

THE BLOOD

This is the third of three papers regarding the symbiotic trilogy of thoughts, cells and the blood. The first two can be treated in fairly common terms and vernacular, but the blood is quite another matter. I am acutely aware of it being Holy Ground, upon which I dare not tread in a careless manner.

The totality of Man's history and the Word both acknowledge the blood to be the source of life. In days past, that acknowledgement was crude to say the least. Modern technology and advancements place the blood, its properties and chemistry in their proper places as to importance. So many volumes are written about histology (cells) and hematology (blood), that one is hard-pressed to distinguish where Design and Creation begin and science supplants the superior. But, that indeed has happened.

There are three sources from which one may look at this incredible fluid called blood; one is the Word, second are books about medical advances, the third from the Spirit Himself. The Word seems to take precedence.

1. The Word says the Life is in the blood¹; in the O.T. Israel was forbidden to eat the flesh with the blood still in it, not drained as it were. The consequences were dire indeed. The Hebrew word "life" in these passages is *nephesh*, having twenty-eight different English words² to translate it; only a few are predominant. Breath is a primary meaning, referring not only to breathing oxygen, but also to the spiritual aspect. *Nephesh* implies the soul, emotions and everything normally associated with it, by which the body lives; therefore it is the root of life. *Nephesh* means the person, without which there is death.³

The Word ascribes life to the blood in having an audible voice⁴. In Gen 4, God is telling Cain that Abel's blood is crying from the ground. The word 'cry' means to shriek, to call out loudly. The reference in Heb. 12 to the blood means to speak, talk, utter a sound. Now these two establish that the blood has more than just the principle of 'life'-it has the ability to utter an intelligible sound of communication. That is explicit to the point of establishing *a speaking person dwells in the blood*.

This being the case, some comment needs to be made concerning this 'person' in the blood, both as one in the O.T., as well as the N.T. Better said, as regarding a 'person' who has been reborn by the Spirit of God (*zoe*) versus one who has not⁵ (*bios*). For now, let us restrict our topic to one who has been reborn by the Spirit. The reference in Hebrews says "speaks of better things"; one translation says "more graciously". The word means better, nobler, referring to the blood of the New Covenant of Jesus.

In the reborn person the Spirit dwells within him/her⁶. Logically combining these two principles, the Spirit in this case is the Person in the blood, the new life principle from whom we derive our innermost being that is alive. Being in the blood, the Holy Spirit is everywhere within us, for there is no place within us that does not have blood.

The third place in the Word that refers to blood is the blood of Jesus. Here is where we really step onto Holy Ground, largely because it is Jesus' blood that is the source of everything afforded us in the New Covenant. Here we have spilled blood which was Holy from the outset; it still remains in the ground at Golgotha. As stated above in Hebrews 4, this blood "speaks more graciously than the blood of Abel". Everything to which we cling is tied to His blood, as well as His Spirit dwelling in our blood.

2. Current medical science has made spectacular advances about the knowledge of the blood, which I will attempt to condense. The emphasis will be on the unexplained (or ignored) facets of their findings, as well as extracting notes that jumped off the page, implying there is great significance. After a brief synopsis of the blood mechanics as a backdrop, comments will be made as to how this information is interconnected with the Word.

Medical science explains in histology the *bios* life in the blood of all the members of the body. The blood consists of three specialized cellular elements, the red blood cells (99%), the white blood cells and the platelets (together <1%), all suspended in a semi-viscous liquid called plasma. The red blood cells (RBCs) transport mostly oxygen, with some CO₂, to the body cells. White blood cells (WBCs) deal with body defenses and immune systems. There are chemical *messengers* arising from damaged areas which govern the rate and type of their production from the bone marrow..

The overwhelming dominance of the activities (99%) within the blood is borne by the RBCs transporting O₂ and nutrients to the entire body, just living, as it were. But the activities of the other 1% determine in large measure whether or not the body continues to live at all. Often the only indication this 1% is even active is when we see a small bag of white pus bulging up from an injury. The pocket of pus contains WBCs that gave their lives so you might be healthy.

There are five types of WBCs; two comprise the majority. The neutrophils, lymphocytes (plus NKs-natural killers) together comprise 85%-95% of the total 1% of WBCs. Neutrophils are the first line defenders to the spot of damage or bacterial invasion, the paratroopers, as it were. The design of these defense cells, their specific purposes, and their signaled release into the blood stream is incredible, as is the detail and fail-safe mechanisms all over the body. All cells are in communication with one another.

Lymphocytes are programmed for specific targets, being the search-and-destroy cells, the equivalent of small platoons, some are Special Ops. They in turn are comprised of two types, the "T" and "B". The "B" types go after alien bacteria in the blood, but the "T" types go after viruses and cancer cells. (Remember "B" for bacteria, "T" for terrorists). The "T" types of lymphocytes are the Special Ops of the body's defense system. A third type of lymphocytes is called NK, for Natural Killer cells, which need no calibration or "training". This lymphocyte is said to be the most effective cell in the body immune system, attacking rogue cancer cells.

