

## **Touching Heaven – Touching Earth**

### **Tuesday morning bible study on prayer with Cindy Smith**

**April 15, 2008 Session 6**

Now I would like to share some things I learned from an Elijah list teaching about the power of the blood of Jesus that our faith rests on. It's where we get the authority in prayer, when we intimately come to know what Jesus gave to us when He spilled his blood for us. I call this the "777 teaching" There 7 ways that Jesus shed his blood for us. The blood was sprinkled on the OT altar 7 times and there are 7 effects of the blood upon us.

#### **Jesus shed His blood 7 ways:**

- 1) And being in agony He was praying very fervently and His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. (Luke 22:44)
- 2) Jesus own testimony of who He was convicted Him and so the high priest sentenced Him to death and had his servants strike him with their fists and with the rod. (Matt 26:63-64)
- 3) "I gave my back to those who strike me, and my cheeks to those who pluck out my beard, I did not cover my face from humiliation and spitting."  
(Isa 50:5-6)
- 4) "Then he released Barabbas to them and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered him to be crucified." (Ps 129:1-3, Isa 50:6)
- 5) "And when they platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and gave Him a reed in His right hand, and they bowed the knee before Him, saying: 'Hail, King of the Jews'." (Matt 27:29)
- 6) "And they crucified Him' piercing his hands and feet with nails. (Matt 27:35)
- 7) "But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and from there came blood and water. (John 19:34)

We see in Lev 16:19 "and with his finger he shall sprinkle some of the blood on it seven times, and cleanse it, and from the impurities of the sons of Israel consecrate it." We had the perfect Passover Lamb give His perfect blood for us. We have the blood that speaks before the altar in heaven. Some supporting Scriptures for this are in Heb 12:22-24, Gen 4:9-10 and Lev 17:11.

#### **Here are 7 things the blood of Jesus does for us besides causing us to overcome:**

- 1) **Forgiveness** Heb 9:22: All things are cleansed with the blood and without the shedding of blood, there can be no forgiveness."
- 2) **Cleansing.** I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin."
- 3) **Redemption** Eph 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."
- 4) **Justification.** Rom 5:0 "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him."
- 5) **Sanctification.** Heb 13:12 "Jesus also, that He might sanctify His people through His own blood, suffered at the gate.
- 6) **Peace.** Col 1:20 "And having made peace through the blood of the cross, by Him to reconcile all things to Himself; by Him, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."
- 7) **Access.** Heb 10:19 "Since therefore brother, we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus.

**As it says in Revelations we will overcome by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony.**

Now for some common question and hopefully some answers regarding healing:

I will refer to Beth Jones study on

### Getting a Grip on the Basics of Health and Healing

#### **A. Isn't God sovereign when it comes to health and healing?**

We absolutely believe that God is sovereign. He is Almighty God and above Him there is no other. When it comes to healing we certainly believe that God can and does initiate healing in people's lives supernaturally and sovereignly at times. Through the gifts of the Spirit God may heal an individual who doesn't even believe in healing. We see examples of God's healing power throughout the Scriptures.

While we believe in God's sovereignty when it comes to some cases of healing, we do not believe that all healing occurs as a sovereign act of God. We see throughout the Scriptures that a believer can initiate his own healing by faith. This idea has been lost with the overemphasis on God's sovereignty.

There is a train of thought on the sovereignty of God that goes something like this: "We are to accept anything that comes into our lives whether good or bad because it has already gone through God's big filter and He has placed His stamp of approval on it. Therefore if believers are attacked with sickness or disease, they are to humbly accept it as God's will for them because it received His stamp of approval before it reached their bodies." The Bible does not teach this as we will see in Scriptures.

We certainly believe that God is sovereign and almighty and we trust in His providential care. For example, where God's will for our personal lives is concerned, He has foreordained good works in His sovereignty for each of us to walk in however in doctrines, where He has already stated His will in His word, He will not violate Himself by performing sovereign acts contrary to His written Word.

Oftentimes when praying for healing, people will use these words: "Lord, heal me if it be Thy will." They think that by adding that phrase, "if it be Thy will" to their prayer, they give God the option of exercising His sovereignty. After all, they reason, "God knows best. Maybe He wants us to be sick for some divine purpose." However, as we study the subject of healing, we find that actually, in His sovereignty, God has already stated throughout His Word that it His will to heal us of all

sickness and disease, therefore there is no need for us to pray: "if it be Thy will or leave ourselves in the hand of "sovereign fate" when it comes to healing. God has already bound Himself to His word and He has already declared His sovereign will.

**Review Deut 30:19.** You will notice throughout the Word of God that in most matters, God has given us the opportunity to choose. If things were left up entirely to His sovereign will, why would He give us any choice in these matters? What has God set before us? Choice! Will God sovereignly choose for us? Who has the responsibility for making the choice? As we study His word, we will see this as a constant theme, God never violates our free will. He gives us the right to choose life or death.

#### **B. Doesn't God use sickness to teach us or humble us?**

This is a common thought. But just take a moment to think on this reasoning. Consider this rationale in the parent-child relationship. What would you think of a father who injected his own child with a harmful, even deadly virus, or bacteria just to teach him something or to humble him? Do you think such a person is fit to be a parent? No in our world people like that are called child abusers and are sent to prison, yet somehow in our religious thinking, we have actually thought our Heavenly Father who is supposed to love us more than our earthly parents, would put some type of sickness upon us to teach us something or to humble us.

Another twist on this thought is that God chooses certain humble people to contract particular disease. Supposedly this is so they could be His spokesperson and show others how humbly they accept God's will. Due to a lack of knowledge of God's word, People have literally been robbed of their vitality and sometimes even their very lives by this kind of thinking.

Perhaps you have heard people say that God used a sickness or disease to get their attention or lead them to repentance or draw them closer to Himself. Maybe you have heard someone say, "Yes, I know God gave me this sickness or allowed me to get this disease because during my illness, He really got my attention. Now that I am closer to the Lord than ever before, I know He has some divine reason for it." It may well be that God got that person's attention while he was sick. Usually when we are ill, repent for any wrongdoing and look to God for help. Naturally when lying on a sick bed, a person could get closer to the Lord, but could that person have gotten close to the Lord while he was well? Of course.

The decision to draw near to God is ours to make at any time. God wants all His children to be close to Him all the time. The Lord can take any situation and help us draw near to Him, but He isn't deliberately using sickness or disease to lead us to repentance or draw us closer to Him.

Again imagine a mother or father using this type of tactic to get their child's love and affection. That would be similar to a parent controlling or manipulating a child's behavior through some perverted means. God is not in the business of controlling or manipulating us to teach us, to humble us, to get our attention or draw us to Him. Read 2 Tim 3:16, James 4:10 and 1 Pet 5:6, James 4:6 and I Peter 5:5 and Matthew 7:11, James 1 :17 and Rom 2:4.

How does teach us? According to these verses, who humbles us? Does God give sickness to the humble? What does God give to the humble? What type of gifts does the Father give? Would you consider sickness or disease a perfect gift? In other words if someone wrapped up a wretched disease and gave it to you, would that be a perfect gift from a perfect Father? What does the Lord give to lead us to repentance?

The last question had to do with Lot which we will answer next week..