

# Cleansed by Blood

by Fred Tomlinson

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*This sermon delves into the profound significance of being cleansed by the blood of Jesus, exploring the themes of atonement, sacrifice, and the new covenant. It emphasizes the central role of the Holy Spirit in mediating the power and effects of Christ's blood into our hearts, leading to forgiveness, justification, and acceptance before God.*

**Scripture:** Genesis 4:10, Hebrews 9:22, 1 Peter 1:18, Hebrews 9:14, John 6:53, Hebrews 10:19, Colossians 1:20, John 7:37

**Topics:** "Atonement", "The Role of the Holy Spirit"

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## Description

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## Transcript

Well, Fred Tomlinson here and I would like to share with you something, I suppose I could refer to it as a desire to highlight what it really means for the people of God to be cleansed by blood. In other words, for you, as you listen to me, to be cleansed in blood, what does that mean? How should we think about that together? I realise before I get started I'm touching on a very large subject, many of these things that we talk about are huge, huge subjects and to try and compress them into a brief session is not necessarily easy and almost always at the end of it all I'm wishing I'd said something else or put something in a different way but nevertheless, let me start by just saying this, that when I was a young man studying my Bible, I became aware of the principle of first mention. The principle of first mention is a principle of Bible interpretation which observes that frequently within the first mention of a particular subject, there's a sense in which God has sown into that word or into that section of Scripture a seed of truth or perhaps seeds of truth which will be expanded and explained in later Scriptures and I found that to be just such a wonderful key to helping me understand many things and it's with that particular principle in mind that I want to turn your attention first of all to Genesis, we're not going to read lengthy passages because I don't have the time in this session to do that, I'm sorry, but I'll be referring to the book of Genesis, I'll be referring to the book of Hebrews as well as we move forward, I'm sure of that.

But you'll note that the word Genesis really means beginnings, the book of Genesis is the book of beginnings and the remarkable thing about this book is in the opening chapters of this book, we find it a

kind of seedbed of all the major themes of the Bible which will be developed as I mentioned earlier as the Scriptures continue to unfold. And I'm looking at this particular subject this morning, first of all because I believe the Lord directed my heart to it just a little earlier in the week and secondly because I think it's a tremendously important subject for us to consider and to be helped in our hearts and minds to understand what we're facing, what we're talking about and what by God's grace we're experiencing. And thirdly, which really is the development of the second point, it's because I think there's a lot of misunderstanding even among Christian believers about what the Bible is really saying and teaching when we read about being cleansed by blood.

I think frankly that there's a lot of misinformation that's being preached, I believe that there's an abundance of superstition, I mean to be talking together as professing Christian believers about pleading the blood and covering with the blood and sprinkling with the blood which are all common terms which we know are thrown around but none of them have a basis in the New Testament and I think really, and this could be a major diversion of my talk if I follow it more than to just say a word or two, I think one of the biggest problems is a complete breakdown of failure to grasp the distinction between the old covenant and the new covenant and we get ourselves into a lot of trouble and that's where some of these ideas I've just alluded to would find some beginning but as Christian men and Christian women we've been brought into the benefit and blessing of a new covenant, I'll talk about that a little bit more I think as we go forward. As we look back into the book of Genesis, as you know very, very well, we're looking at the way the scripture presents the very beginning things so far as this world that we're somewhat familiar with began and if I could just capsule these thoughts by saying when we read in these very early chapters of Genesis that which we're reading about is very, very real, it's tangible, it's actual and I certainly believe that fully and completely and yes at the same time although the things that are being presented and discussed are real from the vantage point which we have today that is from the position of understanding something of the truths of the new covenant and being familiar with the New Testament scriptures that we have, we look back on those issues on that record that's back there about these real things that were happening and we can't fail to recognize that every single detail is incredibly significant and there's so much more to be said about that. What I'm going to do this morning is to pass over so much that we could develop from that starting point but before we do that I do want to pause for a moment and just ponder for a moment the superlative harmony that existed between God and his first people and you're familiar with the story I don't need to reread that do I and what you will also know is that as we move into the third chapter of Genesis the unthinkable happens, the God who has created those two people and with all of the incredible significance that is held there, the God who we are led to believe comes down into that paradise into that Eden and somehow fellowships with those people this is why I refer to it as a superlative fellowship it's the highest that we can imagine as God is there with them and communes with them and the unthinkable happened that the two people that were enjoying that reject God they make a decision to reject him in favor of what is of course a terrible deception and a twist on certain facts and instantly from that moment that fellowship ceased to exist it was broken ripped apart in that moment and there would be consequences that even today at this stage in history are hard to even begin to imagine in terms of the measurement and the scope of what occurred back there which is recorded in the third chapter of the book of Genesis.

