

Question: "Is pleading the blood of Jesus biblical?"

Answer: "Pleading the blood of Jesus" in prayer is a teaching that can be traced to some of the early leaders of the Word of Faith movement. When people speak of "pleading the blood of Jesus in prayer" they are referring to the practice of "claiming" the power of Christ over any and every problem by using the phrase "I plead the blood of Jesus over _____."

"Pleading the blood of Jesus" has no basis whatsoever in Scripture. No one in the Bible ever "pleads the blood" of Christ. Those who "plead the blood" do so as if there was something magical in those words or as if by using them their prayer is somehow more powerful. This teaching is born from the misguided and heretical view of prayer that prayer is really nothing more than a way of manipulating God to get what we want rather than praying for His will to be done. The whole Word of Faith movement is founded on the false teaching that faith is a force and, if we pray with enough faith, then God guarantees us health, wealth, and happiness and will deliver us from every problem and every situation. In this view, God is simply a way to get what we want instead of being the holy, sovereign, perfect, and righteous Creator that the Bible reveals Him to be.

Those who teach this Word-Faith falsehood have an exalted view of man and our "rights" to plead what we want and get God to respond the way we want. This is in opposition to true biblical faith exemplified by Paul's life and his approach to suffering and trials. Paul wrote that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Timothy 3:12). But Word of Faith teaches that, if we suffer or are sick or struggle with sin, it is because we do not have enough faith or that we are not pleading the blood of Jesus to claim what is rightfully ours. But we do not see Paul pleading the blood of Christ or claiming what is "rightfully his" when he was faced with trials and persecution. Instead, we see his unwavering faith in Christ no matter what the situation: "I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

Paul had "learned in whatever state I am in to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11–13). Paul's faith was in Christ alone, and he could say with conviction, "The Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be the glory forever and ever, Amen!" (2 Timothy 4:18).

"Pleading the blood" as it is commonly practiced has more in common with mysticism—reciting a magical formula and hoping it works—than it does with biblical prayer. Saying certain words does not make our prayers magically more powerful. Furthermore, "pleading the blood" of Christ is not needed to defeat Satan. He has already been defeated, and, if we are truly born again, Satan has no power over us other than what God allows for His purpose and glory. Colossians 1:13 makes this perfectly clear: "For He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the