

THE BLOOD COVENANT

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1. THE POWER OF THE BLOOD

A covenant is one of the most important acts that God makes with His people. We need to understand why God should make a covenant with His people. It all began when Adam and Eve fell into sin. See God has a certain pattern by which He works.

Even though God loves us, even though God has feelings for us, even though God wants to bless us more than we want to receive His blessings, do you realize that God can't do something because He needs the Blood? We take it for granted that many times that just because God loves us He will do things for us. But God is not like man. God has certain set laws that He must abide by. In this life sometimes between brothers and sisters and because of flesh and blood ties help is given, whether illegally or legally. But with God He always have to work through the law. No matter how much He wants to help us, how much He desires to help us He can't unless there is some sort of legality to the transaction.

Lets look at Gen. 3. We see the fall of man and God has pronounced the various judgments. Lets look at verse 22 "Behold, the man has become like one of us; and now, lest he knowing good and evil, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the Garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the Garden of Eden He placed the cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

In other words man has knowledge of evil. Before man fell he only has knowledge of good. God has knowledge of good and evil and He remains good. Man before the fall only has knowledge of good. Now man had knowledge of good and evil and man is evil. Have you noticed among the many reasons why God has to send man out of the garden is the fact that God said in his evil condition, in his fallen state, if he partake of the tree of life he is doomed forever. He will destroy himself permanently. He has already destroyed himself but there is still a possibility of redemption in Christ.

Was God against man taking of the tree of life? He was not. If Adam had partaken of the tree of life before he fell it would have been all right. The only tree that God did not permit them to eat was the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Notice that He never said that he couldn't eat of the tree of life before he fell. He was permitted to. He was allowed to take of the tree of life. We know that life is light in John chapter one. And life is wisdom and knowledge. What we want to make clear this morning is that God was not against man partaking of the tree of life. The tree of life was among the many blessings that God has for Adam and Eve.

But the moment Adam and Eve fell into sin and their nature was changed they became evil. God stopped them from receiving some of those blessings. Why did God stop them? Because God knew that those blessings once upon a time would have brought blessings but now can become a curse to them. If they had taken of the tree of life after they fell they would be cursed like the devil permanently and never more be saved. So the blessings had become a potential curse to them. And God prevented them from being further cursed.

How can a blessing become a curse? Let me give an example. If a person is by nature evil and is covetous and immoral, what would happen if you give that person more

money? That person would destroy himself more. Money by itself is not wrong. It is the love of money that is wrong. Lets see something that is neutral. Prosperity is a blessing from God that can become evil depending on the recipient. It is the recipient that causes whether good really ends up good. We know that many inventions that due to the creativity of man's mind have been used for evil. Those things could be used for God, the printing press, photography, internet; these are all neutral in themselves. They could be blessings of communications. But evil man uses them for pornography. The television is a wonderful tool but evil man uses it as a mean to propagate and control people's mind and influence them to greater sin and evil.

We see a truth here that what we receive depends very much on the condition of our being. For our own good God prevents us from having some blessing that might eventually destroy us. So here was a condition. Many times we only see the negative aspect, saying, "O man has sinned therefore he can not taste the things of God." We only see the negative aspect but we don't see the fact that God was actually protecting us.

It's just like a book I read in *The Spiritual World* written by Sadhu Sundar Singh. Sadhu Sundar Singh was seeing this open vision of the spiritual world and he saw good spirits and redeemed saints being brought to heaven. Then there was a man who didn't know Jesus and he died and he was evil by nature. He began to complain to the angels asking how come the others can go to heaven and why couldn't he go to heaven. He kept complaining that God was not fair. Finally when he complained long enough there was a voice that boomed from heaven saying, "Let him come in." The angel turned to that man who was in his evil state and said, "God gives you permission to enter heaven." The man who was unredeemed drew very casually to the gates of heaven and saw the glory there. And fear came on his life and he saw the great light that came from the throne of God. The angel very gently said, "Go nearer." When he took one glimpse of the glory of God, that light revealed such evil in his life that he felt uncomfortable.

It is just like some of us who are uncomfortable with dirty things. Do you realize that evil is uncomfortable in the presence of holiness? The opposite is true. He was so uncomfortable that he screamed and jumped right down into the lower part of darkness even lower than where he was supposed to be. Then the angel declared, "See how God is just. He permits all to come to Him but not all are able to stand in His presence."

Then came a revelation in my life I heard the Holy Spirit said, "Do you know the demons are uncomfortable with the goodness that is in your life?" We always think about us reacting to evil things. But do you realize that the opposite is true that they react to the loveliness in your life, and in your harmony and your peace in your life. As you step into any place the demons are reacting to us.

Here we settle the fact that the law works both ways. Good can not stand evil and evil can not stand good. They are both equal reactions. The next time you are thinking good things remember how repulsive it is to the devil. In other words you are very frightening to the devil when you are good. Do you know that you frighten the demons by holiness and by purity? Don't always think about the reverse about the devil frightening you. Think about how you frighten the devil. You frighten the devil

not only just by taking authority. Of course that really tortures him. But you have already frightened him by being pure.

Lets get back to Gen. 3:22 Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; now lest he put his hand and take and eat the tree of life and live forever. Therefore He says let us drive him out. The good has become dangerous to man. The blessings have become a potential force to destroy him further if he takes of this blessing. We come to this conclusion that the reason why God can't give us something and bless us some things in our lives is not because He is unwilling, is not because He doesn't want us to have it. It's because of our condition. The condition of our being prevents us from receiving what He wants for us. The tree of life belongs to us. But man was incapable of receiving it due to his condition.

In the book of Exodus for nearly 400 years the Israelites were suffering under the hands of the Egyptians. In Exodus 2:24 And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and with Jacob. God is a covenant keeping God. And the covenant is not just an option. It is the only way by which God will deal with your life. It doesn't matter whether you are Moses or an ordinary Israelite. If you don't have the covenant no matter how gifted you are or how talented you are it is not going to work for you.

I want to show forth this morning that the only reason why God works in our lives is because of the Blood covenant. It is not just an added blessing. It is the only way by which we can receive from Him. And the Lord's Supper is a symbolic act of that covenant that we have. With or without the Lord's Supper all that we are partaking is based on the teaching behind the Lord's Supper, behind the new covenant He has made with us. Even if you are called to be an apostle, pastor, evangelist, prophet or teacher or any office, or if you have great gifts from God like Bezalel or Oholiab God will only work with you only based on the covenant. God has dropped good gifts all over the world on uncovenanted people and covenanted people alike. But the reason for His intimate working in your life is His covenant.

After He spoke to Moses in Exodus chapter 3:6 "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Why should He call upon the name of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Because He is answering and coming to manifestation based on the covenant.

In chapter 4:18 Moses went back to Jethro his father-in-law and said to him "Let me go back, I pray to my kinsmen, and see whether they are still alive." And Jethro said to Moses, "Go in peace." And the Lord said to Moses in Midian, "Go back to Egypt; for all the men who were seeking your life are dead," So Moses took his wife and his sons and set them on an ass, and went back to the land of Egypt and in his hand Moses took the rod of God. In verse 24 At a lodging place on the way the Lord met him and sought to kill him.

Why should God permit Moses to die when He had just anointed him? Because Moses remembered everything except the covenant. Even though you get up in the morning and you get out of your house without taking the Lord's Supper I want you to know that your entire life is based on the Blood covenant. You either have to physically act it out or spiritually thank God for that. Without that Blood covenant we have nothing and we are nothing. Sometimes we ask how can this anointed person die

so early in his ministry? Because they remembered the call, they remembered the mission but they forgot the covenant. Remember all that we received is based on the Blood.

Moses realized that it has to do with the covenant that he forgot. And part of the Old Testament's way of showing obedience to that covenant is by circumcision. It's not the way we show it in the New Testament. But there are ways to show it in the New Testament like water baptism and the Lord's Supper, like a prayer of thanksgiving.

In verse 25 Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin, and touched Moses' feet with it, and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me" So he let him alone. What is the "he" there? Is it capitalized? Who is the "he"? It's God. Let me explain, if you are outside the Blood covenant God is like your enemy. He is not but He can not protect you. And whatever He does seems like He is an enemy. It's the Blood covenant that makes God your friend.

Look at Genesis 17:14 Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant." That is why God permitted Moses to die. If Moses did not circumcise his son that day he would have to die. And God would have to raise up another man. Don't take a prophetic word that comes into your life that exempts you from being in covenant with God.

The other thing about this covenant is that that the covenant establishes God's Word. When 2 people agree to certain things, what do they do today in our society? They sign a contract before a lawyer. That contract that they sealed becomes binding, so that if either one breaks it they are liable to loose what they have in their life.

God promises many things. God says He will do many things. How does God let us know that He is serious about it? God gave His promise and God said, "I will seal this promise with a covenant. So that if ever you doubt that I will fulfill my Word look at the Blood." When God gives His word He keeps His word but the sign that He will fulfill His word is in that covenant.

The first factor we see is how important that covenant is with God. And all that we received is based on that covenant.

The second factor we see is not only is the covenant exalting the power of the Blood it is exalting the power of His Word. His word is so strong that He seals it with Blood. In Gen. 15 Abraham asked God a question. Gen. 15:8 Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" What was he in doubt about? He was in doubt about how God will fulfill His promise. And God said, "I want you to take a heifer cut it and I will make a covenant with you sealed by blood to show you that I will never fail that promise."

Gen. 15:18 On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram. What was the basis of that covenant? Remember Abraham asked a question, "How will I know that you will fulfill your promise?" The Lord's answer is the blood covenant. So if you have confidence in His Word you should have confidence in His Blood. If you lack confidence in His Word, have confidence in His Blood. He means it when He says my Blood is my seal.

Why is it that people fail to receive healing and prosperity when they are suffering from their sicknesses, want and need? They remembered all the promises but they are assailed by doubts. And only the Blood covenant can get rid of all those doubts. If you understand the power of the Blood covenant you will reach a stage and this is the power of the Blood covenant.

There are 5 different aspects to the Blood covenant that we will link up to the offering. If you allow the Blood covenant to fill your life, you will walk without any more doubt. Having a doubt-filled life is normal to a nominal Christian but is actually abnormal to God. You never ever doubt God anymore; you will never ever doubt His spoken Word any more. We all want to reach that stage.

That is why in Exodus God was not pleased with Moses. He remembered all the promises but he forgot that the covenant is not an option. The covenant is the way, the only method by which God deals with our lives. Even though we are in the New Testament we are not exempted from the blood covenant. The only difference is that we have a greater covenant sealed with the blood of a human being, the Son of God, Son of Man who shed His Blood. God in shedding the Blood said, "I will fulfill every word that I have said." We are still living in the Blood covenant. The difference is a greater Blood covenant.

See He already made a covenant with Abraham in Gen. 15. Now in chapter 17 the purpose for His appearing is the covenant again. Do you know all the appearances of God and every thing that God has on our life is based on the covenant? Gen. 17:1-2 When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before Me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly."

God showed up to keep His word. By that time Abraham had forgotten. But God never forget. Verses 3-9 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram but your name shall be Abraham for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. And I will establish my covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you. And I will give to you and to your descendants after you, the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God." And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your descendants after you throughout their generations."

If God already made a covenant with Abraham in Gen. 15 which the bible records, my question to you is why then is He making quote unquote making another covenant with Abraham in Gen. 17? He is not making another covenant. He is strengthening the covenant. Why strengthen the covenant? And here is the point that we want to bring across. The impact and extent by which the covenant has upon your life is progressive. I thought that I made a covenant and that's it. Do you notice that in chapter 17 every thing that is required came from Abraham's side? He had to change his name. He had to circumcise himself at 99 years old. In chapter 17 whose blood was shed? In chapter 15 it was the heifer's blood that was shed and Abraham didn't have to shed any blood. And the heifer of course points to Jesus the Blood of the

Lamb. But now when Abraham is circumcised he shed blood. God now require blood from Abraham. God has come to keep His promise. God will never fail.

The first blood that Jesus shed was when He was circumcised in fulfillment in coming under the law. Jesus came under the law to redeem us from the curse of the law. So what actually took place? Abraham shed blood; Abraham changed his name and all his first-born shed blood. Here is the truth that we want to show forth that a covenant can be progressive. How deeply it affects our lives. The covenant God made with Abraham in chapter 15 is the same covenant because it has to do with the same content. The content is about his descendants and about his seeds. But now in chapter 17 the covenant becomes more personal. Change your name and he has to go for circumcision too. That same covenant now affects Abraham. At which point did it affect Abraham? At the point when God was about to bring that promise. The following year he was going to have a physical child.

We want to show forth the fact that a covenant has different extent into our lives. A covenant with God begin to take more and more of our life and until the point when the fulfillment of the covenant is finished you will find that the covenant has eaten up all of your being.

So what does the covenant do to us? How does it affect us? We will show forth from the book of Leviticus. There are 5 basic offerings that the Israelites were asked to offer to God. And all these are shadows of the covenant. The first type of offering is called the burnt offering. The second type of offering is called the meal offering. The third offering is called the peace offering in chapter 3. The fourth offering is called the sin offering in chapter 4. The fifth offering is called the trespass offering.

