

Access!



Granted

It is not the music or songs that we sing that bring us into the presence of God. It is not a fantastic singer, wonderful musicians or worship teams that bring us into the presence of God. It is not a dynamic speaker that brings us into the presence of God. It is not any expression of the media arts that bring us into the presence of God. It is not the volume, loud or soft, of our crying out to God during what we call our “times of worship” that bring us into the presence of God. It is not any “natural sound” that brings us into the presence of God.

The above are all wonderful tools and expressions of our worship when we are in presence of the Lord. However, the one and only key that unlocks the door and allows us to enter into His presence is very simply - the Blood of Jesus. The attitude of our heart of worship must recognize, grasp and rely on this very fact. There is absolutely nothing that we are able to do or say, within ourselves that can possibly bring us into the presence of God. The only access to the Father is through the Blood of Jesus.

Yes, the Blood of Jesus. That’s it!! Period!! Two Thousand years ago, Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood. It was the Blood of Jesus that was shed for the remission of, the removing and the washing away of, the sins of the world - your sin, my sin, everyone’s sin. As the old hymn tells us, “What can wash away my sin? ...Nothing but the Blood of Jesus.” Somehow, this central theme to our very salvation is slowly but surely being pushed further and further back in our thinking and is in danger of being forgotten and sometimes lost within our modern age of “culture driven worship and music.” It tends to take this for granted and very subtly seems to imply that it is our wonderful music, our songs and other expressions that now take the place of the Blood and allows us access into the “Throne Room of Grace.”

It was the blood that was poured out from the crucified “Lamb of God” that was sprinkled on the “Mercy Seat” in God’s Holy of Holies in the spirit realm the caused the veil in the Temple to be “rent” and torn apart symbolizing in the natural what took place in Heaven. It

was the blood that now washes the garments of those that believe in the power of the Blood, that were filthy and polluted with the stench of sin and now makes them “white as snow.” It is the Blood that allows us to put on and wear the “garments of praise.” It is the Blood that has been painted upon the “doorpost of our heart” that now allows the Spirit of God to enter through that “doorway of our heart” and reside within the Born Again Child of God. It is the “covering of the blood” that the Father chooses to see us through and declare our spirit now holy in His sight even while we are yet sifting through the rubbish and toils of this life with a “not so holy” soul and body.

The “Lamb of God.” That is the very first thing we hear that John the Baptist speaks of concerning Jesus. (John 1:29) And again John tells his followers in John 1:32, “BEHOLD, the Lamb of God.” From the very beginning it was Jesus’ primary mission to point people to the Father. However, what made Jesus different from every other prophet, including John the Baptist, was that He did not just point people to the Father but He was to be the catalyst that would allow them to have access and be accepted into the Father’s presence.

“**L**ife is in the Blood.” Not just physical life as we know it, but spiritual life. Our spirit was dead - dead to God - D.E.A.D. - DEAD!!! Through the Blood of Jesus, we receive a “transfusion” with the Blood of Eternal Life that revives and allows our spirit to be “raised from spiritual death” to now having new “life in Christ, Jesus.” It is this precept of “life being in the blood,” that God had set in motion from the beginning of time as we know it.

We see in Genesis, that immediately, when Adam and Eve fell, God, the Father made a way for them so that they were not totally cut off from Him. It was the shedding of blood that allowed them to be covered from their nakedness. It was not a nakedness that was for lack of clothing, but rather it was a nakedness that was a result of their sin that stripped them of their “garments of righteousness.” The shedding of blood that provided the skins that were to now cover their spiritual nakedness was a type of the “Final Sacrifice” that was to come in the form of Jesus who would shed His precious Blood to cover us and clothe us anew with the “garments of righteousness.” Revelations 13:8 tells us that Jesus is “the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world.” From the very beginning, it was established that Jesus was to shed His blood for us so that access to the Father would be restored, thereby allowing us to come and be in the presence of the Father.

Sin is totally disgusting and opposite to God and His nature. He cannot and will not, be in the presence of sin. Isaiah 59:2 expresses that our sin will hide God’s face from us and the iniquity that is within us, resulting in that sinful behavior, is the very thing that separates us from God. Iniquity has its roots in Man’s “unregenerate, sinful nature.” Jesus, of course, was very much aware of this. That is what makes His crucifixion and death so much more compelling.