The fact of the matter is God had told Adam and Eve that with all that he'd provided for them that they could enjoy there was one tree that they must not partake of for in the moment that they would partake of it they would surely die they were told later on in scripture we read this statement that the soul that sins must die the soul that sinneth shall die is the old king James in the book of Hebrews in chapter 9 and verse 22

there's a there's a or there's a I'll read a little earlier in verse 21 moreover he and sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and the vessels of the ministry and then verse 22 goes on and almost all things are by the law purged with blood and without shedding of blood there is no remission we're hearing the word reparation quite a lot these days in the news but without blood or by blood alone to rephrase it by blood alone there could be atonement or reparation and God hasn't left this issue open for us to debate or to decide why he would say that or why he would take that position it's not for us to question it's just something that is clearly and boldly stated through the scripture and as we begin to unpack this truth in a very I'm sorry in a very superficial way in this session I can see that in that early section of scripture in Genesis chapter 3 um that Calvary is being alluded to let me remind you that nothing that was taking place nothing that I've just described from the book of Genesis chapter 2 and what developed there on into chapter 3 none of it surprised God and God could not be disappointed you can't be disappointed if you know how things are going and you're in control of everything but so there's no accidents what God is going to do about the situation is not some emergency reaction to what took place we believe in a sovereign God who planned and ordained everything before the foundation of the world and that's a sobering thought to think about in this context um but in the third chapter of Genesis and in in in verse 15 where God is speaking to the woman he says and I will put enmity between thee as I'm sorry he's speaking to the serpent I will put enmity between thee and the woman between thy seed and her seed it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel and I'd like to talk a lot more about that but the fact is for those of us who are thinking of of these things from the New Testament position we can't help but see uh that here is a reference to Calvary and uh and it's again I think I'm saying these things to help just strengthen the foundation of our faith in God that right there at that point in time when things seem to have just turned into chaos uh God was in complete control of everything and he was working out his will and in this statement we can't help but see the the the contests that took place and the tremendous triumphs that took place at Calvary and that's wonderful and and then it goes on a little further in the in the 21st verse of of chapter three I'm sorry my space is a little awkward here I read in verse 21 and unto Adam also and his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins and clothed them once again clearly a reference to the atoning work of Christ this is where we find substitutory atonement as it's frequently referred to where sin is covered by a garment which is purchased at the cost of the life of another clearly we there's no record of how God got hold of this garment but we can't read it without realizing there is there is a reference here concealed in this seed of the atoning work of Jesus at the cross without sin there's no reparation there's no forgiveness there's no way to deal with it except by blood and the would be the blood of another there's no specific mention of blood being shed there but let me make a suggestion let's imagine that we're looking at this scene in the garden of eden through it through it through a camera through a lens through a telephoto lens if you will and at first we've got this close-up scene of Adam and Eve in the garden and the rejection of God the rebellion against his words and the consequences being spelled out by the Lord with these hidden nuggets these hidden seeds that I've referred to and and and and then we we adjust the lens of the camera and we we back off with it you will have seen this done I'm sure on the tv or somewhere where you know you're looking at a particular item or a particular object or phrase or place and then then the people operating the cameras they sort of back the lens away as it were and you end up the object you've been looking at begins to disappear into the distance and other features come into view and you realize that the camera was actually a lot further back than you realized and as we as we do that and we allow this telephoto lens which is being put into reverse right now we're moving back along the timeline of history and as we do that many things begin to come into view far too many to consider now but for example I would say something that's recorded in the 22nd chapter of Genesis come into view this is where the Lord God speaks to Abraham and he says Abraham and he said behold here I am and he that