Lets look at the sin offering and the trespass offering. The trespass offering has to do with sins, wrong actions, and transgression of the law. Now all these 5 are linked to the Blood covenant. The other offering called the sin offering has to do with sin. It has to do with the inward nature. It has to do with what the bible call iniquity. It doesn't have to do with actions alone. It has to do with intentions. Lev. 4:2 If any one sins unwittingly in any of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and does any one of them. In other words if a person unintentionally sins due to something deep within him that is not perceived or pre-meditated, I call such an action as based on sin nature or imperfection. Everybody makes dumb mistakes. We don't realize it is dumb until we saw the results. Then you need the sin offering. In verse 13 If the whole congregation of Israel commits a sin unwittingly and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they do any one of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done and are guilty. See a sin is a sin whether you know it or not. The law of gravity works whether you like it or not. And here God is saying the sin offering has to do with the sin nature. Everybody makes mistakes without knowing that it's a mistake and they know it only after it is done. That has to with sin nature. The bible says that when they realized it is wrong, they are to do something about it. Come to God and repent. God is also merciful. At the point of doing it we do not know it but the moment we are made aware, there's where we need to bend our knees to God.

Notice how different it is in trespass offering in chapter 5:1 If any one sins in that he hears a public adjuration to testify and though he is a witness, whether he has seen or come to know the matter, yet does not speak, he shall bear his iniquity. And all kind

of various sins, sin with lips knowingly, sin with an action etc. In other word there is knowledge of it. Then after it there is regret and repentance. You need a trespass offering. That is an offering for a sin of commission. There are many people who offered offerings in the bible from the time of Cain and Abel right down to the time of David and Samuel.

Do you notice that all the different types of offerings can be classified? Some types of offering like David where he has trespassed. He has intentionally made a mistake and he gives a trespass offering. Like Noah when he came out of the ark and he gives a burnt offering and it was a sweet aroma to God. Only the burnt offering, peace offering and meal offering smell nice. The others are for sin and they don't smell nice at all. They are just to redeem and atone.

Now these 2 areas speak about what the Blood covenant does in our life. In the natural you examine blood and what blood can do. We realize that No. 1 blood is a cleansing agent in our body. It removes all the impurities. No. 2 blood is the supplier of life. No. 3 within blood there are white blood cells and red blood cells. No. 3 is the most powerful. Blood removes and kills sicknesses and diseases. The reason why people fall into sicknesses and diseases in the natural is because their white blood cells can not fight against all the diseases. And the only reason why we are healthy is not because germs and viruses do not invade you. They are always there in the air all the time. It is because your blood manages to fight them. What keeps you healthy? The blood.

The 3rd point about the blood that we need to realize is the blood in the natural, cleanses, it supplies life and kill sicknesses and diseases. Lets look at the spiritual application in the Blood covenant. No. 1 it removes sins. No. 2 it supplies the life of Jesus into you. No. 3 it cancels out every negative law and force that works in your life. You could be free from forces that works in nature if you tap on this Blood covenant. See there is a progression in the Blood covenant working in our life. The closer it works in your life the more it demands of you.

Many people only know the Blood covenant cleansing their sins. They don't realize that the Blood covenant can affect something on their being called the desire, the intention where the things you desire you don't desire any more. What happen when you don't desire sin any more? You become sinless. God wants us to be holy. What is holiness, sinlessness? God wants us to be free from sin of commission, free from sin in our heart. And I want to present to you that that is the kind of Christianity that Jesus meant us to have.

Throughout church history there are a few people who have taught in this area. People like John Wesley who believes you could live a sanctified life. People like Charles G. Finney who believes that you could live a sinless life. And wherever the principle of the sanctified life is taught it has changed the face of Christianity and brought revivals. These 2 great men of God were the main leaders of the First Great Awakening and the Second Great Awakening.

Heb. 10:19-22 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way which He opened for us through the curtain, that is, through His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of

God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

What is an evil conscience? I have heard about a hardened conscience. A hardened conscience is where you don't know right from wrong. You are so insensitive to what is right and wrong. That is a hardened conscience.

An evil conscience is where you call right wrong and wrong right. And you even feel right about doing wrong. It's a conscience that operates in reverse gear. It's just like driving your car backwards. Each of us has a different background. We have different exposure to different amount of sin. There may be some things in our life that we feel right about that wrong. And some things that we feel wrong about that are right. We need the Blood to change that. Then there are certain things where our conscience is hardened too we don't feel guilt about it. It's the Blood that works in those areas. There is such a thing as an internal condition that repels sin. It has to do with the inner working of the sin nature in our life that removes sin. Its called the Blood covenant.

So our question this morning is how far has the Blood covenant affected your life? We know that its available for you whenever you fall, you fail or make mistakes. You can ask the Blood to cleanse you. But do you know that the Blood is there to prevent you from sinning? In modern society we heard about 2 fields of medicines. One is curative medicine, or medicine that tries to cure you. But the more powerful medicine usually has to do more with dietary laws and nutrition. This is what we call preventative medicine. Which is better - to prevent ourselves from being sick or to be sick and get cured later? Of course it is better to prevent ourselves from being sick. Do you know that we have to walk on certain laws in order to prevent ourselves from becoming sick? We have to have the proper vitamins and nutrition in order that we do not become sick. The body has enough ability to fight if you give it enough nourishment to fight. Even a well-starved lion will loose to a little poodle in a fight. There are 2 fields of medicines, preventative and curative. To prevent is better.

And some times in the body of Christ we are just like people who have not received enough knowledge and training or education and awareness. And all we know is preventive medicine. When you sin the Blood is there. We don't realize that the Blood is there to prevent you from sinning. It removes your "want to sin" nature. It removes your desire to sin. It removes your inclination to sin. Now it takes time for that to work in our lives. But as we yield to the Blood its powerful.

About a few weeks ago I was given a book by the Maharishi. Maharishi is some one who Sadhu Sundar Singh met in the mountains in the Himalayans. He was a holy Christian hermit. He is about 318 years old and is still alive and going strong. Then he talks about the spiritual world. The thing that impresses me quite a lot is the fact that in the spirit world they can sense your inclination to sin or not. In this world we only know it when some one sin. But in the spirit world they know it before you sin. It's in the bible. Gen. 6:6 The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. Then in Deut. 31:16 Behold, you are about to sleep with your fathers; then this people will rise and play the harlot. You will also find it in the book of Chronicles when he speaks of it in David's time about the intent of the people's heart.

The Blood covenant is a preventative measure against falling into sin. It is something that we got to do daily. Daily we got to apply the Blood to our heart, our mind and our soul so that the pollution of this world won't affect us. You don't just receive blood in your tissue. It must be a constant supply. So before you sin you take the Blood covenant. You draw upon the Blood covenant to come upon your heart, your intentions and your thought-life. You don't feel the magnetism of sin like you normally would because the Blood cancels that magnetism. The Blood generates its own electrical field force.

We will close with Rom. 8:1-3 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do; sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh. Now that has to do with sin nature. Notice the struggle in chapter 7 in Paul's life was with sin nature. Rom. 8:4 in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. The Blood has the power of canceling the forces of sin nature still at large. As long as you are in this physical mortal body you need the Blood covenant to come on your life every day so that the drawing of sin will not be there. It just disappears from your life. When the Blood covenant comes into your life you can not be drawn into sin. Satan will throw arrows at you but you will never fall because it is repugnant to you. It is just you have no more feeling for sin.

We have managed to touch on two areas of the Blood covenant in what it does and how deep it enters our lives. It has both the power of cleansing and the power of canceling all those forces working on our inside. The Blood covenant has both curative and preventative measures. The Blood covenant fulfills both the trespass offering and the sin offering.

2. SPIRIT, SOUL AND BODY COVENANT

We have spoken in the last message about the Blood covenant. And we showed how the covenant could grow in our lives. We have related how the Blood covenant is tied to the 5 types of sacrifices in the book of Leviticus chapter 1 to chapter 5: the burnt offering, the meal offering, the peace offering, the sin offering and the trespass offering. Last week we only have time to cover only 2 of the offerings to show how the Blood covenant relates to our lives in the sin offering and in the trespass offering. The sin offering speaks about sin, sin nature, imperfection etc. The trespass offering speaks about sins. We know that the blood offering is to remove both sins and sin. We spoke about how the blood covenant in our lives can transform our hearts and our lives to removes the effect of the sin nature that is present in our physical being.

You will notice that each time the people of God in the bible especially in the Old Testament walk with God they give to God an offering. Noah gave God an offering and He smelt it as a sweet aroma and God made a covenant with him. Abraham cut a covenant with God in Gen. 15. Then God appeared again to him in chapter 17 and renewed that covenant. David after he trespassed against God in numbering the Israelites made a sacrifice to God as an offering.

We may not realize it but each type of those offerings is a different thing. Some of them are sin offerings, some are trespass offerings, some are peace offerings, and some are burnt offerings. As you look at Leviticus 1 to 5 you could relate and place where they are. These 5 offerings represent the 5 different aspects of the blood covenant and the way they affect our lives. Some of the Old Testament folks tapped on only some areas but not all of the areas.

We know what trespass offering is. It cleanses our sin. But the sin offering removes the sin nature; it removes the desire to sin, it removes the love for sin; it removes any tendency towards sin. And that is the part that we need to tap on. Many Christians are not tapping upon that. Therefore they could not live a sinless, holy life that God desires. Actually God has made it very easy if you learn how to tap upon the blood covenant. You could be free from the power of sin, free from the presence of sin, free from the influences of sin.

The Sweet Aroma in the Sin Offering

There is just a point that I want to make note here of the sin offering and the trespass offering. Of all the 5 offerings only 3 of them smell good to God. It says that they are sweet aroma to the Lord. You find it in Lev. 1, 2 and 3. But the sin offering and the trespass offering because of sin don't smell nice to the Lord with one exception. Lev. 4 verse 2 and 3 says, "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a person sins unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which ought not to be done, and does any of them, if the anointed priest sins, bringing guilt on the people, then let him offer to the Lord for his sin which he has sinned a young bull without blemish as a sin offering.'"

Then in verse 13 and 14 Now if the whole congregation of Israel sins unintentionally, and the thing is hidden from the eyes of the assembly, and they have done something against any of the commandments of the Lord in anything which should not be done, and are guilty; when the sin which they have committed becomes known, then the

assembly shall offer a young bull for the sin, and bring it before the tabernacle of meeting.

Verse 22 When a ruler has sinned, and done something unintentionally against any of the commandments of the Lord his God in anything which should not be done, and is guilty, or if his sin which he has committed comes to his knowledge, he shall bring as his offering a kid of the goats, a male without blemish.

But there is something here in verse 27 If anyone of the common people sins unwittingly in doing any one of the things which the Lord has commanded not to be done, and is guilty. There is something that is very individual. See every one of us wrestle with sin nature. When we are born again we receive a new nature. But our new nature wrestles with the sin nature for dominion in our life. The spirit wrestles with the flesh. In some Christians' life the flesh wins. And they don't live a victorious Christian life and they don't have all the fullness that God wants them to have. In others the spirit wins some of the time. What God wants is the spirit wins all of the time. And there is something about coming personally to God in order to get God to change our lives and remove our sin nature.

See it says here if any one of the common people. In other words it is something that nobody knows but himself or herself. And they don't have the knowledge of it. See the leader should have some knowledge so does all the people and also the congregation. But here is at the level where that person really may not have the light that the person should have. And the person comes voluntarily to the Lord there is one exception in verse 31 He shall remove all its fat as fat is removed from the sacrifice of peace offering; and the priest shall burn it on the altar for a sweet aroma to the Lord. So the priest shall make atonement for him, and it shall be forgiven him.

This is the only one exception where it says that the sin offering shall have its fat removed for it to be burnt as a sweet aroma to the Lord. Other sin offerings do not have any burnt offering that is a sweet aroma to the Lord.

The Lord said to me that when it is the sin of the normal people it is something that is carnal knowledge. When the whole congregation has sinned, it is something that is public knowledge. Like for example everybody would know the sin of the ruler. Sometimes a person has fallen into sin but he or she doesn't know it but somebody else may know about it. But in this example it is where it is the common people that have sinned and nobody else knows. Only that person who has sinned has a self-realization.

And this is the special blessing. If you come to God in repentance by your own self there is a special blessing. See a lot of people stopped sinning only when they are caught. Because you are caught you deal with your sin nature there is no sweet aroma in your sacrifice. It's just a sin offering and a trespass offering. But when you are not caught and when nobody else knows but you and you came to the knowledge that this part of your life is not in the perfect will of God, and you want to get in line with the perfect will of God, and you voluntarily come to God and you brought that sin before God to be judged, God loves that. God loves us to judge ourselves rather than be judged by others and corrected by others. This is to encourage each one of us that self-judgment is the best. If you judge yourselves you will not be judged because you have presented a sweet aroma to the Lord.

When we judge ourselves at the end of the day and say, “Lord, please reveal to me any imperfection, any areas where nobody else knows but You, please reveal, judge and deal with me on that area,” you are bringing a sin offering that is a sweet aroma to God. God loves that.

The 2 offerings, sin offering and trespass offering have to do with removing something out of our lives. When God has a Blood covenant with us there is something that has to be taken away and there is something that has to be placed into us. The first 3 offerings, the burnt offering, the meal offering and the peace offering put something into our lives. But the sin offering and the trespass offering take something out of our lives. It’s cleansing. And this is what the Blood covenant does. When people cut a blood covenant with one another in a natural sense without God they have become blood brothers. So as we have a covenant with God there is something that God has to take out of our lives. And we have to allow God to take them out of our lives. But there is something that will come into our lives and that’s where the first 3 offerings play a role. The burnt offering, the meal offering and the peace offering each symbolize different things. If you examine the book of Leviticus there is something different about each offering.

