

# What Does It Mean to Plead the Blood of Jesus?

*By Melanie Stone*

You may have heard the phrase among Christians, “plead the blood of Jesus.” Did you know the phrase is not found in the Bible? However, the idea of pleading with God based on the redemptive blood of Jesus is. Let’s take a look at the meaning of pleading the blood of Jesus.

## **BLOOD**

First of all, I want to state the obvious: blood is gory, and yet blood is given great importance throughout the Bible, from the beginning to the end. Before we look at pleading with God based on Jesus’ blood, we should consider the significance of the blood of Jesus.

First, let’s understand the need for blood. God is our Creator, but more than that, He is our life source. Without God, we do not live, and thankfully, God is good and gracious to offer us life. In Genesis 2:17, God told Adam if he went against His instruction, he would die. In the Hebrew, it means “dying you will die,” describing a spiritual and natural death, or separation from God. Adam and Eve chose not only to eat a piece of forbidden fruit, but to turn away from God, desiring to be like Him, to know God and evil. They chose to be self-sufficient of God. In Romans 6:23, the Word tells us that the payment or result of sin is death.

In order to return to God, payment had to be made in order for the gap of separation to close. Payment for sin is to give life, and not just any life, a spotless, pure life. Life was required; therefore, blood was required. Sin has passed onto every person, so no one was qualified to make the payment.

Before we go any farther, I want to mention that in Leviticus 17:14, the Word tells us that “life is in the blood.” God has always wanted to be near us, His children. He loves us. Unlike any other part of His creation, we are made in His image, as spirit beings.

As part of restoring relationship, God wanted to restore our position with Him and our function with Him, so God made covenants with mankind. When you swear to a covenant relationship, you are swearing with your life, so blood was often used in covenants. God used the blood of animals to cover sin, so God could come near us. The blood of animals also signified that covenant relationship. However, the blood of animals could not remove the penalty of sin and death.

No human could pay the price, so because of God’s love for His children, He sent Jesus, His unique son to become one of us so He could pay the price and die the death (John 3:16). Jesus was born into the earth as a human, to a virgin. God was the father, so Jesus was born sinless, blameless, spotless. He was born to be a sacrificial lamb,

and He shed His blood on our behalf. He made the way to be reconciled to God. He started a new covenant in His blood.

The offer for salvation is made; however, mankind still has to receive it in order to have eternal life. The way to receive it is to reposition ourselves in dependency on God. Jesus has to be our Lord. We have to surrender, and our surrender involves obedience. Real Christians aren't perfect, but they are surrendered and they act on their faith.

Reconciliation with God and restoration of our position and function is the significance of blood in the Bible.

## **PLEAD**

Now let's look at what it means to plead.

To plead means "to make an emotional appeal, to present and debate for a position, especially in court."

*Ezra 8:23 So we fasted and besought our God for this: and he was intreated of us.*

Plead (Hebrew, 6279, atar): to entreat, to supplicate, to ask, to pray." It was used to burn incense in worship, to intercede and listen,

*Isaiah 41:21 "Present your case," says the Lord.*

Present (Hebrew, 7126, qarab): to come near, to enter, to approach, to bring, to present, to be at hand, to join, to offer, to make ready, to stand, to take.

What pleasing is NOT: begging. Like a good earthly father, our good Heavenly Father doesn't make his children beg and suffer as one separated from the life He graciously offers.

Hebrews 4:16 says, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." To plead is to approach the throne, to draw near to God, and invite God to move.

## **PLEADING THE BLOOD**

When we approach God, we are not doing so based on anything we have done to earn it. It's impossible to do. The Law of Moses shows us that. We don't have good standing with God on our own. We approach the Father based on Jesus and the blood He shed.

This is also a covenant act. In a covenant, a strong binding agreement, God bound Himself to us. Because of covenant, everything God is, has, and does is available to us as children and covenant partners.

When we plead the blood of Jesus, we are approaching God with confidence in what Jesus did on our behalf at the cross, not in arrogance of our own performance, our good works, or even our ability. Faith is not a manipulation. Faith is obedient humility.

If you were to ever go to court, you make arguments based on the law. That's how you win your case. We could keep God's Law, so Jesus became our advocate (1 John 1:9). Jesus argues our case based on the fact that the price was paid by His blood. Right now Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Ultimate Authority of the Universe, interceding for us, meaning He is standing in the gap for us.

In James 4:8, it says, "Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." Draw near as one who is IN CHRIST, positioned in Him, wrapped up in Him, surrendered to Him, and you will find NOTHING is impossible.

This is what it means to plead the blood of Jesus.