The natural functions of these defense cells are rendered null and void by various forms of cell “deception”. The B-cells occasionally secrete an antigen upon detecting a cancer cell, but for some reason do not activate the killing (T and NK) cells. The cancer cell in turn binds with this antibody and thus “hides” itself from an attack. Thus the cancer cells proliferate. Called a beta blocker, it deceives the lymphocytes to either ignore the tumors or turn on themselves. The result is called an auto-immune disease.

The lymphocytes arise out of the same embryonic stem cells as do the rest of the blood cells. There is a trigger, a switch valve, which causes them to become lymphocytes. These go into various tissues, into hiding as it were, where they mature, increase in numbers and are “educated” and “trained” how to recognize, differentiate and destroy specific antigens, or the bad guys in the blood.

These places of “hiding” are primarily in the lymphatic system, lymph nodes in particular, which are deep within the protected parts of the body. One is deep in the crevices of the juncture of the small and large intestines. Few lymphocytes are circulating in the blood at any given time; they appear when needed, as danger arises⁷. **Inflammation**⁸ is usually the first sign of invasion⁹.

The platelets are the healers, the ones who quickly seal up holes in capillaries and other injuries; they are the medics.

Plasma transports other vital nutrients and performs many other (basically hydraulic) functions. This is the C135 of the body.

I trust the reader by now has picked up on the drift of the subject matter. All of this *italicized* stuff about the blood in the body is a simile of the same type of operation in the physical, as well as the soul and spiritual realms within the Body of Christ¹⁰. Each element, no matter the size, number or length of life, is represented by a counterpart in the Body. All of the cells work together, behave themselves, and obey signals which they receive, as we should from the Captain. All of their actions are beneficial to the whole body, no less than what we as cell counterparts should do in the Body of the **LORD**. There is no sense of self-preservation on the part of any single cell. Whether they live or die is of no consequence to them.

The RBCs represent the bulk (99%) of the Body of Christ, making sure everyday activities get done.

The WBCs represent the oft-invisible minority of the Body; they represent the sentry on the parapet, the identifiers of wrong, the holders of a plumb bob, the watchmen, the ones who expose evil in all sorts of nooks and crannies, the ones who usher in deliverance.

The platelets are the doctors and all the true mercy-givers who heal and bind up the wounds; they are the ones who see to it the Body does not hemorrhage to death from severed limbs, physical or metaphorically. For that matter, they are those that try to avert destruction of all kinds.

WBCs represent less than 1% of the blood in the body; that percentage is about the same in the Body.

The blood has at least two realms; one is to supply nutrients, oxygen and other things to the cells. The second level is the distribution of spiritual 'food' derived from the blood's circulation through the brain where the Word was stored. These "nutrients" fine-tune the aberrations in the cells, healing that which is diseased, mutated or irregular in any manner, with an important caveat: sin must be addressed.

3. This is written in the most sober of mind-sets, but it is what I believe I heard this morning. In born-again believers, it is the **Spirit** in the blood who:

- gives zoe life to the mind, body and spirit
- sustenance and protection to the believer
- nutrients and food at the proper time
- breath
- fights their enemies

Only if the Spirit courses through the words, thoughts and actions of the cells within the Body do the members of the Body receive zoe life. Either the Spirit is embedded in the thoughts, words, written or spoken, or He is not. If He is, then zoe life will be passed from the speaker/writer to the others. If He is not, then death of all sorts of expressions will result. So it is when your brain has little or no Word in it-there is little or nothing for the Spirit to disperse throughout the body.

Can you imagine the blood coursing through your arteries and capillaries having no nutrients nor O₂?

- what would happen to your thinking, your brain?
- what would happen to your strength?
- what would happen to your being able to function in any way?

We avoid dealing with Him personally, or even the issue of Him, by assigning Him to dwelling in our toenails or some other ridiculous place. That way, we can go about our apostate business as "Christians" without being fussy about things. More often than not, we effectively put Him in our colons, but that's another story.

In I Cor. 25-30, the stern warnings of taking the cup of communion in an unworthy or common manner give us a confirmation of the above. We find in verse 27 that in doing so, you profane the body and blood of the **LORD**. (There we have the word 'blood' again). In verse 25 Paul uses the word 'remembrance', 'remembrance' pertaining to Jesus' shed blood. So 'remembering' the blood in a common, careless manner effectively contemns not only Jesus' blood, it contemns the Spirit. It is written there, "That is **why** many of you are sick, and some have died.

Where cellular mishaps occur, it is due to some root cause, whether physical, a soul attitude or a misalignment of the spirit. Period. No? –then what or who tells a normal killer cell to stop functioning? –what or who causes beta-blockers to ignore tumor cells? What triggers an abnormal degree of cellular mutation into tumor cells? Conversely, what or who causes the above **not** to occur?

I wish to introduce an additional principle here which seems to escape us, illustrated by a story in I Kings 22 and II Chron. 18. The backdrop is Ahab, king of Israel, about as evil a king as Israel ever had. (physical Israel were the people of God in the old covenant; as re-born believers, we are the spiritual Israel of God.) In the preceding chapters Ahab, incited by his wife Jezebel, had committed all sorts of atrocities, all perfectly well known by all around, including the king of the southern kingdom, Jehoshaphat. Now Jehoshaphat (J) was said to be a righteous king, with riches and honor, unlike Ahab. But J. had made a marriage alliance with Ahab, a significant point. What does righteousness have in common with unrighteousness? Had riches and honor gone to his head? Had prosperity rendered him careless, complacent?