The Burnt Offering: Putting on Jesus Christ Through the Spirit and the Word

In Lev. 1:6 And he shall skin the burnt offering and cut it into pieces. The burnt offering is the only offering where you skin the animal. In all the other offerings the skin is not removed. The skin becomes part of the offering to God. But in the burnt offering the skin must be removed.

Lev. 4:11 the sin offering, But the bull hide and all its flesh with its head and legs and its entails the whole bull he shall tread it outside and he shall burn it. So all the other offerings there are no mention of the animal being skinned first except the burnt offering. And in the burnt offering the animal is cut into pieces in verse 6 and in verse 12 all the pieces are placed on the altar and they are burned completely. No one gets to eat the burnt offering. It is completely burned.

Verse 17 then he shall spread it in its wings but shall not divide completely and the priest shall burn it on the altar. It is as burnt sacrifice and offering made by fire a sweet aroma to the Lord.

If you cross reference to chapter 6 of Leviticus verse 9-13 Command Aaron and his sons, saying. This is the law of the burnt offering. The burnt offering shall be on the hearth upon the altar all night until the morning, and the fire of the altar shall be kept burning on it. And the priest shall put on his linen garment, and put on his linen breeches upon his body, and he shall take up the ashes to which the fire has consumed the burnt offering on the altar, and put them beside the altar. Then he shall put off his garments, and put on the other garments, and carry forth the ashes outside the camp to a clean place. The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it, it shall not go out; the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and he shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. Fire shall be kept burning upon the altar continually; it shall not go out.

That is No. 1 the burnt offering. All the meat is burned and it is a perpetual sacrifice to the Lord. Nobody gets to eat it. Only the skin is saved.

Notice in chapter 7:8 And the priest who offers any man's burnt offering shall have for himself the skin of the burnt offering, which he has offered.

So the priest received the skin. If you analyze it you will realize that when Adam and Eve first fell into sin, the first offering that God cut the blood that was shed where He stripped the animal of his skin and He placed it on Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness. That was a burnt offering.

Look at Gen. 3:21 The Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Because from that day onwards the only way that God and man can talk to one another and be in relationship is through the blood covenant. And it was God Himself who took an animal cut it took the skin and clothed Adam and Eve.

The first burnt offering you notice has a peculiar characteristic. The skin is separated and all the flesh is burned and the keyword to remember in the burnt offering is the fire. The first symbol is fire. But if you analyze carefully in Leviticus chapter one the other symbols that is in the burnt offering is water. Only in the burnt offering do you have Lev. 1:9 But its entrails and its legs he shall wash with water. And the priest shall burn the whole on the altar, as a burnt offering. Water is another symbol. It washes the inside and it washes the legs. You know that water represents the Word. Fire represents the Spirit. See the 2 characteristic of the burnt offering is the Spirit and the Word in the covenant of God. In other word God is going to give us His Word, His promises and God is going to give us His Spirit.

You see the animal the burnt offering represents Jesus Christ. And in the burnt offering we become like Jesus. We are clothed with Jesus. Put on Jesus Christ. In the sin offering and trespass offering He has to remove our sins and our sin nature. But in the burnt offering He puts something on us. When God took the skin of the animal and placed it on Adam and Eve, God is putting Jesus Christ on them. He makes us conformed to be like Jesus. He puts the nature of Jesus into our lives. And we are clothed with Jesus.

Clothing is also the symbol of the Holy Spirit. You shall be clothed with power from high. The Holy Spirit has come to make us like Jesus. He has come not only to give us power. Power is the side effect of the Spirit coming to make us like Jesus. If you are like Jesus you have power and authority in God. That is the burnt offering.

The Meal Offering : Preserving Our Bodies From the Law of Sin and Death

Now you look at the grain offering in Leviticus 2:8-10 And you shall bring the cereal offering that is made of these things to the Lord; and when it is presented to the priest, he shall bring it to the altar. And the priest shall take from the cereal offering its memorial portion and burn this on the altar, an offering by fire, a pleasing odor to the Lord. And what is left of the cereal offering shall be for Aaron and his sons; it is a most holy part of the offering by fire to the Lord. Then verse 13 You shall season all your cereal offerings with salt; you shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be lacking from your cereal offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

The key characteristic here is salt. Salt is mentioned in the grain offering. You shall season the grain with salt. It says it shall be a covenant of salt to you. Let me point to

the fact that when you make a covenant with God and God makes a covenant with us, He demands something from our lives. Lets bear in mind that we are spirit beings who have a soul and we live in a physical body. The grain offering represents your physical body. Your physical body and salt has a quality of preserving.

There was an article in the Readers' Digest about a butcher shop who had a piece of pork or beef, preserved in salt and put on display as advertisement for the shop. The surprising thing was that the preserved meat was from the 19th century. Preserved in salt, it was still edible even today! Salt has a powerful preserving quality depending on the amount that is used.

And Jesus Himself tells us here in Matt. 5:13 you are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. So Jesus uses the illustration the necessity of salt in its preserving power.

When we make a covenant with God, God knows the weaknesses in our bodies. There are 3 laws that operate in our life and we must harmonize them. Rom. 7:14 onwards We know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin. I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. So then it is no longer I that do it, but sin which dwells within me. Where is his sin nature? A part of it is in the physical body, the desire, and the passions.

Verse 21-23 So I find it to be a law that when I want to do right, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God, in my innermost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind and making me captive to the law. Understand that there is a law of sin that operates in the physical body. If the law of sin does not operate you will never age and you will never grow old. The fact is it is operating in mankind. That is the reason why this physical body can not enter heaven. We need a new body because this physical body has a sin nature ever since Adam fell. There is a law of sin that operates in the body. We need to be aware of it.

And this is where God knows our weaknesses. And when God cuts a covenant with us part of the covenant is the meal or grain offering. And He gives to us in the Blood covenant salt the preserving quality of the covenant into our physical body. Which is why in proportion to how we walk with God and how God's Spirit transform our lives, your body is free from the law of sin and death. Although Jesus became sin for us and He took upon Himself all our sickness and disease but in no way should we assume the fact that His was a disease body. It is in a legal sense because He was innocent and He didn't have to die and yet He died for us.

In the book of Acts it tells us in chapter 2:27 For thou will not abandon my soul to Hades, nor let thy Holy One see corruption. The word corruption talks about the decay of the physical body. The moment a human being dies the physical body starts to decay. Even though He became sin for us it was in a legal sense. You can see your sickness upon Jesus. What I want you to know is that Jesus' body that was wrapped up and placed in the tomb was not like what we think. There was no germs or bacteria there to eat up that body. There was no corruption in that body but He became sin for us.

What about the scriptures where it says He Himself took our sickness and bore our infirmities. That even took place before He died on the cross. See the basis of it is the legal sense. For example you could inherit a land and you have never seen that land but it comes in a legal document and says that the land is now yours. That land is yours even though you have never been there nor seen it. Legally it is yours.

Think carefully about what I am saying here. There is no way that every sickness and disease can actually rest on Jesus' body. Have you ever thought that if Jesus actually physically took all our sickness and disease you would not be able to wrap His body in linen cloth because His whole body would be a bloated, convoluted mass of disease – leprosy, tumors, cancers, etc? Understand that He did it in a legal sense because He did nothing that deserves death. And when His death came a law was broken because He didn't die for Himself; He died for us. Suddenly Satan and all his cohorts panicked because they realized that Jesus died in order to reap a benefit for mankind. See God has made a law that you reap what you sow. But Jesus was reaping something (death), which He never sowed (sin). Instead, He sowed death in order to reap life for the cosmos and hence suddenly the whole cosmos was turned over Him. When we die with Him, we rise to new life with Him.

According to your walk in the Blood covenant your flesh may not see corruption. Enoch walked with God and he was translated. His flesh did not see corruption. We all walk in different degrees in the Blood covenant. What's the key in allowing God to cancel mortify the law of sin in our physical body? Salt. Salt has a preserving quality. How well is your body preserved today?

The Peace Offering: Renewing Our Minds

Lev. 3 the peace offering. Now the peace offering has its own characteristic. In the peace offering only the fat is emphasized. So that when any other offering has anything to do with the fat it is said that it is just like the peace offering. It is its peculiar characteristic.

In Lev. 3:3-5 And from the sacrifice of the peace offering, as an offering by fire to the Lord, he shall offer the fat covering the entrails, and all the fat that is on the entrails, and the two kidneys with the fat that is on them at the loins, and the appendage of the liver which he shall take away with the kidneys. Then Aaron's sons shall burn it on the altar upon the burnt offering, which is upon the wood on the fire; it is an offering by fire, a pleasing odor to the Lord.

So it emphasizes the fat from the animal. Now cross reference to chapter 7. Notice that whenever other sacrifice uses a fat, it is illustrated with the peace offering. For example in chapter 4:31 And all its fat he shall remove, as the fat is removed from the peace offerings. The peace offering was a standard and a measurement of fat removed. Any other offering that copy it, it said it's like the peace offering.

As you read on in chapter 7:11-12 And this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings which one may offer to the Lord. If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the thank offering. Now there is something else required here the sacrifice of peace is also the sacrifice for thanksgiving. And that sacrifice of peace has to again deal with something in our life that operates and as we say that it imparts something in our life.

Now the other part of sin nature that persists in our life that we deal with is a part of sin nature that dwells in our soul. Its called the carnal mind. Lets look at Rom. 7:23 I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind. And where the law of the mind yields to the law of sin, you have what Paul says in Rom. 8:7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it can not.

So there is warfare in our flesh and warfare in our mind. And God has to deal with the law that is working in our mind that is carnal to turn it for good. There is the law of the body and there is a law of the mind. And then there is a law of the spirit of life from our spirit. What happens when we cut a covenant with God in our imperfect situation after the fall of man? God has to deal with the law of the body and the law of the mind and the fallen spirit of man. What happened to the fallen spirit? It is completely removed and it says in II Cor. 5:17 Therefore if any man is in Christ he is a new creation. Behold, all things have passed away all things have become new. You have a new spirit on your inside. That means that the law of sin and death only operates in 2 dimensions: in the physical body and in the unrenewed mind. Your spirit man can be trusted. It's a new born spirit in the image of God.

The burnt offering has to do with fire and water. The grain offering has to do with salt. The peace offering has to do with fat. And each is important. In chapter 17 of Genesis when Abraham made a new covenant with God or renewal of the old covenant it was different. Because what he offered to God in Genesis 15 was a burnt offering. Now in chapter 17 God demanded something from his life. The blood covenant has grown. God demands that he circumcise himself and he change his name.

Now these 3 changes are vitally important. When Abraham circumcised himself it was a symbol of the law of sin and death and the body being dealt with. When Abram changed his name to Abraham it was a symbol of the peace offering operating. There has to be a renewal of the mind in order to change your name. The third thing was a gift from God – Isaac. His name is laughter. See in these 3-fold impartation No. 1 God imparts something into your physical body to mortify the law of sin in your life. No. 2 he changed and renewed your mind like Abraham changed his name. But No. 3 there is nothing you can do about it. It's a gift from God. And that's the burnt offering: the gift of His Spirit into our life, to bring holy laughter and joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Now how does that impartation take place? When you look at the communion; as the communion tray is passed around you take a piece of bread. Then the cups are passed around you take a little cup. That piece of bread represents the body. The blood represents the Blood covenant coming into your life. And it deals with your physical body, your soul. But its one more thing that is involved in the New Testament the covenant. What we need to realize is that immediately after the Lord's Supper Jesus in John 12 washed their feet and talked about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will come He says into your life. So the Holy Spirit will come upon your spirit, your soul and your body. The Holy Spirit and the new spirit within us is a gift from God. But our mind and our body is the same. It needs the Blood covenant to continue to sustain it in the way God wants it.

Look at Leviticus it is in the other 2 offerings that we talked about the eating of the offerings. In Lev. 2:10 the grain offering is for Aaron and his sons. He shall eat of it. We have to everyday partake of the law of the spirit of life that is released in the Blood covenant for it to mortify our body.

Leviticus. 3 this offering that he gives to God the sacrifice of peace offering to the Lord. More description of the peace offering is said here in chapter 7:15 The flesh of the sacrifice of the peace offerings for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it until the morning. See there is a partaking of the peace offering and the grain offering. It is the portion of the priest to partake it.

But no one gets to eat the burnt offering. What does it tells us? When the offering is placed it becomes a part of you and you become a part of it. But in the burnt offering there is no mixture. You can not compromise or mix or imitate the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit can not be copied. You can only yield to Him and receive Him. But your mind God will still use; your body God will still use. But there is no duplication of the Holy Spirit. It's either the Spirit of God or it's not the Spirit. It is a symbol how our mind has to be renewed everyday and our bodies presented to God as a living sacrifice everyday for that covenant to work in our life.

There is a place and time when the grain offering can not be eaten. Lev. 6:23 Every cereal offering of a priest shall be wholly burned; it shall not be eaten. What kind of grain offering is that? That is the grain offering that came from Aaron to the Lord. Not from the common people to the Lord. As you read Leviticus 1 to 7 that there are different degrees of holiness. There is a point of holiness where you can still eat but before you eat you must be cleansed.