As we read of the account of Jesus' last night while in the Garden of Gethsemane, we see that He goes through and experiences a fierce battle within that was filled with tremendous anguish. This anguish went down to the very core of His being. So much so that it brought forth a physical expression of "sweat that were as great drops of blood." (Luke 22:44) It went so deep that He asked, that if it were possible, that the Father would "remove this cup from me." (Luke 22:42)

You see, I believe, that it was not the fact that Jesus would be rejected by the very people that He came for; nor was it because He knew that He would be abandoned by His disciples; nor was it the fact that He would be ridiculed by the religious leaders, or the torture at the hands of the Romans. No, I do not believe it was for any of those reasons. I believe that the "cup" that Jesus could not bear to "drink from" was the "cup of separation" from the Father that He would experience for the first and only time, ever, while on the cross.

Jesus knew that He would be stripped from being in the Father's presence. We see this unfold at His crucifixion as He cries out from the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me." At that very moment, the sin of the world was placed upon Jesus. What this meant was that the Father had to remove Himself from the Son and "walk away." It was because of the sin that Jesus took upon Himself on the cross - your sin, my sin, the sin of the world - that caused Jesus to experience the worst type of torment - separation from Father God.

The Father had no other choice but to keep His own precept and separate Himself from His only begotten Son for the first time, ever!!! His Word is His Word. Sin brings the "curse" of separation. (Galatians 3:13) As Jesus hung on that cross, He took upon Himself the sin of the world. He became the "curse" and experienced the consequence of the "curse" of sin - for you, for me, for the world!!!

However, at the same time that Jesus was taking the sin of the world upon Himself and experiencing separation from the Father, He was also pouring out His blood upon the "mercy seat" of Heaven. In doing this, he was fulfilling the role of the "final, sacrificial Lamb of God." We must remember that God had established in His Word what would be acceptable to Him as an offering for the atonement of sin. We can see this in the expressions found in the Hebrew festivals of the Day of Atonement, known as "Yom Kippur," and the Feast of "Passover."

Let's first look at the expression that is found in the feast of the Day of Atonement. The High Priest would have two goats at the Gate of the Temple. One was called the "scapegoat" in which the High Priest would place his hands upon the scapegoat and impart upon the scapegoat the sins of the people. That scapegoat was then led outside into the wilderness to wander forever being separated from the people and symbolically, separated from God by reason of the sin he carried upon him. At the same time the High Priest would then take the second goat, slaughter it, take its blood and sprinkle it on the mercy seat for the forgiveness

and atonement of the sins of the people. (Leviticus 16:7-10, 15-16) During His crucifixion, Jesus fulfilled both rolls. He fulfilled the role of the “scapegoat” who symbolized separation from God because of sin and He also fulfilled the roll of the “sacrificial goat” whose blood was used for the atonement for the sin, not just for the Hebrews, but for the sin of the world.

Concerning the feast of the Passover, they would seek out and look for a lamb that had no blemish. They would be meticulous in their examination of the lamb to make sure they could find no blemish. They would slaughter that “spotless lamb” in remembrance of the first Passover when the Hebrews “painted the doorposts” of their home with the blood of the lamb and the “Angel of Death” would “pass over” their house by reason of the blood and everyone inside, was safe. Jesus became the final, sacrificial, “Passover Lamb.” He fulfilled the role of the lamb that was to be without spot or blemish - Jesus was sinless. This reminds us of when Jesus went before both the Sanhedrin and Pilate. They could find “no fault in the man.”

Jesus became the “Final Sacrifice.” There is no more blood to be shed for the remission of sin. As Jesus said on the cross, “It is finished.” The Blood of Jesus is now available to anyone who believes in Him and in who He is. His Blood is “painted” upon the “doorposts” of the believer’s heart, thereby protecting the believer from the “Angel of Death” that brings eternal death, eternal damnation in hell, and total separation from God forever and ever and ever. The Good News is that now, through the Blood of Jesus, we can come “...boldly into the Throne Room of grace.” Access granted!!! It is only by the Blood of Jesus that we can enter into the presence of God.

