life."

We must believe that our sinful self-nature was nailed to the Cross with Jesus, because that is what God's Word tells us, (vs.6) "This we know--that our old self was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our sinful nature might be deprived of its power, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin;". That tells us that Jesus' shed Blood frees us from the desire to sin, when we have confessed and forsaken the sins of self from our life, as we follow God's divine

order and plan to repent, be baptized, and receive the Holy Spirit, Who will remove self-life, so that He can dwell in our heart and lead us (by faith) to Eternal Life.

(Rom. 6:10-11) "Death has no longer any power over Him. For by the death which He died He became, once for all, dead in relation to sin; but by the life which He now lives He is alive in relation to God. In the same way you also must regard your-selves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus."

That is what the Atonement Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ means to true believers, who surrender themselves to do His will."

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

S317R SOME MAIN POINTS:...

1... Only the Holy Spirit can enable a person to fully comprehend what the Atonement Blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ accomplished for them on the Cross. We cannot over-estimate the importance of a sincere and final surrender of our life to God, in order to receive the Holy Spirit, (and be kept by God through faith on the Blood of Christ). Only He can remove the evil nature of 'self' from our heart (through our faith on His atonement Blood).

2... The Holy Spirit and the evil self-nature cannot dwell together in our heart. We must allow our God to cleanse our heart of 'self', so that He alone can dwell there to guide us along the pathway of righteousness. (The example of the conviction of Cornelius' is used in the message, to portray the difference between God's righteousness (and self-righteousness)).

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