But it crosses a certain line and anything that touches the Holy of holies it says can not be eaten. It's all for God. That is also true of the sin offering when it touches the Holy of holies. Lev. 6:30 But no sin offering shall be eaten from which any blood is brought into the tent of meeting to make atonement in the holy place; it shall be burned with fire.

In other words once a year when the high priest offers a sin offering for himself before he can enter the holy place. That sin offering is special. God says you can not eat it at all. Because the reason is it touches the Holy of holies. So you can take note of the fact that there is a different degree of holiness. There are different realms of covenant that we walk with God. Not everyone can say touch on the anointing of God. You can't do that for it depends on your walk with God. But when you reached a certain point in your walk with God, and you become wholly for God, God then says, "Touch not my prophets. No weapons formed against thee shall prosper and every tongue that rises against thee shall be condemned. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord." If you are not serving God that promise doesn't operate in your life. There are different realms of holiness and here is where you must be careful. The closer people walk with God the more dangerous it is to judge them. We judge them to our own destruction.

We realize now with these data we could analyze some of the offerings. In the offering of Gen. 3 it was a burnt offering. The skin is preserved. In other words God gives you special clothing; the Spirit comes upon all flesh is like the new clothing

upon your life. Now with the Spirit coming down He could use your physical body. Your hands can be laid on the sick and they shall recover.

But in the book of Genesis Noah's offering that he offered to God in chapter 8:20-21 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart, "I will never again curse the ground because of man, for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I ever again destroy every living creature as I have done.

Although burnt offering is mentioned as you analyze it you will realize that it was a thanksgiving to the Lord. Now there are 2 different realms of peace offering. Remember that each offering signify our spirit, soul and body. The burnt offering represents our spirit and God's Spirit dealing in our life. The grain offering our physical body. The peace offering our soul. The things of the Spirit are sacred.

The things of the body there are different realms. There is a realm where the physical body can yield to God according to the covenant of salt and be preserved. It's preserved and yet can be eaten. But as you go further into God there is a realm that you pass and God says it can not be eaten at all. It has become God's property. When Paul says in Rom. 12:1-2 present your bodies as a living sacrifice. He is not just telling you to consecrate yourself. The reason is if you read the Greek is continually present your body as a living sacrifice not just once. Because one day as you keep presenting yourself God takes that body and it enters the most holy place. And you find that the law of sin and death is completely cancelled.

Then there is the realm of the soul to do with fat. What happened to the fat? The fat has to be burned continually before God. But the 2 realms of peace offerings is the realm of thanksgiving and the other is the realm of a vow. The vow has twice the power of the thanksgiving.

Look at Lev. 7:15-17 The flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten the same day it is offered. He shall not leave any of it until morning. But if the sacrifice of his offering is a vow or a voluntary offering, it shall be eaten the same day that he offers his sacrifice; but on the next day the remainder of it also may be eaten; the remainder of the flesh of the sacrifice on the third day must be burned with fire.

If the offering is a sacrifice of thanksgiving means that God has done something in your life. God has blessed you and you brought an offering as a thanksgiving to the Lord. You can eat it but only the first day, one day. You can not eat it beyond the first day. But when the offering is a vow or a voluntary sacrifice in verse 16 you can eat it for 2 days but not on the third day because the third day is the sacrifice and symbol of Calvary. 3 days and 3 nights is symbolic. In other words it can not go beyond the atonement of Jesus. It can not go outside of the cross of Jesus. All your sacrifices are only accepted in Christ. Outside of Christ no matter how you bargain with God it's not worth anything. It must be presented in the name of Jesus and in Christ.

Here is an important point. The health of our mind and the law of our mind when it actually operates in God's covenant is a mind of thanksgiving. In the book of Phil. 4:8 says Finally, brethren, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever

things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things. In other words, let your mind dwell on those things. That is the Blood covenant mind. Anything less than that is not a mind in covenant with God. Your spirit may be in covenant with God but your soul and your body are in rebellion. But when you get your soul and your body in covenant with God these are the characteristics: thanksgiving. A mind that is thankful to God (enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His court with praise). A mind that is grateful; a mind that is not filled with condemnation. A mind that is positive. That's the mind that is in covenant with God. Anything outside that in Rom. 8 is a mind that is against God. So when we say we are in covenant with God don't just talk about the spirit. Let your mind be in covenant with God and your body be in covenant with God.

But the 2 realms of the covenant; thanksgiving, learning to thank God, learning to acknowledge that all things come from God and we want to return our tithes and our offerings to God. To serve Him and say God I all came from you. This is our thanksgiving to you.

But the other is more powerful. A vow or voluntary sacrifice. You could eat the meat until the second day. This means that before God does something you have already consecrated it to God. One is after God does it and the other is before God does it. It takes more faith before God blesses you. Before you do anything you say, "God I give myself to you. I know You will never fail." That's even more powerful and God loves it. So before God blesses you anything you say God I am going to give this to your glory. And your giving is not based on what God has done. Its based on what God will do. It has twice the power with God. And it's renewed your mind in a more powerful way. Some people's mind will only be positive when they see the blessings of God. We need to realize that when you don't see the blessings and you trust Him and you know His word. And you vow and you voluntary give a peace offering, it touches the realm of God in a deeper dimension. God always fulfill His words. He doesn't fulfill necessary always in the way we expect. Neither does He necessarily fulfill in a time that we expect. But I want you to know that when you trust in the Lord, when He doesn't fulfill in the way you expect He will fulfill in His way which in the end you see that is in a better way. And He will not fulfill in a time that we expect. Which is why when something is delayed people get frustrated and get all messed up on their inside. If something is delayed it will in the end work out for the good. And you will find that it's actually better. It takes a greater measure to worship God with a vow or a voluntary sacrifice. A vow is something of your life or all of your life consecrated to God even before God does anything. It's powerful to the Lord. That's part of the peace offering.

So we see these 3 aspects of the Blood covenant. God wants the Blood covenant to change our life. He wants the grain offering to touch our physical body so that this physical body becomes consecrated to God. Is your body consecrated to God? Does the law of sin and death operate or does the law of the Spirit of life rule your spirit? Has the Blood touched your soul? Or is your mind anxious and worldly. Has the peace offering touched your mind so that the law of the mind now operates for God? And when these 2 are in place the burnt offering comes in. The Spirit of God finds a home in our heart and in our life. And this body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit. And the mind becomes a vehicle of the Holy Spirit.

3. WINNING GOD'S HEART

What we want to see here is on the area of winning the heart of God. Sometimes we tend to lean on extreme when we understand the word of God on some aspects of truth. For example, we have the truth and teaching that God is no respecter of persons and that God loves each one of us equally and no death, no hell, not any principality of power of thing in heaven or earth can separate us from the love of God. We emphasize the truth so much that God doesn't respect any person and God doesn't favor any person above any others. And we neglect the other aspect of it that there is a place where you can find special favor with God. God has His rules, His principles and His laws. And there is such a thing as becoming the apple of God's eye where you become precious to the Lord.

Those 2 truths must be combined. When we say that God is no respecter of person it doesn't mean that God unconditionally gives you everything. Because we do know that there are some things in God that are based on conditions; there are some other things that are unconditional. And we realize that there is a measure of standard blessing He gives to those who don't know Him. He sends rain on the just and on the unjust. Then there is another measure He gives to those who are born again a certain measure of blessing that is far above the others. Because when you are born again you get into covenant with God. And yet above that there is another realm of blessings that He gives and that is to those who find special favor by their faithfulness and obedience to Him. So we realize that God potentially wants to love each one to the fullest extend. But not all of us want to reach that level of love for God.

There are scriptures that say those who honor God most God will honor. What does that mean? It means that in the realm of those covenant God will honor people who obey and are faithful. For example, you are one of those who get up at a certain time in the morning and kneel down before God for an hour and pray. Or you are one of those who kneel down every evening to pray. Surely there must be a difference between you and others. Those who honor God, God will honor. And you reached an area of what I call special grace, special favor that you can have with God. This is what many Christians have not been told. We have been told that God is no respecter of person and we have the impression that you do what you want and God still loves you. But we must be told the other aspect that God is a person. There is a way to win God's heart and be the apple of God's eye. How many of you will love to be the apple of God's eye.

Lets turn to Lev. 2 where we have the grain offering and the meal offering. And we have talked about the 5 different aspects of the blood covenant and how they are tied up to the 5 different types of offering. And each one of the offerings represent a different aspect of how we are in covenant with God a different type of relationship that we can have with God. We have pointed that there is the burnt offering that the priest doesn't eat at all. The grain offering and the peace offering, the sin offering and the trespass offering the priests have a part to eat. But when the priest offers an offering for himself as a sin offering before he enters the most holy place, he doesn't get to eat it at all. So we realize that there are different standard that God set on different things.

Here are some more different variations of standard that He has set. The only thing the priest gets in the burnt offering was the skin of the animal. And that ties up to God clothing Adam and Eve with the skin.

Lev. 2:11 No cereal offering which you bring to the Lord shall be made with leaven; for you shall burn no leaven nor any honey as an offering by fire to the Lord. Notice that in verse 12 was primarily for the first fruits. Verse 12-13 As an offering of the first fruits you may bring them to the Lord, but they shall not be offered on the altar for a pleasing odor. You shall season all your cereal offerings with salt; you shall not let the salt of the covenant with your God be lacking from your cereal offering; with all your offerings you shall offer salt.

We have paid close attention in the last message to the difference in the types of offering. How in the burnt offering the priest gets the skin but he doesn't get any meat. In the other offerings like the sin offering and the trespass offering only the inside of the animals are burned on the altar whereas the outside and the other parts of the animal can be eaten but they are cooked outside in a certain place. Here in the grain offering the main emphasis has been salt. In the burnt offering the emphasis is on the total consumption and the skin of the animal given to the priest who offers it. In the peace offering the emphasis is on the set layer that is offered to God.

In verse 14-16 If you offer a cereal offering of first fruits to the Lord, you shall offer for the cereal offering of your first fruits crushed new grain from fresh ears, parched with fire. And you shall put oil upon it, and lay frankincense on it; it is a cereal offering. And the priest shall burn as its memorial portion part of the crushed grain and of the oil with all of its frankincense; it is an offering by fire to the Lord.

That is some sort of a free will offering and the first fruits offering to God. However God made provision for people who cannot afford different things like the animals, which could be very expensive. Not everybody can afford to offer a bull. And in the other types of offerings God gives provision for example like in chapter 5 of Leviticus in verse 7 But if he cannot afford a lamb, then he shall bring, as his guilt offering to the Lord for the sin which he has committed, two turtledoves or two young pigeons, one for a sin offering and the other for a burnt offering.

Then in verse 11 probably there is the upper income, the middle income and the lower income. God gives provisions on how each one can still give a sin offering where they cannot afford it. God is a God of understanding. He knows our level to reach Him. Verse 11 But if he cannot afford two turtledoves or two young pigeons, then he shall bring as his offering for the sin which he has committed, a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering. The bible provides a law where those who harvest a field and where some grains will drop on the floor. The bible provides a law where the farmer is not to pick up that grain. The law says leave the grain for the poor. He can't say I can't afford. He can go to the field and pick up the grain. God provides for every one a way even in the old covenant to come to Him.

Lets read on Lev. 5:11 onwards If he is not able to bring two turtle doves or two young pigeons, then he shall bring, as his offering for the sin which he has committed, a tenth of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering; he shall put no oil upon it, and shall put no frankincense on it, for it is a sin offering. Now the grain offering looks exactly like the other grain offering in chapter two. But what God says make a difference. In

this grain offering don't put oil don't put frankincense on it because it is a sin offering.

We see first of all that the normal grain offering as in Lev. 2 when it compares to the special grain offering or people who can not afford a lamb as a trespass offering is different. To the physical eye it looks the same. But God made a difference because one is a trespass and sin offering and the other is a voluntary free will offering of first fruits to the Lord.

And God made another difference when the high priest offers the grain offering He makes a difference. Lets look at chapter 6:20 This is the offering which Aaron and his sons shall offer to the Lord on the day when he is anointed; a tenth of an ephah of fine flour as a regular cereal offering, half of it in the morning and half in the evening. Day and night you must meditate on God's word. First thing in the morning last thing at night. There is something of being a regular person with God morning, night and noon. Like Daniel, Daniel added the middle portion where he kneels down 3 times a day before God.

Verse 22-23 The priest from among Aaron's sons, who is anointed to succeed him, shall offer it to the Lord as decreed forever; the whole of it shall be burned. Every cereal offering of a priest shall be wholly burned; it shall not be eaten. I want you to know that the other 2 can be eaten but this one can not be eaten although in the normal circumstances in Lev. 2 it can be eaten.

So look at the difference in the degrees of grain offering. There is a grain offering that is found in Lev. 5 which is a sin offering that has no oil and no frankincense.

Then there is the normal type, which should be Lev. 2, which is the free will offering, and the first fruits to God where oil and frankincense are placed on them and they can be eaten.

Then there is the special offering that comes from the priests themselves to the Lord, where you put oil and frankincense and you burn it fully and no one can eat it.