*1) What can wash away my sin?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.
What can make me whole again?
Nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*O precious is the flow
that makes me white as snow;
no other fount I know;
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*2) For my pardon this I see:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
For my cleansing this my plea:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*3) Nothing can for sin atone:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
Naught of good that I have done:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

*4) This is all my hope and peace:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.
This is all my righteousness:
nothing but the blood of Jesus.*

- From the Hymn “Nothing but the Blood”

We need to get our thinking straight. We must grasp the understanding that there is nothing we can do, in and of ourselves that will bring us into His presence in a greater way or for that matter, in any way. The “doorway” was opened to us two thousand years ago by the “key” known as the Blood of Jesus.

I believe the Body of Christ needs to repent for its thinking that we can “conjure up” God’s presence by reason of the things we do. Sometimes we become, unknowingly and, I believe, unwittingly, like the “prophets of Baal” as found in 1Kings 18:27,28 that at the sarcastic prompting of Elijah he said to them concerning their god, Baal, “...Cry aloud: for he [is] a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, [or] peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked. And they cried aloud, and cut themselves after their manner with knives and lancets, till the blood gushed out upon them.” Baal never did show up. Did he?

Psalm 24:3, asks the question, “Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?” This answer is found in the following verse. Verse 4 tells us the simple answer to the question of, “who can come and be in the presence of the Lord?” It states, “He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.” The only access into the presence of the Lord is with “clean hands and a pure heart.” This is impossible without the Blood of Jesus. Who can have hands “clean” enough to lift up before the Lord? Who has a pure enough heart that can even bow down before a pure and holy God such as Yahweh? Through the Blood of Jesus our “hands” (referring to our lives) are washed from the filthiness of what we touch on this unclean earthly realm. Through the Blood of Jesus our hearts are washed from the stain of sin and looked upon by God as pure even while we are still “in process.”

The other aspect of this scripture is the part where it states, “...who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity.” This, I believe, is directly relating to our discussion of thinking that we can enter into the presence of God by the things we do. If that isn’t vanity, I do not know what is!! How dare we?!! That kind of vain thinking is similar to that of Cain. He brought the wonderful fruits of his labors. It was beautiful. It was the best he could do. Today, it would be similar to our beautiful worship ministry and wonderful “on fire” services or gatherings that we have. However, the offering that was accepted by God was the offering by Abel which was a blood sacrifice.

Many times we are like Cain. We want to approach and come into God’s presence the way WE want to - with OUR wonderful music, OUR wonderful expressions, OUR wonderful dynamic services. We are encouraged by well meaning leaders with impassioned pleas to “Press in!! Press in!!! Come on. Press in!!!” Without the Blood, you can try to “press in” all you want. It will be fruitless just like the “prophets of Baal.” You will never get in. With the Blood of Jesus, there is no need to “press in and kick the door down” because you already have the “key” and you are free to enter into His presence at any time. We become vain in our thinking of what God would like and accept instead of what He has already established.

There is nothing wrong with expressions of worship in and of themselves. However, God will not have respect towards OUR offerings if they are not by way of the Blood of HIS son. Our offerings are only acceptable when we bring them with the attitude of heart that understands that we are able to bring them only because we have access to the Father by the Blood of

Jesus. It is not what we bring that gives us access. It is what He gave – the Blood of Jesus - that gives us access.

As I had mentioned previously, all of our expressions of worship are wonderful. We are to continue as the Spirit leads, using them as vehicles and tools of our worship. However, it will be the Spirit that is leading us and not ourselves, only if the attitude of our heart is correct in understanding that it is only by the Blood that we can enter into His presence. Then and only then do we come in with a true heart of worship. Any other way is definitely not being lead by the Holy Spirit and there are no exceptions - none!!!

A true heart of worship is when we come into His presence recognizing that the only reason we are there is because “He first loved us,” which caused Him to show grace (unearned favor) to us which opened His heart to show mercy to us (by the shed Blood of Jesus) so now we can be reconciled back unto the Father (no longer separated) and be at peace (set at one again) with Him which allows us into His presence so that now we can love, honor and truly worship our God.

Access Granted!!! Thank you, Jesus!!!