is God said to him take now thy son thine only son Isaac whom thou lovest and get thee into the land of Moriah and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains that I will tell thee of and I know I alluded to this in a few sessions ago but the fact is that we read through this story and that it tears at your own heartstrings as you read it but by the time I move on to verse seven they're walking to the spot that God has ordained for them and Isaac spake unto Abraham his father and said my father and he said here am I my son and he said behold the fire and the wood but where is the lamb for the burnt offering and Abraham said my son God will provide himself a lamb for the burnt offering so they went both of them together remarkable we see that scene and that statement of Abraham this man of incredible faith he says my son God will provide himself a lamb that you see once again this seed is there in this passage it's it's very obvious to us as we read that that here is a reference to what will take place in the fullness of time as we back the camera away or the lens even further we see another scene we could be reading in Exodus chapter 12 and we'd be reading how each of the Israeli families uh have a lamb which is slain and its blood is spilled and according to and following the instructions of Moses they they spread the blood on the lintel of the door and on the door posts and by doing that in obedience to God and in a manner as God described they're protected from the angel of death who passes over once again we see significance that can very readily be applied to the New Testament story but this this this raises an obvious question there's more that could be said of following that line that I was taking but the question is this did the did these sacrifices these multiples sacrifice these hundreds and indeed thousands of sacrifices where blood was shed did any of that blood really restore the fellowship that was known way back in the beginning and the answer to that is of course a resounding no uh animals blood being shed was being shed according to God's word but the fact is that process or those processes were temporary they were they were an arrangement that God ordained they were temporary and they would need to be repeated and I'm looking back into that ninth chapter of Hebrews where I read that in verse nine that these things were a figure note these words or a symbol for the time then present which were offered both gifts and sacrifices that could not make him that did the service perfect as pertaining to the conscience and then it goes on to describe some other wonderful things but I break away the fact is no these sacrifices which were being done they were being done in obedience to God's word but it was an arrangement that God made for the time then present it would be true to say and I'm borrowing this statement from the old King James in the book of Matthew in a totally different context it has to do with marriage and divorce for interest's sake but the statement that I want to make is that God suffered those things that's the word you find in that ancient record in Matthew's gospel God suffered it for the time then present but here's the fact and it's important that the blood of the animals which was being shed in order to please or appease God it had no inherent value its value was that it was being done in obedience to God and it had value because it foreshadowed something that was in the mind and plan of God. God knew where it was all headed and it was his plan that put it there and if we had lots of time we could look at the particular sacrifices and we could see how each of them with all of their particular detail foreshadow the fullness and the glory of the great sacrifice that you know I'm alluding to but in order for sin to be dealt with blood needed to be shed and in the mind and heart of God the blood would need to be the blood of a man that would be shed and the fact of the matter is that men's blood could not appease God's anger against sin because every man on the face of the earth was already himself or herself corrupted by the sin coming down the line from Adam in other words there would need to be special blood as it were but it had to be a man's blood nonetheless the need was for another man or catching the idea that Paul introduces to the Corinthians the need was for another Adam it's as though somehow everything needed to go back to the beginning as it were and started again with a new Adam who would be obedient where the first Adam had been disobedient Paul explains that very clearly in the book of Romans and to deal and reverse this situation and appease God's anger and