You could see that there are different measures that which God is blessing each avenue. That gives us a special clue that we want to consider here this morning that there is such a thing as winning the heart of God. You could come based on that sin offering of grain. You could come based on the normal offering of first fruits. Or you could be one who is serving God constantly. I do not mean that you have to be in the full time ministry. Being in the full time is God's call. Sometimes God does call people out there in the professional field. But you can still be serving God out there in the secular world. Your heart and your obedience are for God. And you serve God wholeheartedly. Don't forget that there are people like Daniel who is not in full time ministry. He was a Prime Minister and yet his whole heart was for the Lord. So for those who are like priests before God? He has made every believer kings and priests before God. And they are wholly dedicated to the Lord. And they serve God. There is a special grace that God gives. You can see the 3 degrees and 3 levels.

Lets look at some illustration here starting from the book of Genesis. Each type of offering that people had given in the old covenant is one of those 5 types. We want to explore with the basic knowledge of this Leviticus teaching. The kind and type of

offering that people brought in order to win the heart of God. If you don't like the word win you can put it as touching the heart of God. God's heart can be really moved and touched.

Gen. 3:21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins, and clothed them. The moment sin occurred there has to be an offering to God. Now this looks like a sort of sin offering onto God. But we realize that in the sin offering according to the Leviticus priesthood the whole animal is burned except for portion of the flesh, which can be eaten.

But in the case of Lev. 4:11 But the skin of the bull and all its flesh, with its head, its legs, its entrails, and its dung, the whole bull he shall carry forth outside the camp to a clean place, where the ashes are poured out, and shall burn it on a fire of wood, where the ashes are poured out it shall be burned. Notice its not even allowed to be burned on the brazen altar.

The only thing allowed to be burned on the brazen altar is the burnt offering in Lev. 1 and the meal offering and some parts of the peace offering like the fat. But in Lev. 7:8 And the priest who offers any man's burnt offering shall have for himself the skin of the burnt offering which he has offered. So in the burnt offering the animal is specially skinned that is not mentioned in the other offerings. Lev. 1 you find that in the burnt offering the animal must be skinned.

What God did in Gen. 3 was that He Himself offered a burnt offering on behalf of Adam and Eve in a sense although there was no burning but there was something that happened to the animal. But we know what happened to the skin. The skin was taken and placed over Adam and Eve. In sin offering and trespass offering there is no such thing as having the skin. What God did was a message of the burnt offering that says that continually from that time onwards man needs to be in the covenant with God. A burnt offering must be offered day and night and the fire must not go off.

All the other offerings are sort of required when something happened. Sin offering is required when sin occurred. So as it occurred and it's discovered they bring the offering. The meal offering usually people do it out of their first fruits. The peace offering is usually out of thanksgiving and out of a vow to God.

But the burnt offering is a must and it must always be burning on the altar every day in the time of Moses. The Mosaic Law of sacrifices lays down the principles of offerings to God.

Look at Lev. 1:17 it is a burnt offering, an offering by fire, a pleasing odor to the Lord. And in the revision in chapter 6:12-13 The fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it, it shall not go out; the priest shall burn wood on it every morning and he shall lay the burnt offering in order upon it, and shall burn on it the fat of the peace offerings. Fire shall be kept burning upon he altar continually; it shall not go out. That's the burnt offering.

God's message to Adam and Eve although they may not have fully understood it at that time but its recorded by the Holy Ghost. When He took that animal skin and He clothed Adam, that was the burnt offering. And God was saying from that day onwards man needs a covenant to come to Him. If man fail in any area he needs to

repent and get a sin offering to offer to God. But here God was saying there is no other way now to Him except by the blood covenant. Blood must be shed and its something that is not offered once in a while when you realized it or when you fall, every morning, every evening we must be under the blood. The blood must be on our life. Which is why now we teach people to partake of the Holy Communion every morning, it's our modern way of exercising faith in the Blood covenant.

Lets look at the other offerings that occur. In Gen. 4:2-5 And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a tiller of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

What were their offerings supposed to be? Peace offering because the fat is mentioned. What was the message that Abel and Cain were bringing to God? Thank you. Remember the peace offering we touched in the last message. Lev. 3 says that the peace offering is brought for thanksgiving or a vow to God. Now God had blessed Abel and Cain. This is not the burnt offering. The word burnt offering is used generally elsewhere. Everything that is burned they just call it burnt offering. It's just like our general use of the word prophesize. To speak God's word there is a general usage and there is a specific usage for the gift of prophecy and a special usage for the office of a prophet. So the word burnt offering has been used generally. But here the fat is mentioned as far as Abel's offering is concerned. Although it's exact procedure may not come until Moses time but there was a rough measurement that they used.

And as far as Cain was concerned his was supposed to be the first fruits. When you look at that you realized that its not just because there is a lack of blood; he did not bring in the firstfruits either. So the bible in the Hebrew has a special word when the word firstfruits is mentioned. Cain's offering was not the firstfruits. Even before Cain and Abel offered their offerings there was already a difference. Cain only brought the fruit of the ground but there was no mention of it being the firstfruits whereas the word firstlings is mentioned in Abel's offering.

Look at verse 4 the word firstlings. Then he is taking care of the flock and leading them into the pastures. And one day this first born of the calf came and he says I want to give this to God. But Cain was different. Cain was a farmer and as he planted crops grew, I don't know what he did with the first fruits. When he saw Abel offering his offerings he says let me get some offerings too. He should have remembered God the first time the corn or wheat grew. And the first flower coming out he says this is God. I must honor God. He who honors God, God will honor. He who dishonors God, God will reject. Cain did not honor God. In verse 5 but He did not respect Cain in his offerings. There was something wrong there. What Cain should have done was to find out what was wrong instead of getting angry.

Look at what the Lord told him when Cain was angry in verse 7. If you do well, will you not be accepted? The word do well means if you have done it the correct way. He should have sought a revelation from God. How then do you know Abel knew how to offer the fat? According to the Jewish tradition in history God taught Adam and Eve how to offer offerings to Him. It was Adam who inherited the legacy of knowing how to offer offerings to God. See Adam and Eve saw what God did when God was taking

the animal, skinning it and clothing them. So they do know some things. And I believe they do know some things about the meal offerings as well as those animals' sacrifices. But Cain did not pursue it.

There is a way to please God and there different degrees where we can please God. Don't you ever realize that when you get up early in the morning and kneel down before God while all others are sleeping you are pleasing God? You are winning the heart of the Father. God can be pleased.

Look at the book of Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain. Abel gave a more excellent sacrifice by faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Now in Abel and Cain's time there was possibly no recorded bible. Therefore we could gather if faith comes by hearing God's Word. God me spoken some things about those things. Faith is not just confidence or presumption. Faith has confidence but not all confidence is faith. Faith confidence is based on hearing what God said. So we can gather that if he offered it by faith he must have received some instructions from God. And he was obeying those instructions explicitly.

If you look back to Lev. 2 and 3 what you have is an illustration in Gen. 4 of the meal offering and the peace offering. Abel succeeded in the peace offering. In chapter 2:14 If you offer a cereal offering of first fruits to the Lord, you shall offer for the cereal offering of your first fruits crushed new grain from fresh ears, parched with fire. God wanted it fully grown but just ripen. There must have been some discrepancies in Cain's offering. In chapter 3 you have the peace offering then there is a revision of the peace offering in chapter 7:12 If he offers it for a thanksgiving, then he shall offer with the thanksgiving unleavened cakes mixed with oil. Then verse 15 And the flesh of the sacrifice of his peace offering for thanksgiving shall be eaten on the day of his offering.

And Abel tapped into it because he offered it with thanksgiving in his heart. Cain was not thanking God at all. He was just doing it because his brother was doing it. Don't do some thing unless you know what you are doing it for. What should Cain have done? He should have found out from God what was inappropriate what was wrong and then repented and brought it in the way God wants it. What happens if you make a mistake? Go back and redo it. Instead he killed his brother. He added one greater sin to another sin.

So in chapter 3 we found that God was showing that if we want to win His heart and favor we must bring to Him a continual sacrifice. In chapter 4 we find that thanksgiving is required to reach the realm of God. No human beings in the natural like complaining. There is something on our inside that reacts to it. In our natural human make up we are very much created to function in that way. How much more God who made us in His image. Only thanksgiving can win the heart of God. Not only thanksgiving gives you a better countenance but also thanksgiving pleases God.

Look at Cain in Gen. 4:5 Cain was very angry and his countenance fell. And God was concerned because every time God looks at Cain there was no smile on his face. And God actually said to Cain why do you have such a long face. God doesn't like complaining but He likes thanksgiving. It's the way to God's heart. It's the entrance into God's heart.

Look at Gen. 6:8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. Grace was given to everyone. There is a general grace; there is a special grace. You can find favor with God. And in verse 9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. Among some the things that Noah learned to do we are told in Gen. 8:20 Then Noah built an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor.

Doesn't that look like Leviticus chapter 1, 2 and 3? There are some things that are sweet to the Lord. Doesn't it show we can please God? We can be the apples of God's eye. God is not a person who practice favoritism in a sense that He says everybody can reach it if they obey my law. If God was to say I just give favor without principles, that is favoritism. Now what is favoritism? Favoritism is favor given without principles and laws. There must be principles and laws that govern our actions in our life. When we dispense favor on whom so ever without principles and without the laws, it will frustrate other people because they say I don't know how to get the same thing. Secondly favoritism is favor given based on the giver. But God's grace and favor that He gives and makes one an apple of His eye is based on the receiver and what the receiver does. That means that everybody if they would do what God wants to be done will become the apple of His eyes. Did Abel become the apple of God's eyes? Yes. Did Cain become the apple of God's eyes? No. But did God tell Cain how he could do it? Yes. He says, "Cain if you do well I will also give you favor and grace." Does God favor some people above others? Yes. Is God practicing favoritism? No. On 2 grounds. No. 1 His favor is based on principles and laws. No. 2 it is based on the receiver not on the giver. It says here Noah found grace. Being born again is not the end of the story but a continual walk with God can win favor with God.

You know why the Body of Christ is not motivated to spend time with God? Because we thought that all our blessings are in Christ and therefore we don't have to do anything. So it produces complacent Christians. It produces Christians without zeal to seek God. But when you understand that fact that there is a special grace we realize that getting up early in the morning is pleasing God is not based on works it's based on obedience.

Christians have fallen to the other extreme and say, "God is not going to bless you because of how much you pray, not how much you read the bible, not how much you spend time with God. Everything is based on grace, grace in Christ. Not by our works of righteousness but by His works."

That is only one side of the coin.

The other side of the coin is that unless we obey all the principles and laws of Christ we don't receive all the fullness of Christ. You say, "Do you mean that is by works and not by grace?" Salvation is by grace and reward is by works. We are all saved by grace. His rewards are based on works. Let be motivated to work hard for that. Coming into heaven and salvation is free by God's grace there is no doubt about it. We are saved not because of what we have done.

But lets see the other side of the coin. Rewards are based on obedience to God, on our walk and our works in God. The key is to learn how to work in the Spirit and not work in the flesh.

If we have the wrong concept of Christianity we think in Christ everything is given to me. You could just lie down in bed from 8 pm to 9 am every morning and every night from 9 pm to 8 am and think that you will receive your reward. "Bless me, Lord I am going to lie down on this pillow and You are going to bless me not because of what I have done. Jesus has done on the cross for me. In Christ I am being made rich in Him. I am a multi-millionaire in Christ. In Christ I am healed by His stripes I am healed. In Christ I am blessed. I have everything in life." You could just lie down and roll on your mattress and say that Jesus did all the works for you. That is not true. The only way we receive is based on works in God.

So let's see here Noah in Gen. 8:20 Then Noah build an altar to the Lord, and took of every clean animal and of every clean bird, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And when the Lord smelled the pleasing odor, the Lord said in his heart. Wasn't the Lord touched? He was touched. His heart was moved. In every human being even the most unfriendly they will have a soft spot somewhere. Even war criminals like Adolph Hitler have a soft spot. I have a little book given to me by a sister. Inside there are pictures of Adolph Hitler with his little cuties I think it was his daughter. But that man is a crook, a killer but there is his soft spot. There is a soft spot in every one of us. God made us all in His image to function by love except it is more difficult to find in some people than in others. But in God there is a softness in His heart that can be touched by the offering we give to Him.

Now after Noah offered his offerings to God, he received special blessings. Look at chapter 9:1 And so God blessed Noah and his sons. That was after his offerings. Now did God asked for that offering? No. Noah initiated that offering. If you look at it carefully it could be classified in 2 categories. No. 1 as a burnt offering. No. 2 as a peace offering. Thanksgiving I mean he is saved from the flood. And you see the 2 operated together strongly in his life.

Lets look at the book of Daniel. We are able to touch on 2 points. One is consistency with God. You see the burnt offering speaks of consistency. It must be a perpetual offering every morning and in fact there is also an evening sacrifice. It was initiated some where in the time of David. God would rather we be consistent than be desperadoes. Desperadoes seek God only when they need Him.

Dan. 9:20-21 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God; while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice. Chapter 10:11 O Daniel man greatly beloved. Now who was he beloved by? God. You can be loved and you can be greatly loved. I am not saying that God displays conditional love. His love is unconditional but He is prevented from loving us by our disobedience. And here Daniel tapped into the realm of God where the angel knows him and God said of him he is greatly loved. If you want to be the apple of God's eye burn offering everyday. Don't burn offering like you are in a hurry. Really seek God with all your heart. You must seek God like Daniel seeks consistently 3 times a day.

