



# Power in the Blood

By JENNIFER KENNEDY DEAN

THE BLOOD OF CHRIST is the thread that runs through the Bible from beginning to end, tying it together into a comprehensive whole. It is the central theme. Everything points to it. Surely a fuller understanding of the precious blood is imperative for our spiritual formation. It is the very heartbeat of the living, active Word of God.

One morning as I read a verse so familiar to me that its words almost didn't register on my consciousness, I was suddenly struck with a new thought. I was reading 1 John 1:7. "...the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." I discovered that the tense of the word "purifies" makes it an ongoing action, not a one-time occurrence. I continued reading, now with awakened curiosity, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9). I was further struck with the idea that He not only forgives our sins, but He also purifies us from all unrighteousness.

Does this ever happen to you? There's something about which you think you know all there is to know, but one day you get a little peek under the surface and are astounded to realize that there are depths of understanding and knowledge yet to be mined. Such was my experience that morning with the blood of Christ. I believe that in delving into the riches stored in secret places—the truths once hidden, but now revealed—you will recognize the blood of Christ as the answer to everything you are longing for.





## Setting the Stage

Let me lay some groundwork before we bring in the central focus. For a few moments, set aside the idea of the blood and simply explore this frame of reference. Then we will put the blood into the picture.

One way that God reveals Himself is through His creation. Romans 1:20 says, “Since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made....” Look carefully at what Paul said. The qualities of God that you cannot observe directly by using your physical senses can be observed in His creation. To put it simply, creation is always talking about God. That which is invisible has become visible in the form of God’s creation. **It means that earth is a model of heaven.** According to Psalm 19:1, the earth is always “declaring” (putting on display; announcing) the “glory of God” (His invisible qualities). God’s material creation is an allegory to illustrate spiritual reality. God created the earth to be IN EVERY DETAIL a visual of that which is invisible. The operating principles of the spiritual realm (heaven) are portrayed in creation (earth).

The material realm is temporary; the spiritual realm is eternal. The material realm is the shadow; the spiritual realm is the substance. The material realm is the picture; the spiritual realm is the reality.

## The Picture of Life: Blood

Blood is an earth-substance that God gave us to illustrate a spiritual reality. Earth-blood is a copy or shadow of what blood means in heaven. God points us to this illustration in His creation by saying, “For the life of a creature is in the blood...the life of every creature is its blood” (Lev. 17:11 and 14). Blood is the material illustration of a spiritual reality called “life.”

Life is in the blood. Look at earth picture: Your bloodstream is the delivery system for everything your body needs for life. Everything your cells need to





thrive—the minerals, vitamins, nutrients, oxygen—is delivered to them through your bloodstream.

Your bloodstream also washes away the toxins that your cells release as they work. The cells in your body have no other source for nourishment, oxygen, or cleansing except the bloodstream. As blood flows through your body, old things pass away and new things take their place. As blood flows through your body, it is purifying you of anything that will diminish your body's ability to function at its optimum.

If your body were working perfectly, every organ in full health, but your blood drained out, your life would be gone. **Your life is in your blood.**

## Shadow and Substance

“For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life” (Lev. 17:11-12).

Where is a creature's life? “*The life of a creature is **in the blood.***” What is it that makes atonement? “***It is the blood** that makes atonement.*” Why does blood make atonement? Because it is the life. What has the eternal value—the red, sticky, earth-stuff called blood, or the life it represents? “***Because** the life of every creature is its blood. **That is why** I have said to the Israelites, ‘You must not eat the blood of any creature, because the life of every creature is its blood; anyone who eats it must be cut off’*” (Lev. 17:14). The blood has the value because it is the shadow of the life.

Earth-blood is what God created to stand for and picture THE LIFE.

## The Life

In the cosmos (the whole continuum of reality, including both heaven and earth), there is only one Life. “In him was life” (John 1:4). “I am ... the life”





(John 14:6). “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12).

Only Jesus is Life. Life does not exist apart from Him. Everything else that passes for life in the earth realm is really death in disguise.