bring men and women into fellowship with himself as he intended another man a second man it's interesting the way Paul refers to this one in the Corinthian passage a second man a last Adam be the end of the old Adam and in order for men and women to be reinstated into the love and grace of God there needed to be superior blood there needed to be sinless blood there needed to be precious blood and isn't that what the apostle Peter talks about when he's writing in that little epistle and he I'll just read this to you I'm reading for those of you looking on I'm reading from first Peter I'm reading from chapter one and here Peter says for as much as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold from your vain conversation or vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers but with the precious blood of Christ as a lamb without blemish and without spot amen and God provided himself the lamb he was without spot and his bloodshed would bring into reality a new arrangement between God and man and that really is what the word covenant means when you get down to it the new there was the old arrangement and the new arrangement God God ordained them but there needed to be a new arrangement and that would be purchased by through and through this bloodshed of this precious bloodshed a new covenant which the rest of the Hebrews refers to as a better covenant a whole different arrangement and that's what we're talking about and that's where we're going and in our thinking but the question which is really the central question in this talk on this occasion is how how should we understand this blood making us clean and it's at this point I think that some people lose the track here and there's a lot of misunderstanding I hope that in some small way God will be able to help clarify this from his word here as we're looking at it this morning all the methods of using the blood under the old covenant are now rendered obsolete that's an important statement you know it's one thing to say about to try and justify some particular action whether it's something from scripture in some way or or from our own you know in our details of our own lives we say well you know well it's written in the bible but the important thing is we have to know where it was written in the bible and who was making the statement and to whom was the statement being made and all these are very important questions otherwise we can just borrow a phrase which is somewhere in the bible said to someone about something that we imagine can apply to our particular situation and at that point of course that's where people well they twist the scriptures and they end up in error and so we need to understand this that all those particular methods of the blood being shed and the blood being handled and applied that we find in those new testament sacrifices which were all filled with great significance but the but the the manner in which it was taking place is now rendered absolute absolute forgive me obsolete because we're looking at this from the context of the new covenant and so now here's the next important statement that we must understand that this blood this precious blood of Jesus that was for cleansing took place in heaven note that this cleansing I think this is about the most important thing I can say in this talk this morning that this cleansing that we're talking about was entirely done of God or by God and it was done entirely for God for the removing of sin's guilt from men and women that that that's the core issue other ideas come creeping in and ideas about what we should be doing with the blood are handling there's no suggestion in scripture that we handle the blood to do anything with the blood God himself has shed the blood he's the one who's handled it by his own holy spirit and it's been applied to the throne of grace in the presence of almighty God that that's the issue and by doing that he removes the guilt of sin which of course would otherwise bring about the the awful judgment of God upon our souls but it has been removed from his people and their sins and iniquities have been blotted out and the the condemnation that was all part of that and which is continually whispered by the enemy is lifted there is therefore now no condemnation to those who bring Christ Jesus or again I'm back in Colossians where I read that through the work of the cross he made peace he made peace through the blood of his cross what does that mean it's not just my peace it's the peace that God was able to have with men who were otherwise uh standing under the indictment of his judgment um when we

