

# Overcoming By Faith in The Blood

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**F**irst some background to the state of the world. In the beginning everything was perfect, God and man were in fellowship together and the entire world was in harmony including the animals and plant life. Then a great tragedy happened, God had only given one commandment, 'Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat of it: for in the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die' (*Genesis 2:17*). Along came Satan who deceived Eve causing her to eat of it, Eve in turn encouraged Adam who also ate of it and the perfect peace and harmony in the world turned into a nightmare (in comparison, that is, with what they enjoyed before they sinned).

Man's spiritual life died immediately and from that moment on death started working in man's body. They had obeyed Satan, who became the god of this world; they had sinned and now sin came in to reign over them, and death followed sin (*see Romans 5:21*). Man would continue to sin and die until God once more stepped into the world to rescue man. This happened when Jesus Christ came. Sickness, disease and death are a result of Adam's disobedience. Now we all sin and we all die. Sickness and disease are an accepted part of this life, but it wasn't always so.

The Bible says that the 'thief' comes to 'steal', 'kill' and 'destroy' (*John 10:10*); this is what Satan does to us with sickness and disease. The good news is that Jesus, the Son of God, came to 'destroy the works of the devil' (*1 John 3:8*).

After living a sinless life Jesus died on a cross, not for his own sins, because He hadn't sinned, but for the sins of the world; the Just for the unjust, God's Son died for God's enemies, in order to reconcile us to God. After three days He rose from the dead, victorious and triumphant over death, and now He lives for evermore, offering the free gift of eternal life to all who believe in Him.

Faith in Jesus is not only the initial step into eternal life but for the Christian it is a way of life. Satan, the enemy, would continually try to rob us of our faith. He will tempt us and condemn us in order to make our life miserable and ineffective for God.

## How do We Overcome?

Revelation 12:11 says, 'And they (*the Christians*) overcame him (*Satan, the devil*) by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.'

How did they overcome by the blood of the Lamb? What does it mean?

The little word 'by' in this verse in the KJV can be misleading. It is not the **means** by which we overcome but the **reason** by which we overcome. In other words it is by our understanding what the blood of the Lamb has actually done for us that we overcome the devil. (*See Word Pictures in the New Testament, Volume VI, by A T Robertson, page 394.*)

## The Blood is the Means of our Salvation

In Revelation 1:5 where it says, 'To Him who loves us, and has washed us from our sins in His blood' (*JND*) we see the means by which we are cleansed from sin; it is by being fully washed in the blood of Jesus Christ. The blood is directly involved in our cleansing. Also Revelation 5:9 says that Christ has 'redeemed us to God' by His blood. To redeem us means that Christ has bought us out from the slave market of sin; He has set us free from sin (*see Romans 6:22*). He has also 'redeemed us from the curse of the law' (which includes all manner of sickness and disease) 'that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles' (*Galatians 3:13-14*).

The price has been paid in full, and the price was not silver and gold but the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Here we see the blood directly involved in payment for us. The blood is the means of our salvation.

The blood is the purchase price and because of this it has obtained for us our justification, our redemption, our peace with God, our forgiveness, our sanctification and our cleansing (*see Acts 20:28, Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, Colossians 1:20, Hebrews 9:22, Hebrews 13:12, 1 John 1:7*). Our knowledge of what the blood has done for us is the reason that we are able to overcome Satan when he accuses us of sin.

## By Faith in the Blood

Faith in the blood is an essential necessity for the Christian walk. Romans 3:25 says, 'Whom God hath set forth *to be* a propitiation through faith in His blood ...'. What this means is that Christ, by His sacrifice, has obtained mercy for us from the wrath of God, and we partake of this mercy when we trust in His blood as the payment for our sins and as the means by which we are cleansed from every sin.

What we also find is that the pouring out of Christ's blood ushered in a new covenant between us and God. Jesus at the Passover supper, having taken the cup said, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you' (*Luke 22:20 JND*). The old covenant was a temporary one but the new covenant is an everlasting one (*see Hebrews 13:20*).