We are born with an Adam-life, which is sin-diseased and infected with unrighteousness. The life which flows through our spirit-veins carries death. Apart from Jesus we are on a steady march toward death. Only through Him can we “[pass] from death to life” (1 John 3:14). His Life is the only Life that exists in all creation.

Where is His Life? In His blood!

## The Life Operating in Me

“Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, saying, ‘How can this man give us his flesh to eat?’ Jesus said to them, ‘I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him’” (John 6:52-56).

What did Jesus want us to understand? Why did He make this unsettling statement? He is saying: “My Life must be inside you. My Life must be flowing through your spirit-veins.” He wants to transfuse us with His Life. Just as blood flows through your physical veins, His Life, His blood, flows through your spirit-veins. Just as your natural, earth-body is given life through blood, so your spirit has Life through the blood of Christ.





Jesus' blood has two roles in our salvation (Rom. 5:10):

“We were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life”  
(Rom. 5:10).

Look at the two roles. (1) His earth-blood that He spilled out for payment of sin: “We were *reconciled* to him through the *death* of his Son...” (2) His Spirit-blood that He poured out before the Father in the heavenly tabernacle and that now runs through your spirit-veins: “How much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his *life!*”

## Reconciled by His Death

His Life imparted the value to His blood. Because not one drop of sin's infection invaded His Life, His blood was deemed pure.

When Jesus, our atonement sacrifice, died on a cross, every last drop of His earth-blood spilled out. In the Old Testament, a blood sacrifice required that all the blood be drained from the animal. It cost a whole life—every last drop—to atone for a life. All of His blood was spent to reconcile me to the Father.

We were reconciled to God through the death of His son—through His earth-blood shed on the cross.

## Saved Through His Life

After He, the Eternal High Priest, had offered Himself as the atonement for our sins, He then performed the second act with the blood. After He had sprinkled it on the people by shedding His earth-blood on the cross, He then entered into the Holy of Holies, the Tabernacle in heaven, there to pour out His blood on the Mercy Seat.

“When Christ came as high priest of the good things that are already here,





he went through the greater and more perfect tabernacle that is not man-made, that is to say, not a part of this creation. He did not enter by means of the blood of goats and calves; but he entered the Most Holy Place once for all by his own blood, having obtained eternal redemption” (Heb. 9:11-12).

He took into the real tabernacle, not the blood of goats and bulls, but *His own blood*. He poured out His Life on the Mercy Seat—the Life that had met and conquered sin; the Life that had mastered death; the Life that had fulfilled the requirements for righteousness. Just like earth-blood is the delivery system for everything your body needs to thrive, so the Life of the Son is the delivery system for everything you need to thrive spiritually. “His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and excellence” (2 Peter 1:3).

What happened to the blood He poured out in the Father’s presence? “On that day a fountain will be opened to the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity” (Zech. 13:1). Jesus’ blood became a flowing fountain rather than a stagnant pool. The fountain of His blood flows through you and me to cleanse us from sin and impurity and to bring us perpetual newness of Life.

The blood that Jesus poured out on the Mercy Seat before the Father flows through you now. His blood in spirit form flows from heaven’s mercy seat through you.

The ever-flowing blood of Jesus is the delivery system for God’s power. The power works in the blood. His Life—His blood in Spirit-form—flows through me like blood flows through my body.

**The blood of Christ has two functions in my life (1 John 1:9):**

“The blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin... If we confess our





sins, he is faithful and just and will *forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:7,9).

How does blood purify? It purifies from the inside. Blood does not cleanse by being applied externally. It cleanses only as it flows through. As blood flows through my body, its red cells absorb toxins and transport them to the organs through which they will be expelled. My blood cleanses me continually as it flows through me. Jesus Himself lives in and through me. His Life flows through me like blood flows through my body. His blood in spirit form flows from heaven’s mercy seat through me. That fountain, Zechariah said, is for cleansing from both sin and impurity.

God will both forgive our sins—we are reconciled by His death; and He will purify the unrighteousness that causes us to sin—we are saved by His Life. You have the very Life of Jesus, the delivery system for all the power of God, flowing through you.