we've said before on other occasions we talk about being saved but what do we save from primarily fundamentally we're talking about being saved from the judgment of god as the result of that bloodshed of our lord jesus which was ultimately taken into the holiest of all that was done in the old testament through the eternal spirit and presented to god amen and as the result uh the people of faith the people who put their faith in the redeeming work of christ that they are they are their sin is atoned for they are reconciled uh with a holy god sinful men lost dead spiritually men are reconciled to a holy living god and and these are great truths we're touching on they are justified in approaching him um i i was reading to you a moment ago from chapter nine in hebrews um um and that um the blood of old was a temporary arrangement we were saying at that point but then we reach but christ this wonderful but christ being come a high priest of good things to come the new covenant things by a greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands that is to say of this building neither by the blood of goats and calves but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place having obtained eternal redemption for us glory be to god and it's wonderful and and we read i'm just dropping down to chapter 10 of hebrews where it says for the law having a shadow of good things to come and not the very image of those things can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers there unto perfect for then they would they not have ceased to be offered because the worshipers once purged should have had no more conscience of sins but that didn't take place but the inference there is but now in christ we've got an entirely different situation there is there is such a thing as coming under the sound of the of the truth of the gospel of jesus christ and and finding faith quickened in our hearts by his word and placing our faith in him we are accepted in the beloved wonderful and the condemnation is removed from us the guilt is removed to be remembered no more forever it says and we are in that sense once purged we're we're brought into union with god how wonderful uh is that now for this to become personal in in our experience and i've really said it already but let me put it in a different way and we need to reverse the camera the opposite way again um i've kind of gone backwards and forwards a bit um but i'm turning back into into the book of genesis you know that book of beginnings remember first mention and all of that i'm in the fourth chapter of genesis and uh there's there's a whole series of things that are taking place here um the fact of the matter is that you know adam's two sons cain and abel that they're making their their own individual offerings to god and abel's offering was a blood offering and that it turned out was acceptable to god cain's uh offering was different because you see evidently he was a vegetarian and his offering was not accepted by god and as the result of that cain's anger was stirred so much so that he killed his brother he slew abel and and god had something to say about this and i'm reading this in the 10th verse uh i'll read verse 9 of chapter 4 of genesis and the lord god said to cain where is abel my brother and he said i know not am i my brother's keeper and he god said what has now done thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground i could turn you back to hebrews in chapter 12 and i believe 24 verse 24 where there's a statement right back to this section here uh where we read uh that the the blood of christ uh speaks better things than that of abel's we're introduced to this idea of blood speaking our question overarching us is how does all this become personal to us the blood was shed by god for god it was presented to god to appease his anger toward men and women now what about me what about us and so on and so we've gone back to this passage of scripture and we've found this statement um which seems unrelated in many ways but the fact is if you can remember where we started seeds of thought sown which don't really mean a lot there were real things that were happening but but from our point of view we look back we say hey i can see something here and that reference from hebrews ties it in biblically as well where there was a reference to blood speaking god had it written recorded back in genesis 4 here it's been taken up again in the book of hebrews and because the the upshot of this is that the and the idea that's before us is this better blood this precious blood of christ which which is presented in the presence of god even as we