The first covenant (or testament) was dedicated by the blood of animals but the new covenant is dedicated by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The old covenant was the law that promised blessings if it was kept, but a curse if it was broken. The new covenant however supersedes the old covenant, instead of remembering our sins every year the new covenant promises to remove our sins from us. Hebrews 10:16-17 says, 'This *is* the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; and their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.'

Both the old covenant given through Moses and the new covenant through Jesus Christ were given to the children of Israel, how then do they affect the Christian who isn't a Jew by birth? The answer is that because of the unbelief of the Jew the Gentile was allowed to come into the new covenant by faith in order to 'provoke' the unbelieving Jew 'to jealousy' (*Romans 10:19*). At this moment in time the believing Gentile is able to enjoy the full benefits of the new covenant. God has put His Spirit in our hearts and the Spirit has filled the heart with love (*see Ephesians 3:17, 1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 5: 5*). Love is the fulfilment of the law (*see Matthew 22:37-40*). All our 'sins' have been 'blotted out', never to be 'remembered' any 'more' (*Acts 3:19 & 10:43, Hebrews 8:12 & 10:17*). If God has forgiven our sins and blotted them out then Satan has no right to accuse us about them; they don't exist.

## Dealing with the Accuser

The name 'Satan' means adversary, and one of the names or title of Satan is 'the Devil' and means 'an accuser', or 'a slanderer'. So here in Revelation 12:10 we have 'the accuser of the brethren' accusing them 'day and night' 'before our God'. Now the problem is that we have sinned, so it doesn't even need to be a lie that the devil is telling—so the question is what do we plead, guilty or innocent?

If we have an accuser we also need an advocate. God has provided us with 'an advocate', 'Jesus Christ the righteous' (*1 John 2:1*). This advocate knows all about us and He knows the law inside out. He knows about the need of the shedding of blood and the need of a redeemer, He also knows that these needs have been fully met and the law has been satisfied. He knows all this because it is He Himself, Jesus Christ, who has done it all.

Do we plead guilty or innocent? We plead the blood of the Lamb, the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, which cleanses us from all sin.

Now the Bible says, 'Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand' (*Ephesians 6:13*).

We can only stand when we know what Jesus Christ has done for us. We stand with the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God and we stand by faith in His blood. The Bible says that 'confession is made unto salvation' (*Romans 10:10*). When feeling condemned for our sins then we confess the Word of the blood in order to receive deliverance from the accusations of the enemy. If we understand the power of faith in the blood then Satan's accusations are irrelevant. If we do not understand our position in Christ then when the devil accuses us we will feel condemned, guilty, shame and grief, which will affect our fellowship with the Father.

Our legal standing before God is that we are completely forgiven and we are children of God by our new birth. However, when we sin we grieve the Holy Spirit and our fellowship with the Father is affected; therefore God's remedy for this is that we 'confess our sins' to God—then we can know forgiveness for our sins and cleansing from 'all unrighteousness' (1 John 1:9). Fellowship is then restored.

Confessing our sins is not the means by which we obtain eternal life; we obtain eternal life by believing and trusting in Jesus Christ and the power of His shed blood. If however, after believing, we do sin, our salvation is not affected (we do not lose eternal life), but our fellowship with God is affected. Confessing our sins to our heavenly Father will restore broken fellowship between us and the Father. Jesus Christ said that if we bring our 'gift to the altar' and remember our brother has something against us, then we should 'first be reconciled to' the brother before offering the gift (Matthew 5:23-24). How much rather should we be reconciled to our Father when we have committed an offence against Him?

Finally I remember, many years ago, an old lady being interviewed at church. Both she and her husband were a very godly couple. When she was asked what the turning point was in her walk with God, she replied, "When we learned to walk in 1 John 1:9."

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*In a few places 'old' AV words have been replaced by more current ones, e.g. 'you' instead of 'thou' or 'ye', 'says' instead of 'saith' and 'shall' instead of 'shalt'.*

*JND A New Translation from the Original Languages by John Nelson Darby 1867, 1884 & 1890*