The second major principle that we have emphasized on is the principle of thanksgiving in our heart consistently. I Thes. 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Such a simple word but so seldom practiced. Don't be like Cain who will only thank God when he sees the church thanking God, "O I must thank God." Who only thank God only when he sees somebody thanking God? Don't be like Cain. Be like Abel. Whatever God does, whatever God blesses you, have a heart of thanksgiving to God. Thank you Lord for this day. Thank you Lord for another day to serve you. Thank you Lord for physical body that is healthy in me. Thank God constantly and your life will be different.

4. ABRAHAMIC AND DAVIDIC COVENANT

Turn to Matthew chapter one and this is first book that there is mentioned about 2 names. Two people who walked in the blood covenant of God in their life times and whose lives continue to be an example to those in the New Testament. Matt. 1:1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son David, the son of Abraham. It goes on to list a whole list of people who were part of the lineage and genealogy of the Lord Jesus Christ. We know that there are a lot of people who have walked with God, Elijah, Moses and Joseph. Why is it that these 2 names stand out prominently above the others? And their names are Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham. It looks as if there is a special significant work in their lives that points to the coming of Jesus. As you see in the genealogy there is a whole list of people right up to the time of Jesus Christ. Then we see in verse 17 So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. We see here in verse 17 that the time period of fourteen plus fourteen plus fourteen. Three generations of fourteen generations are divided into significant portions but only 2 names are mentioned. The others talked about the events or the things that take place like for example the captivity of Babylon until Christ. The captivity of Babylon there was a great man, great people living in those times. Those are people like Jeremiah and Daniel. Why is it that of all these many people God focused on 2 Abraham and David? This morning I want to bring to you that in the walk that Abraham had with God and in the walk that David had with God, there were some things in their lives that point and picture to Jesus Christ in the New Testament. That is why these 2 are prominently walked forward in these scriptures.

The Abrahamic Covenant: Partaking of Christ's Blessings

So lets look first at the covenant that Abraham had with God. Then look at the covenant that David had with God and see how it points to the time of Jesus Christ. In Abraham's time there is one significant portion of promise mentioned every time God speaks about the blood covenant with Him. Lets look at Gen. 12. The moment God called Abraham God began to speak about the key promise in his life. Every one of our lives is like the facet of God's jewel. We may try to tap on all the different aspects of God as much as possible. But to really bring forth the fullness of God in our lives takes ten thousand times ten thousand years. One life is too short to bring forth all of the fullness of God. So what happens is that in one lifetime we can bring forth one major facet and the other are smaller decorations around the facet of that fullness of God that can be brought forth in our life. So each one of our lives brings forth something from God. And each one of us needs to discover what facet in our life to bring forth. What are our life and our destiny meant to be.

We can not be everything. The bible is so clear in the book of I Cor. 12 some are the legs some are the hands some are the eyes and some are the ears. At first as a Christian who was desirous of every thing of God I find it difficult to accept because I wanted so much more of God. But as we grow in God we began to see His greatness, His awesomeness and we realize that only in heaven can we only have all of God. But in this life we have to discover what God wants to bring forth in us.

John the Baptist waited his life for one event, to prepare the way for Jesus. Daniel was a great leader who stands by and to lead the leaders of the nation in his time. Daniel's

life was to bring forth the prophecies of the kingdoms to come. When we think about Daniel we think about the domination, the desolation as prophesied by Daniel. The 70 weeks of Jeremiah that is expounded in the book of Daniel. When I think about Moses, Moses life is to bring forth the revelation of God's law and to establish principles where every generations will be judged. When I think about Joshua his role was to bring God's people into the Promised Land.

What is your role in your life? What is God's destiny in your life? It doesn't mean that you necessarily have to be in full time ministry. But even in the business world each one of us have a calling to bring the beautiful facet of God in our life. In the ministry, some will be great and mighty intercessors and also great ministers. Some of us are called into the frontline to bring forth the harvest. Some are called in the background to plough the ground. Some are called to bring forth praise and worship. Some are called to be the intermediary role like Samuel. His life was preparatory for what is to come. He stands between the judges and the monarchy of Israel. He installed Saul; he installed David and he set up the school of prophets. See he fulfilled his role to the fullness. One call has many little details to it but all are parts of one facet. For example Samuel's call was to set up what is to come. It was an intermediary role. What did he do? He set up the kingship. He did it with Saul. He even wrote a book on how a king should behave. Then he set up David as king. Then he set up the school of the prophets. See his ministry was setting up. Don't try to do what somebody else does. But do with all your heart what God calls you to do. When we talk about many facets here it is actually one huge big facet. For example I may be doing many things but primarily my life was to raise up five fold ministers. It may be done in a thousand and one ways. But the effect is always the same each one of us has a call. And we must be faithful to that call.

Gen. 12 Abraham has one key facet and that one facet has many colors but one key facet. It is right there from the time God called him. We will discover our basic facet that God has for our life. It has many colors but it is right there when God first called you when you were born again. And at each time that you were called there is always that one thing that stands out. Learn to discover it. It may be buried in many side issues but it is right there. There is nothing better in life than to fulfill our destiny.

Gen. 12:2 And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. God is not against making your name great. He is only against you being proud about it. God shares His honor but God doesn't share His glory. Honor means He rewards you and He uses you as a witness to others. And as your name becomes part of a tool it will either be hated or it will be loved. For example if you are living in the time of Joshua and God said He would make him great. Then the other tribes will say who will be with Joshua. When they stand with Joshua they are standing with God. When the name Joshua is mentioned people feared that name in a sense that they feared the God of Joshua. And in the Charismatic movement Kathryn Khulman was greatly used by God. And the moment you mention the name Kathryn Khulman you will find that some people hate that name and some love that name. The moment they hate that name they are saying no to the Holy Spirit. The moment they love that ministry they love the move of the Holy Spirit. You can see that God uses the name as a tool.

Lets continue verse 3 I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves. Notice he talks

about family he talks about multitude. In chapter 15 that same covenant now is developed. In chapter 15 He cuts the blood covenant with Abraham. And involved in the blood covenant is in verse 3 And Abraham said, "Behold, thou hast given me no offspring; and a slave born in my house will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; your own shall be your heir." And immediately He points to Isaac but ultimately it points to Jesus Christ. Again the emphasis is on the heir and on the family and on the multitude of nation.

Gen. 15:17-19 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great River, the river Euphrates, the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites. So He gives him the land and He gives him the seed to occupy the land. That's a promise to Abraham.

That is further developed in chapter 17:4-5, Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham. And God says this time next year you will have a child. Same blood covenant notice the focal point No. 1 on the seed. No. 2 on the land. No. 3 on his multitude of descendants to occupy the land. One final part of the story, which we can not miss out, is in chapter 22 when God tested Abraham's love for Him in that blood covenant and told him to offer up Isaac. Abraham was obedient in verses 13 and 14 and in chapter 22 verse 14 Abraham called the name of the place The Lord will Provide. In verses 15-18 And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By Myself I have sworn says the Lord, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

Chapter 22 sounds so much like chapter 12. If you put the two chapters side by side the promises look exactly the same except that one was a promise and the other was a fulfillment. Do you know that there is a point in time when God gives you a promise and another point in time when the promise becomes sealed and nothing can change it again?

Lets say a lady is expecting a child in the womb. For those who are not in the blood covenant who don't have the promises of having a full term birth as promised in Deut. 28, then they stand in danger of miscarriage at all times. And every time there is a show of blood beyond normal there is some fear that comes upon their lives when they look at the circumstances. But when the child is born and grows up, there is a stage where you will never more have any doubts that you will ever loose the child.

There is a point when God speaks something into your life and it's still in its incubation stage. At that stage you are still in danger of losing it. But there is a point where you reach in God that you walk with God like Abraham from chapter 12 to chapter 15 and in chapter 17 and then chapter 22. And after chapter 22 God sort of sealed it and said there is nothing else that you can do that will ever change this blessing. It has become sealed upon your life.

Another illustration we could have is like 2 businessmen negotiating a deal. The deal usually starts with conversation and inquiries. Then finally they may agree and have a simple handshake. The deal is there but the actual security that you have in the natural is when finally both of you go to the lawyer's office and you sign the contract and that is sealed. When the contract is sealed at any time whoever breaks that contract, he will break it at a great loss to himself. So that's a seal.

Third illustration, maybe you are looking for a house to buy. Then you finally found a house that you want to buy. Although you have decided that is the house you want, the deal is not sealed until your signature gets on the piece of paper and all the proper transfer is finalized then you know that is sealed.

The same goes with the promise of God. There is some thing that He speaks in our life that is still in the incubation period. It is not sealed until a certain point in our life. But Abraham's key was to bring forth people into the blessings of God, to bring us into God. So that in the New Testament in Gal. 3:13 summarizes the key aspect of Abraham's covenant that still applies in the body of Christ. Verse 13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us - for it is written, "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree - that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The key is to receive all the blessings. You have been redeemed from all the curses of the law in Deut. 28 and the blessings of the law in Deut. 28:1-14. And all those blessings are in Christ and they are pictured in Abraham. So in Abraham I want to summarize one key point. That in Abraham the blood covenant he has that points to us today is bringing us into the fullness of God's blessings. When he says Christ the son of Abraham he is speaking about man moving into the fullness that God has. That fullness was lost when Adam sinned. When God created the whole world in six days, on the sixth day He created man. And after He created man He says it was very good. And He gave the whole garden and all of His creation to Adam. He gave him authority, He gave him blessings and God wants to bless us. Many of God's covenanted people have not realize the fullness of that blessing of Abraham. Some do not receive that blessings because they don't believe it. Some because they don't have enough faith to have it. But many because they are ignorant of that blessing. God wants you to be blessed with all the riches in Christ Jesus, blessings of the spirit, blessings of the soul and blessings of the body, blessings of the spiritual man and the physical man. He wants you to have all these things. He just requires that we be faithful to all that He blesses us. That's the hallmark of the covenant of Abraham.

The promise in the seed form mentioned Abraham had to leave his homeland. His first step was to leave his homeland in chapter 12 and thereafter he walked with God. In chapter 15 he cut a blood covenant with God. And God gave him a detailed promise. He even told him when it would be fulfilled. He says in the fourth generations. And Abraham's problem was his heir. And God says I give you an heir. In chapter 17 he was circumcised. In chapter 22 he was tested. Chapter 12 he was separated. Chapter 15 there was revelation; Abraham had questions in his mind. After you are separated you wonder where you are going. And God revealed it. Then there is circumcision in chapter 17 and testing in chapter 22.

This same pattern is followed in the book of Joshua. And Joshua basically is to bring forth the Abrahamic covenant and the Mosaic covenant, which is a further development of the Abrahamic covenant. First there was a separation in chapter 4. In Joshua chapter 4 they crossed the Jordan. The Jordan is like a symbol of separation from Egypt and the new land. What about the other 2 tribes that are over the Jordan? You read in the book of Kings that these tribes were the first to fall. So crossing the river Jordan is like being separated from your relatives and friends who are ungodly and that is your Gen. 12 experience. Then your Gen. 15 experience comes but notice in Joshua it came together with chapter 17. In Joshua chapter 5 they are both circumcised and Joshua received a revelation of where to go and what to do. So they received both the Gen. 15 and Gen. 17 experience in Joshua chapter 5. And afterwards they are tested in chapter 6 in their first battle in Jericho. But all of Abraham's covenant is to bring us into Christ.

The Davidic Covenant: Placing Us In Christ

There are 2 key points that Matthew chapter one verse one brings forth. God wants to place us into Him and to partake of His blessings. But there is another part that He wants that is found in the blood covenant with David. What is David's life for? Abraham's life was to bring us into the blessings of Christ. David's life was to bring God into our life. Notice David's life. His whole life revolves around bringing God to the people. From the time when he was anointed in the book of I Samuel he was a worshipper of God and he was anointed to be king. They already had all the promises of God. See they didn't struggle to receive the blessings of Abraham. But they moved into the second area of letting God come down into our life. And David had that in his life. That was his call. That was his destiny. The moment David was anointed king by all the tribes of Israel the first thing he did was to bring the ark back.

Now what was David's main life? Sometimes we don't know what our main destiny is until you begin to see yourself. He brought the ark into the capital city of the people of Israel. It was a symbol of bringing God right into the center of our life. The ark was sidetracked in some city somewhere. All through the time of Judges and all in the time of Samuel and all through the time of Saul the ark was kept aside. It is like putting Jesus to one side. He is Savior but not Lord. And David wants to bring the ark into the capital city.

In the book of II Samuel chapter 5 he was anointed. And he established the capital city of Israel as Jerusalem. Then in chapter 6 he brought the ark into Jerusalem. And all the time he was always desirous for God to be with the people. That was his great desire. In chapter 7 in verse one; the king dwelt in his house, and the Lord had given him rest from all his enemies round about. The king said I dwelt in a house but God doesn't have a house. I want God to have a house. I want God to dwell among us. That was always David's destiny to bring God into his people.

Later on in David's life there was one more thing that he did not do until the final part of his life. Chapter 24:1 Again the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he incited David against them, saying, "Go, number Israel and Judah." Now if you cross reference to the book of I Chron. 21:1 Satan stood up against Israel and incited David to number Israel. Why did Satan stand up in that time? If you read the bible story every time when God was about to do some thing great the devil wants to stir some thing awesome too, some thing horrible. Great demonic activity precede the

great move of God. Because the devil sensed some thing is cooking. And he wants to come and spy out what is happening. And so great demonic activity comes.