speaking now is speaking what is it speaking it's speaking better things than that of abel you know we say sometimes well such and such a thing well it just speaks for itself it's not that the blood is talking it speaks for itself it's whose blood it is that was shed that is now presented in the holiest of all the ultimate holiest of all by its sheer presence there it speaks charles wesley wrote oh love i love this is tremendous verse oh love thou bottomless abyss my sins are swallowed up in thee banished is my unrighteousness no spot of guilt in me remains while jesus blood through earth and skies mercy free boundless mercy cries what a wonderful thought the speaking blood of christ is speaking the mercy of god to to guilty lost dead sinners like me and like you but christ his blood was shed on our behalf and now exists before the holy presence of god and speaks forgiveness it speaks the erasing of the the documents which are against me and so on and i think that's very wonderful you know there's something else before we finish off here in this genesis verse that i've just read to you um because it it says um in verse 11 and now are thou cursed says from the earth which has swallowed sorry which has opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from your hand here's here's another one of those seas another one of those gems not only do we have a reference to blood speaking better things than that of able but here we've got this idea of the ground having a mouth and its mouth opening up and receiving the blood that fell into it amen we know we know from reading in leviticus chapter 17 that the life is in the blood and we also know that drinking the blood or drinking of blood was forbidden in the old testament uh and yet here in this first mention we have this idea of blood being drank and i think more could be said about this but let's quickly just zoom the lens back again we're going to wear this mechanism out we're back in john's gospel chapter six this time and and jesus is saying that those that are around him uh must actually eat his flesh and drink his blood or they have no life in them what an interesting thought it's um perhaps even more particularly um um two other thoughts are coming to my mind uh jesus in john chapter seven would would invite those that were listening to him to come to him there's no reference to blood in this passage they're inviting him them rather to come to him and drink if they're thirsty come to him and he would drink and john the apostle adds a parenthesis in that chapter parenthesis where he says that jesus was talking about the holy spirit on that occasion and then in matthew's gospel chapter 26 jesus is with his disciples in the upper room it's that moment of the last supper as we refer to it and jesus tells them as he passes the cup to them that that this is the blood of the new covenant the blood of the new testament and uh the idea that i'm wanting to just capsule here is is that we've got this seed issue of blood being drunk in the old testament all the way back at the beginning by the ground on that occasion it wasn't precious blood it was very important blood to abel we've got um we've got the whole idea of of covenant being tied in the blood of the covenant and we've got the eternal spirit the blood was shed through the eternal spirit were told the the blood of christ the blood of the covenant the spirit who communicates the blood and they're united together and really this is the apex of my message here uh in this session uh but today today now answering this question what about me how do i relate to all of this uh today the holy spirit is given the holy spirit is here he's given to to mediate to your heart all that they that the blood of the covenant testifies before the throne of grace as i hope you can understand what i feel i'm understanding a little in my heart the holy spirit is given to mediate to my heart all that the blood of the covenant is now testifying speaking before the throne of grace and i believe right now that the holy spirit is ready to impart to each opened heart all of the virtues of the very soul life of jesus to impart it to us as the result of what has been done and what is yet speaking in this moment and what is now being ministered to me in this particular moment by his holy spirit and i believe that this was the original intent of god before he ever started with all of this and it remains beloved his present purpose to the disciples jesus handed the the symbolic cup and he said did you note the words drink all of it drink all of it said jesus don't just tip of it you can say well how did this work out well that's not the question i'm looking at the words that were spoken jesus is handing to them symbolically all that would be

accomplished at calvary all that would take place in the holiest of all as his blood was presented there all that the holy spirit would come to impart to men's hearts and jesus was saying symbolically to his disciples drink all of it drink it get it into you drink all of it and jesus back to the chapter seven of john where jesus is talking to the crowd uh speaking about drinking he says that if you drink and keep drinking and there's another important thing this this this is the issue it's not a once in a moment thing it's it's to drink and keep drinking the ministry of the holy spirit into my heart and in doing that i'm not called to handle the blood he'll minister the effects the power the results of the blood into my heart and into my being and into my conscience he will minister the life of this of the of god himself into my heart and into my life he will minister the rich blessings of this new covenant into my heart it's all in the hands of the holy spirit it's of him what do we need we need him it's not some magical phrase or some imaginary idea of doing something with the blood that we're never told to do and couldn't not any way but we open our hearts to him and the holy spirit upon our opened heart receiving him will and and with the practice being a continual practice he will continually whisper into your heart that you are you are justified you are sanctified you are forgiven you are accepted there is no condemnation no matter what your past history contains and so on and i'm encouraging you dear friends this morning to drink of this precious spirit of god ever more deeply and drink ever more deeply into this great truth with the full assurance of faith that he is faithful to complete what he has begun already in your heart and in your life father we commit these things to you lord maybe undoubtedly ministered this morning in an awkward manner and fumbled through lord the human mind and ability to grasp and minister but lord we pray that by your holy spirit you speak to listening hearts this morning teach them what it means lord that you have done and the benefit of it which is still being worked out in shedding your blood for us lord you've cleansed us from guilt you've freed us from condemnation you bring us into the blessings of your life and we praise you for that and ask you to find a hearty response and a continual response from each of our hearts in jesus name can i just say if you if you feel that god has spoken to you and you're blessed with this and if you're anywhere near the youtube channel that has somewhere on it my name do subscribe there and perhaps you want to say something to me and leave a comment there please feel free to do that and god bless you amen

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