

THE MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE

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To believe the Word of God and accept what God says about the Blood shed for us on the Cross, opens the door for God's entire power to work for us. It delivers us from all problems and difficulties of the world, from all sickness, disease, aches, and pains of every kind.

As long as the devil can get us to listen to his thoughts and suggestions, he will get our eyes off God's Word and the great work done for us on Calvary's Cross. If we don't reject those thoughts, we will not receive anything our Great Savior died to give us and lose out eternally.

There are three enemies that are great hindrances to receiving the rich blessings provided for us by Jesus Christ dying on the Cross. These three enemies, sight, feeling, and the suggestions of the devil filling our minds, must all be gotten rid of.

In our early Christian life, we were always susceptible to the suggestions of the devil, and always wanted to see and feel before we would believe and receive.

If we start feeling a little uncomfortable, and not feeling just right, Satan likes to start with his little thoughts and suggestions. "You know you're not feeling well, they are serious symptoms you have, and your faith isn't strong, you know that you might not make it." Then he gives his reasons why God can't deliver this kind of oppression. But, when we come to the Word, we find it completely different. Mark 11:24, "Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye

desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." Our part—BELIEVE.

And again, we find it in John 16:23, "And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." Right there in those two verses we have it, ASK, BELIEVE, AND RECEIVE.

There is no trouble, sin or sickness that is too hard for God. We must lay aside all sight and feeling and accept what God's Word says about the work of His Son on the Cross and then receive whatever deliverance we desire.

Abel was willing to receive his deliverance through the Word of God without one particle of sight or feeling. Hebrews 11:4, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh."

We can receive the same deliverance when we are willing to receive His testimony through the bare Word of God, as Abel did. Abel brought the blood of a little lamb. Cain brought the fruit of the ground. God could not accept the fruit of the ground because it was entirely accomplished by human works, and secondly, there was no blood involved. Without the blood, there is sufficient reason for his offering to be rejected.

Abel brought a little lamb and shed his blood. There was a death, and blood was shed. That little lamb was a type of Jesus Christ, and God accepted him and his offering.

The Book of Hebrews brings this out clearly how the blood of that little lamb, being a type of Jesus Christ, became effectual in making him righteous. If Abel had rejected the testimony about the blood, he would never have been made righteous, nor would he be in Heaven today.

It was the blood that made it the 'more excellent' sacrifice, a symbol of Jesus Christ's

shed Blood. It does not say that one man was any better than the other, but there was a world of difference in their offerings. One was a blood sacrifice and the other the work of human hands, and bloodless.

There are many bloodless religions in the world today that are going the way of Cain. We may think it terrible when we think about Cain being a murderer, but there are more people going the way of Cain than we can imagine. Anyone trying to justify themselves by their good works, and not having God's righteousness, is not depending on the Blood of Christ, and going the way of Cain.

Hebrews 11:4, says, "God testifying of his gifts;" the blood of that little lamb being just an emblem of the real Passover Lamb, God's Gift. Since Abel sacrificed that lamb and his blood was shed, God said to Abel, "You are now restored to the place from where your father Adam fell, your sins are forgiven, your heart is cleansed, and you are filled with the Holy Spirit."

Suppose Abel gave in to the thoughts of the devil—"I don't feel any different, I don't see any change." If Abel had given in to those thoughts, we would have never heard of him being made righteous. But Abel accepted it and believed that he was as truly righteous as God said he was.

We must accept and believe it too; it has been promised to us in 1st John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

That is exactly the same today; God does not forgive because we confess, it is nothing in us, but it is all because Jesus Christ has already provided the pardon and cleansing through His Shed Blood. That Word means the same to us today as God's Word meant to Abel.

When we have confessed our sins, we are to believe that through the Blood of Christ, and on

the authority of that Word, our sins are forgiven and cleansed, our heart is really pure, and sin will not be able to overcome us.

We will be tempted and tried but not overcome unless Satan gets us to go by sight and feeling or by what he suggests to our mind, (those three enemies from the devil) Then we will naturally fall and find ourselves saying and doing things that we know are not right and start to meet hard and mean things said or done to us in a way contrary to God's will and Word.

God cannot help us as long as we are believing the thoughts that Satan puts into our minds. All we will get will be Satan's trouble, but by believing what God says about the work of His Son on the Cross, we will receive His righteousness and blessing.

Then we will be in a position to present these lives to God as a living sacrifice, to be willing for Him to have His way and will in our life; then we will become holy and acceptable to Him.

The blood on the doorposts and lintels, down in the land of Egypt, on that Passover Night, was the same as the blood of the little lamb that Abel sacrificed, an emblem of the Blood of Jesus. The children of Israel were being terribly oppressed by the Egyptians and God sent Moses to deliver them.

After putting plague after plague on the land of Egypt, God told Moses that He was going to bring one more and final plague on the land. Exodus 11:4-6, "*Thus saith the LORD, About midnight will I go out into the midst of Egypt: And all the firstborn in the land of Egypt shall die, from the firstborn of Pharaoh that sitteth upon his throne, even unto the firstborn of the maidservant that is behind the mill; and all the firstborn of beasts. And there shall be a great cry throughout all the land of Egypt, such as there was none like it, nor shall be like it any more.*"

Then God told the children of Israel how they would be protected from this terrible plague. They were to take a lamb without spot or blemish, that would represent the 'Spotless Lamb of God', kill it and take of the blood, and strike it on the two sideposts and the upper doorpost of the houses wherein they were to eat it, and when the pestilence would go through the land, it will not be able to touch them.

The blood of that little lamb was a token of protection, for all the Israelites, as well as for healing of every sickness and disease that any of them may have been suffering with. Exodus 12:13, "*And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt.*"

God did not say, "When I see how much faith you have," or, "When I see how righteous you are or how you pray," He didn't say that at all. What God did say was, "When I see the blood, I will pass over you." It is very important for us to see that it was the blood of that lamb, which was a type of the Blood of Jesus Christ, that God considered and not any merit in them.

He said they would be thrust out of the land of Egypt, they would be set free and not only protected but set entirely free from any sickness, disease, all poverty, and free from all bondage.

Every person that night was in perfect health; everyone was healed through the blood of that lamb on the door. They received their deliverance by listening to and believing the Word of God, because the blood was shed for them that night. They were told, Exodus 12:11, "*And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD'S Passover.*"

That meant that they were to be ready for a long journey. Everyone was to be in perfect

health. No doubt many of them were suffering from some sort of sickness or disease, but God told them to be ready and to eat the Passover in haste.

You can be sure, with the multitude of people as there was, that there were some that were too weak to even get out of bed, or some that couldn't stand a mouthful of food, could barely walk. They didn't have to wonder how they were going to get delivered because they were told that they were already delivered.

Now if the children of Israel had refused to eat that meal and to get out of bed and get dressed, if they had refused to act like well persons, that blood would have meant nothing at all, they would have remained weak and sickly, unable to go.

To refuse to accept the testimony about the Blood will nullify its power at once. But they accepted it and by acting like perfectly well people, they found God's power right there to make them perfectly well and strong, ready for a long journey.

All this time there was no word from Pharaoh or his officials that they were to go, but God told them that when the blood of the lamb was put on the doors, it was a token of deliverance from the bondage of sin, sickness, hard working conditions, and poverty; and they believed and acted on that word, with this result; "He brought them forth also with silver and gold, and there was not one feeble person among their tribes."

Wasn't that some result? All through the blood of a little lamb.



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