You see during the time of Moses. That just at the time when Moses was born there was a stirring up of opposition against the Israelites to kill every first born. The devil could sense something is coming up. The fourth generation is here. And so he cooked up some thing to try to destroy God's move. He knows that if the move of God gets so huge he can never stop it. So he tries to stop it when it was a little stream flowing through. In the time of Jesus just as Jesus was born the devil stirred up king Herod.

Now I want to point to the fact that this was the very significant point in Israel. Because God was going to fulfill what He has prescribed to them in Deut. 12 where He says I will reveal to you the place where I will dwell. He told Moses I would show you where the place is when you all come to the land. Moses died without seeing it. Samuel died without seeing it. It was up to David to bring forth the revelation. And somehow during that time there was a great stirring. David was pretty old by that time. Maybe David was thinking well many years had come and gone I have done my chores for the Lord. What else can you do for God? And just when he is thinking of retiring, there was the greatest thing that God has for his life. Remember on this earth we don't retire. You only become more active or less active and that's all.

You see the devil tempted David to number Israel. Why do you think he wanted to number Israel? Because he wants to look back and see all that God has done. There is some thing great coming that he did not see. And so he sinned against God. But out of that situation he repented and went on his knees and fasted before God.

You know how the devil tried to stop Jesus. When the devil put Jesus on the cross, God turn that up for the greatest victory. Nothing the devil can do to destroy what God wants to do. No matter how great the cross seems to be. No matter how great a defeat it seems to be. All the demons were laughing when Jesus was on the cross. And all the demons will be laughing when you fall or when you fail. But there is nothing the devil can do to stop what God wants to do.

As David went on his knees and repented and humbled himself God took David out and on that day He revealed to him the place where he will build the temple. I Chron. 21:24 But King David said to Ornan, "No, but I will buy it for the full price; I will not take for the Lord what is yours, nor offer burnt offerings which cost me nothing." And David bought that piece of land. And that piece of land was the exact place where the temple of God was to be built. And when the temple of God was built in Solomon's time we recognize that the presence of God came down in II Chron. 3:1. Then Solomon began to build the house of the Lord in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah, where the Lord had appeared to David his father, at the place that David appointed, on the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

David's life was to bring the presence of God and to bring God in a measure into the life of his people. Abraham's destiny was to bring God's people into the treasures and the blessings of God's heart. But David's destiny was to bring God into the peoples' lives. That is why the 2 covenants stand together, the covenant that God had with Abraham and the covenant that God had with David.

Everything Solomon did was planned by David.

As we look at what it means in the New Testament. There is a two-fold blessing that Christ wants to bring. It is found in Abraham and found in David. No. 1 He wants to bring each one of us born again, washed in His precious Blood into the fullness of all that He has for us. Above your highest dream, beyond your highest level of faith, above what you could think or ask. He wants to bring that into your life. These 2 covenants are expressed in the book of Ephesians. Eph. 1:18-19 Having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of His power in us who believe.

Now everything here is we discovering His things. The emphasis is we discover Him. We discover all that He has for us. We discover all that He wants of us. We discover His fullness. And that is an ongoing process of the Abrahamic covenant in our life.

But the other part is also precious. In chapter 3 of Ephesians verse 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love. I have found out that the 2 are different. It is not automatically that when you have a certain measure of God's blessings around you that you have the same measure of God coming down in you.

They are 2 separate different processes of God working in our life. See there are many people who have tasted many blessings of God. But it doesn't change them. Why do great men fall? Why do some people whom God has blessed fall? They have tasted part one. But we all neglect the Davidic covenant, which is part two.

God wants to be in us. You say both are automatic. I know there is a relationship between change inside and change outside. But there is a change that is temporal and a change that is permanent. Everything you receive you have to conceive on your inside. So before you receive the Abrahamic blessing you have it on your inside. But there is a difference between receiving the gift and the giver. Plus there is a difference between having a seed once and having something permanently in you. There is a difference between having God use you once and letting God use you 24 hours permanently. There is a difference between God using you and God living in you. Far too many Christians neglect part two.

You say all is automatic. What about Adam and Eve? Did they receive every blessing that you could think of. They received everything you could dream of. Nothing in this life can compare to what they had in the Garden of Eden. But what was lacking? The development of God's presence in them. And that is the key element that's why in the book of revelation among the last few chapters you find that finally there is joy in heaven because He declares, "Behold the tabernacle of God is with man." And God wants to dwell in us.

And there are different degrees of God dwelling in us. There is a measure you receive when you are born again. But God wants more. And He wants us to welcome Him. Just like Abraham who went through the different processes before receiving all his blessings. He was separated from his kinsfolk in chapter 12. He received divine revelation in chapter 15 and he cut a covenant with God. And in chapter 17 he was circumcised and he changed his name. Chapter 22 he was tested and it was sealed on his life.

David had a different process. No. 1 David had received the anointing and his first call was to be a worshipper of God. God dwells in the praises of His people. So we worship God so that God could dwell in us. So step one you start as a worshipper of God. Then I Sam. 16 David a worshipper of God. Then you got step two. You have to overcome Goliath. And between Goliath and a worshipper of God are the bear and the lion. Because when you want God to be in your life more, there will be things that rise up like a lion and a bear to take its place. I am sure you know that many people when they are blessed by God they stand in danger of what Abraham was tested at No. 4. The blessing of God can block you from seeing God. I know many people when they are in trouble they seek God. But when God blesses them they got no more problems in their life and they forget God. That is a part of people who only have part one. They only know the Abrahamic covenant. They only know how to take all of God's blessings. But they don't know how to realize step two. To have God in us is a different thing. To have us in God is different. But God wants to be in us as much as He wants us to be in Him.

At step two David in chapter 17 all of us will have our I Sam. 16 when you begin to learn to look beyond the gifts at the giver. Let me explain you know someone by his or her gifts first. How did we get to know one another? By small little things first. First by first impression, how you dress, how you talk, how you walk, how you conduct yourself, everything reveals something about you. Slowly I get to know you as a person. That is why God wants us to know Him first by bringing us into Him so you see all His blessings, all these riches and glory that He gives us. So God knows that it takes us time to discover Him. So He has part one first. He brings us into Him, so that as we are in Him we look around and say O my God.

But what does God wants us to do? Part two He wants us to know Him and discover Him. He wants us to say O God I really want to know Your heart. And as we grow in God there are more things for us to discover about God. If you think that God does not love you any more, if you really take a good look at Him you can find Him still loving you. There are many things that we discover who God really is. And when we do we say, "God I want you to dwell permanently in me." Now He can't do that all in one go. He does that gradually.

Step one you got to learn to first worship. Many people can not even move into I Sam. 16. When God does something great in their life they don't think about God. That is the last thing they do. The first thing they do is struggle with God about their tithes. Then in I Sam. 17 some things will rise up like a Goliath in your life that you got to watch out for. The key points are in I Sam. 22 you have your Adulam's cave to enter. What is Adulam's cave? Adulam's cave is where you discover your inner being. When you are stripped off every things else that tries to tell you what you are but you are not really are. Adulam's cave is that cold wet dirty cave where you have to discover who you really are in God and stay true to that in worshipping God.

That's when you move into II Sam. And in II Sam., you have the 3 anointings. Your first anointing is in I Sam. 16. You have 2 more anointing. And these 2 establish different things. In II Sam. You have moved into allowing Jesus to be in your life. And you have learned to let God dwell permanently in your life. II Sam. 2 and II Sam. 5 anointed twice. But the 2 anointings tell about different things. In II Sam. 2 it talks about a presence that comes into your life quite permanently. II Sam. 5 talks about the presence being full in your life. In II Sam. 2 you are established. From that day

onwards David was king. It was in chapter 5 where he began to be able to do some things that he had always wanted to do. And the bible says David had rest. He established Jerusalem, and established the ark and finally he had rest in God's presence. That's a beautiful story. First be in God, then God in us and then union with God. Which is what Jesus wants in John chapter 14, 15, 16 and 17: we in God and God in us.

5. THE COVENANT OF PEACE

Heb. 4:1 Therefore, while the promise of entering his rest remains, let us fear lest any of you be judged to have failed to reach it. It says here there is a promise that up to the time of Hebrews that as he writes as a new covenant writer. He says that there is still a promise of entering into the rest. And he speaks about a rest that is ours that some of God's people did not succeed into entering. The background of the book of Hebrews is that this group of Jewish Christians that were born again was having problems. They have some form of the Word of God given to them. They were under great pressure. There was a group of Jewish people who were pressuring them to give up Christianity and go back to the Jewish traditions and follow after the Jewish customs. Persecution was round the corner. They haven't resisted until blood was shed yet. But there was intense pressure to compromise. Intense pressure to give up what they have received.

So here Paul writes to them and tells them there is one thing that you lack. It almost sounds like Martha and Mary with Jesus Christ. And there was Jesus coming into the house and Martha was so busy cleaning the house, cooking the food. And Martha got frustrated. Why should she be doing all these work alone? Where is Mary my sister? She should be helping me. There was Jesus speaking the Word of God. And there was Mary and she was just sitting listening to Jesus. After some time she says that she is going to report about Mary to Jesus and say that she didn't fulfill her household duties. Then she came straight to Jesus and asked Him whether He can tell Mary to help her. To her surprise Jesus says, "Martha, Martha, why are you troubled about many things? Mary has chosen the better part." What happened was Martha did not enter into this rest.

I wonder how many Christians are like the Hebrews and like Martha. There they are trying to do every thing but under pressure they could not find the rest. In chapter 4:1 says there remains a rest. Look at verse 9 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God. There is a rest that we can enter into. And as I meditate upon this rest, I realize that this rest is not only spiritual but it affects your soul and it affects your body. Just look around you sometimes in the secular world and you find so many people not at rest. And in the world they are trying to pursue it through wrong teaching and wrong philosophy. Top executives pay thousands of dollars to learn how to sit in the yoga position. Some millionaires will pay all the money they have to get a good night rest. Many of them can't sleep. They take pills to put themselves to sleep. That's physical rest.

And as I was meditating on this realm on the new covenant the rest of God gave, the Holy Spirit said to me, "Son, do you know that also implies physical rest. He says I don't promise some thing in the spiritual that don't affect the natural." I said, "God if that is so then there are a lot of Christians who have not entered into that kind of rest." And out there with all their wrong philosophy and wrong teaching, they are trying to get people to function at their best level without Jesus. So they tell you that there is the alpha wave that they try to move into. If people only know that there is a rest in Jesus that affects spirit, soul and body. As we go through life we do feel tension. But the key is the ability to rests in Jesus, which many did not discover.

The most interesting thing is that this is part of their covenant. It is a part of the promise of Jesus for their lives. There is a rest that is possible. Let me point to

situation that people are not at rest in. If they were at rest they won't have this kind of tension. I believe a lot of the Body of Christ suffers from tension, pressure and stress in their lives. And I believe that this doesn't belong to us. Because there is a rest where we can enter into the spiritual realm first which will affect the soul and then the physical body.

Do you know you think better when you are at rest? And some of us are very tense all the time. Every thing you do without relaxing will cause you not to function at your optimum. If you are too tense playing a musical instrument, you cannot bring out your best. If you are too tense while you are singing, you can't bring out your best voice. I was having fellowship with a top sportswoman in Perth who has won the women's championship for several years. And she said the sad thing that she experience is that she wished that she had come to know Jesus much earlier and she would have done a better job. And she said that every time before the championship she would feel all these tensions. And she tried to do every thing she can to relieve that pressure so that she could be as relaxed as possible to play her best game. And she said I wished I had known Jesus and I could have prepared myself even better mentally and spiritually.

Top athletes try to get into a mental frame of relaxation so that they could do their best. This is because tension diverts your energy into some thing else. It's called wasted energy. But when you are relaxed you could channel all your spirit, soul and body to fulfill all that God wants. When people are tense, they are frustrated and upset easily. Do you know that when you are relaxed and calm and some one gets angry at you, you could just smile and quietly say, "Praise the Lord." People who are easily upset have too much built-up tension. Why are we like that even though we are born again? What God wants is to get rid of all these things. You don't have to learn to relax by doing yoga or transmeditation. But we need to teach God's people the right way to get rid of all those tensions in their lives so that they could be more relaxed in their life, spirit, soul and body and achieve all that God wants.

Lets look at Matt. 14:25-27 And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. But immediately he spoke to them saying, "Take heart, it is I, have no fear." All these tensions that was in their lives caused them to fear.

Turn to Mk. 5:21 And when Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered about Him; and He was beside the sea. Then came one of the rulers of the synagogue, Jarius by name, and seeing Him, he fell at His feet.

You could see that emotional pressure that came on his life. But I want to point to the fact that unless you are at rest in Christ you will find it hard to exercise faith. And so Jesus is on His way to heal his daughter. And in verse 35 While he was still speaking, there came from the ruler's house some who said, "Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the Teacher any further?"

Now we get caught up in the miracle of Jesus raising the dead. But we forget the preparation behind it. Many people want instant miracle when they don't get themselves into the rest of Christ. It is so wonderful to see an airplane fly. Do you know how much work goes into making that plane. It is so nice to see a miracle that

breaks natural laws and cross the natural barrier. Then we look at it and say that it is wonderful. We forget all the preparations behind it.

It was as important to say to Jarius these words as much as it was to raise his daughter. Jesus said in verse 36 Do not be fear, only believe. See Jesus had to bring Jarius to rest in faith. And all along the way Jarius must rest in Jesus. I believe the reason why we don't see the works of Jesus or greater works of Jesus is because we don't even enter into His rest. We got so tensed up wanting a miracle, so tensed up wanting some thing. And we are not even at rest in Jesus. We don't have words that say don't be afraid only believe and we enter into the rest for some time.

I am sure from that moment Jarius refused to let himself be pressured into tension and frustration, Jarius rested in Jesus and put his trust in Him. So that by the time they reached the house all his trust and rest was upon Jesus. The Bible says, "Cast all your cares upon Me for I care for you" (I Pt. 5:7). But Jesus says here in a different way. He says, "Come unto me all ye who are heavily laden and I will give you rest." We can't do the works of Jesus until we get into the rest where Jesus is.

Jesus' name is Yeshua which in the Old Testament is the same as Joshua. Just as Joshua brought the people into the land of Canaan Jesus seeks to bring us into rest. Now look carefully at Heb. 4 the land of Canaan in comparison equals the rest of Jesus. He is comparing the 2 Canaan equals to rest. Lets look at Mk. 4 first before we go to Heb. 4 again.

Mk. 4:35-38 On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd, they took him with them just as he was, in the boat. And other boats were with him. And a great storm of wind arise, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion, and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do you not care if we perish?" Look at the word care, or you can replace it with one big word you all know worry. "Don't you care that we are perishing? Are you not worry at all? Are you not concerned for us?" Jesus stood up and said, "Why are you so fearful?"

Verse 39 And He awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still." And the wind ceased. You can never calm the storm that rage against you until you have that calm in your own life. Unless that peace is in your own heart you cannot release it through your spoken word. The Prince of Peace says peace. Unless you are at rest you cannot bring others into rest. Unless you are at peace you cannot bring others to peace. Have you seen some one who is frustrated and tensed trying to calm another guy? They will add to the problem. Have you seen some one who is fearful trying to tell some one not to be fearful? You can't give what you don't have. Unless peace is in your heart you cannot release it out. Jesus was sleeping on a pillow He was at rest. And He release rest. If you have a storm raging on your inside how can you calm the storm raging on the outside? And yet so many Christians have storms raging on their inside. Outside they put a plastic mask. But inside there are lightning bolts, thunder storms, all kinds of turmoil going on in their inside. The big question we ask is, "Is this Christianity?" Is this what the Christian life is supposed to be? No, it is not.

Turn to Heb. 4:9-10 So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God; for whoever enters God's rest also ceases from his labors as God did from His.

If you compare Heb. 4 to Joshua going into the land of Canaan, Canaan is represented by rest. Capital Rest in the New Testament. The land of Canaan is not spelt with the C. Its spelt with the I. My rest is my land of Canaan. Now what is in the land of Canaan? In the land of Canaan there are abundance of blessings. In the old covenant it will be material blessings and all kind of blessings. Can you take the land with milk and honey before you cross into the land of Canaan. You can't. Where is the honey, where are the grapes? It's all in the land of Canaan. You can't stand in the Jordan over here and say I would like some grapes. You can't, you got to get inside. All your prosperity all your healing and all that Jesus promised is in that rest. If you don't enter into that rest you can never partake of fruit. Entering it is a prerequisite to receiving it. Without entering into the rest you can never partake of any fruit that is in your land of Canaan.

You could tell whether a miracle is going to take place by listening to whether people are at rest. Before you can have your healing which is one of the fruits in the land of Canaan, you must enter into rest. Before you can have your provision and prosperity you must enter into the rest. These are all words that Jesus said. There is a prerequisite to every healing miracle. And the prerequisite is you must enter your land of Canaan spelt with the word rest.

Verse 33 is the land of Canaan. Mat. 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these shall be added to you. Everyone wants a blessing. Have you lived a life where things are added to you? You just love God, you just love righteousness, and God blesses you with all kinds of things. The question is why is it not happening in many people's life. It is because they don't fulfill the condition.

Look at Matt. 6:33 the first word it is spelt with the "but" and look at verse 34 the first word that follows it is "therefore". Now He is telling you how to get Matt. 6:33 He says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about its own things." We know that all these things will be added to you when you seek first the kingdom of God. Now He is telling us how to really seek the kingdom of God. First, you must enter into that rest. And He repeats it many times in Matt. 6. Verse 25 Therefore I say to you do not worry. Verse 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature. Verse 28 So why do you worry. Verse 31 Therefore do not worry.

And you look at it worrying is serving mammon. Because the context of His verse is verse 24 "no one can serve two masters for either he will hate the one and love the other or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon." Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life.

Why is He so against worry? Worry is tension building up in your soul. Your soul is not at rest and storms are building up. Of course when tension is in your soul it gets into your body. A lot of people worry and get stomach ulcers. Tension builds up in their soul. And as long as your soul is not at rest you are not in the land of Canaan. You are not in your promised land. By not resting you are walking back into Egypt. Egypt is a place where you labor under a taskmaster. We have to observe whether we are at rest or not. The best place to observe is in your soul. It is because the symptoms are there in your soul. And one of the signs is worry, concern and built up tension. Jesus said do not worry. And every time before answers to prayer can come, we must completely get rid of every aspect that is not at rest in our life.

Turn to Phil. 4:6-7 Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Have you ever tried praying a prayer of faith in healing for some one sick perhaps an incurable disease? You will never succeed to connect a power line into that sick person's life unless you bring that soul to rest. If you could bring him or her to rest in the Lord and there is a peace quality in their soul its so easy to get the power of God flowing. The moment you lay hands and you pray the power of God just flows. And you could literally feel the power like the heat in electricity flowing right into them. And they could immediately receive the healing.

But in many peoples life there is a blockage. The blockage is not always a big sin. The blockage is there is no rest. They are not in the position of rest. There is so much tension in their spirit, soul and body for God's power to flow. It is a prerequisite before anything takes place.

Why is it possible in the New Testament? What is so special? Lets us explore the book of Hebrews. We see the point that he's getting us to. In chapter 4 he introduces the rest that we have in Him. And he focuses in chapters 5, 6 and 7 on the great promise that Jesus has brought forward for us in chapter 9.

Heb. 9:15 Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred which redeems them from the transgressions under the first covenant.

Now we all know that He died for our sins. But look at the purpose in verse 15. Those who are called, those who are in the new covenant may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance and that is now in this life.

Turn to chapter 10:12-18 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, then to wait until His enemies should be made a stool for His feet. For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us; for after saying, "This is the covenant that I will make with them, after those days, says the Lord; I will put my laws on their hearts, and write them on their minds." Then He adds "I will remember their sins and their misdeeds no more." Now where there is remission of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

In other words peace reigns in your heart. What happens when the Word of God is written in your heart and in your mind? How do you know that it is written? Peace. Phil. 4:7 peace reigns. When faith comes there is peace. You see some times you can be confessing the Word. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word. Then you could tell the way people are saying and confessing they are trying to get it written into their heart and mind. They are trying to convince themselves. But when the Word is finally written some thing takes place - peace. I want to show that peace and faith are working together. Without faith completed there is no peace. Peace is the first result of faith. You know that faith has entered in when there is peace.

Rom. 10 is a great chapter on faith. It tells us here in verse 8 But what does it say? The Word is near you, on your lips and in your heart (that is, the word of faith which we preach). Now he calls the Word the word of faith. But as you look on in verse 14-15 But how are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news?”

He calls the good news the gospel of peace. The word of faith is the good news of peace. The word of faith is that you can have peace in your heart. You can have peace in your soul. You can have peace in your body. You can have rest in your soul, you can have rest in your spirit, and you can have rest in your body. When faith comes peace manifests. When faith is not there peace is not there. Faith and peace operates together. When faith has completed its work it is written in your heart. When it is written in your heart and in your mind the peace is there. The peace that passes understanding.

In Rom. 16 he continues on the same sense. Verse 20 then the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. Is the God of peace dwelling in your heart? If your answer is no you will not have Satan’s work crushed under your feet. The God of peace must reign in our heart, in our mind and in our soul and in our physical body. And He will crush Satan under your feet. It is in the future tense for the Romans. It says here and the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. That means its somewhere in the future.

Why suddenly talk about the future? It is because there were things in their lives that were not at peace yet. And until God succeeds in bringing it to peace they will not have that happen in their life. In the context of Rom. 16 he was talking about divisions in their midst like in verses 17 and 18 all kinds of strife. Do you know strife is caused by people who are highly tensed? You can call it anger, jealousy, envy or anything but all these things can be lumped together in one thing in its . It produces tension in a person. Why do people complain or be angry? Because they are highly tense. They don’t have rest.

And who are the ones who solve their quarrels? They are called the peacemakers. Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called the sons of God. That means for example if A is quarreling with B and I am highly tense and I hear what A said I get tensed. I hear what B said I get tensed. Can I be a peacemaker? I can’t because I will be either siding with A or siding with B. But if I am at peace and I hear what A said and let my peace come in what a difference. Do you know that a person can disagree with you but if they are at peace, they can sit down and talk over the differences? Do you know why husbands and wives can not talk with one another? It is due to their tension. You see the problem is not that inability to discuss and fellowship. You don’t agree with everybody 100%. There are many things that got to be discussed along the way. The problem is not with our disagreement, do you notice that? The problem is that tension behind that disagreement. If we are all not tense, if we are all cool and calm we could discuss our differences easily. The problem is not the difference. The problem is that we are not at rest. If you allow the God of peace to reign in your heart, to reign in your soul and reign in your body, that peace will be so powerful that it will come upon other people.

Turn to Matt. 10:13 And if the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it. What happens when the God of peace comes on anything? Satan is crushed. Anywhere where peace comes Satan is defeated. If peace comes in your business Satan is defeated. What is the purpose of people fighting war? To bring peace. And when Jesus came in the new covenant He brought one of the most powerful peace possible. Something tangible that is different from the old covenant. You see Hebrews were trying to say these things are not possible in the old covenant. Because in the new covenant it is all done in Christ. Once and for all it is complete. All we have to do is to enter into that peace that is in Jesus. In the Old Testament they had to struggle very much for healing. They have to ask God for healing. They have to do a lot of thing. In the New Testament you look to Jesus and lift up your hands and you thank God for healing.

Look at Isa. 53:5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that made us whole and with his stripes we are healed. Now did peace come first or healing came first? The other thing to take note is the tenses. It says, "For the chastisement of our peace was upon him; by his stripes we are healed."

Turn to I Pt. 2:24 He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.

In the Old Testament they had to actually struggle. Remember Moses had to pray to God to heal Miriam. In the New Testament you lift up your hands and say, "Thank you Jesus" and you allow the peace of God to come into your life because it is already done. It was not done in the Old Testament yet. In the New Testament its completed and you focus on Jesus. Gal. 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us – for it is written "Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree – that in Christ Jesus the blessings of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

One more thing when the Spirit came and in the coming of the Spirit Jesus particularly mentioned in John 14:26-27 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Now this was before the coming of the Holy Spirit. There is a peace that He brings us into. Jesus said My peace I give to you. Remember the first word of Jesus when He was resurrected to His disciples, "Peace be with you." Unless you enter into peace you can not enter into the things of the Spirit. Unless you enter into peace you can not enter into prosperity (Matt. 6). Unless you enter into peace you can not enter into healing. Unless you enter into peace you can not enter into any of the blessings in the new covenant. That is why Heb. 4 says try to enter into that rest. And I have shown you that, that rest is the peace. If God crushes your enemy you don't have to do anything. All you do is let the God of peace reign in our life.

But this is the peace you have to fight for. This is the peace you have to strive for. And there are 2 ways to enter into that peace. It is implied in Phil. 4:6 Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. It tells you how to get rid of

your anxiety. How to get rid of worry. We are not saying that we live in the world where worries don't try to come. They will try to come. But there is a way around it. No. 1 through prayer. St. Paul says in everything by prayer and supplication. And the best pray I know is praying in the Spirit. When you are tensed, I mean in this life once in a while you get upset and tensed. And the devil will try to take away your peace. Remember if Satan can not take your peace, he can not take your joy and then he can not take your goods. What did Adam and Eve lost? They lost their peace. They were no more at rest. They got to do something. Before joy comes peace must come. Try to rejoice without peace you can't. Peace must reign in our life. The first way into peace is pray in tongues. Such a simple method but so little utilized. The next time if Satan tries to steal your peace, just pray softly in tongues. You could be angry or upset or whatever. And you enter into your prayer closet so upset, angry, you go so angry in your prayer but after sometime you go softly and peacefully. There is something that happens in your life that tries to take your peace away. Don't ever move out of your land of Canaan your land of peace. Don't allow tension to build up in your body much less your soul much less your spirit. The moment you sense it start praying in tongue. Remember what praying in tongue is; building yourself up. Keeping yourself in the love of God. If you don't lose your peace you will get all your blessings of Canaan, health, wealth, prosperity and abundant life.

Second is the meditation in the Word of God. The Word carries peace. And every time you meditate on the Word a measure of it comes into your life. Every time you hear the Word you may not feel it but faith comes. And as you keep hearing God's Word over and over again and through speaking it forth and through hearing it again, faith comes and its building up. Every time you face insurmountable pressure take up God's Word, take up praying in the Spirit and just confess. By the time I confessed maybe about 10 pages or so of God's Word I could feel the peace in my heart. And my body is so charged up with the energy to do something for God. That's the rest. You rest from your own works and God works through you.