To make matters worse, J. "went down to Ahab in Samaria". There Ahab had a huge fancy meal catered for J., and induced him to join with him to go up against Syria. Ahab and J. then made a pledge to one another to join forces and go up against Syria. Now Syria had not bothered Israel for three years, so Ahab had no beef.

Ahab and J. decided to "do things right" and have all the correct appearances, so they called for the prophets to tell them what to do. Here come 400 "prophets", who in unison told Ahab and J. what they knew Ahab and J. wanted to hear. Ah, but J. smelled a rat; he knew there must be somebody who would tell them the truth. So the comment was made, "There remains yet one man by whom we may inquire of the LORD, " Ahab said, "but I hate him."

They brought in Micaiah, who with tongue in cheek, told Ahab and J. to "go up and triumph, for the LORD shall give them into your hand." Well, Ahab knew he was being pandered, so he reprimanded Micaiah to tell him the truth. So Micaiah said, "I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and He said, 'Who will entice Ahab that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead?'. Then a spirit came forward and stood before the LORD, saying, 'I will go down there and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets.'"

Micaiah continues, telling Ahab and J. that the LORD had spoken evil of him. For that truth Micaiah got thrown in the dungeon, to be fed on bread and water.

Ahab and J. did go to war against Syria, where Ahab got shot. J. stumbled home, where Jehu laid the wood to him; "Should you help the wicked and hate those who love the LORD?"

The point made here is a spiritual principle, in that lying spirits of deceit come out of God's domain at His command, whenever, wherever. They are sent when someone who should know better has willfully or carelessly been rebellious. One, J. had made an unholy alliance with a known wicked man. Secondly, he pursued him at his home. Three, J. allowed himself to be flattered. Four, under the influence of flattery, he assented to a stupid and costly endeavor, making yet another unholy alliance. Five, he was told the truth in time for him to repent. He even was told the words of God Himself that a lying, deceiving spirit had been sent to entice Ahab. Still J. did not listen nor repent, and continued on with his foolishness. He had already committed himself.

You say, "Well, that's an O.T. story that has nothing to do with beta blockers". Yes, it does, for **all** deceit as well as **all** blessings, originate in the throne-room of God. No? – then to say otherwise is to deny God is all-knowing, all-powerful and totally sovereign. If He knows the number of the hairs on our head, He certainly "knows" every cell in our body. Nothing escapes His oversight and control. ***We have lost sight of this principle.***

If we accept "All things hold together by Him", then we must accept the opposite, all things fall apart when he is absent, or the equivalent. If God is sovereign, He is sovereign in physical as well as metaphysical; if He is sovereign in weal, He is sovereign in woe. Science is not free from the sovereignty of God, nor is it independent of His oversight, for indeed He is the one who designed the whole thing in the first place. By Him all things hold together.

The capstone for this story is written in I Cor. 10:6-23, "Now these things (O.T. stories) are *warnings* for us, not to desire evil as they did...we must not indulge in immorality (gratify evil desire) as some of them did, and 23,000 fell in a single day. We must not put the LORD to the test (try His patience, become a trial to Him, critically appraise Him, nor exploit His goodness) as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, or grumblers, as some of them were and were destroyed by the Destroyer (death). They were written for our *instruction*". See Num 16:48-49, 14,000 died by the 'plague'.

We have then, (all sorts of) immorality, grumbling and putting God to the test (being critical) as reasons we will reap the same. It has not escaped me that the word Destroyer is used. That word is death in any fashion, auto-immune disease included.

There is a passage in Hebrews 10:26-31 that addresses this idea of reaping what we sow. Say what you will, God does judge His people. "For if we sin willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and a fury of fire which will devour the adversaries." Jumping down to verse 29, "How much worse punishment do you think will be deserved by the man who spurned the Son of God, profaned the blood of the covenant (remember the consequences of profaning the cup?),... and outraged the Spirit of grace?"

This thing of the blood and its mishaps is right in front of our faces, camouflaged by millions of fancy words and pictures. We only have to take a glance at numerous stories in the Word to determine the blood is the preferred receiving ground of judgments. Call it what you will, protest until you run out of breath, debate until the moderator cries, "Stop!", it makes no difference-pestilence, plagues and sickness are the predominant ways God judges His people. Drought and famine, pestilences and plagues are reserved for a *region* wherein there has been injustice, containing many people, innocent and guilty. The sword is tailor-made for a nation who corporately rebels.

But sickness is for *the individual!* -and blood is the vessel, the carrier, the host of choice for the bugs that cause the sickness. The nervous system comes in a close second.

I sense a need to relate a story about a medical leader of whom I was a patient. While I was in his office, I noticed one day his arms were burnt to a crisp, like one who had had skin grafts. When I saw it, I winced; tears welled up in my eyes. I asked what had happened-I thought he had been burned. Well, that was from UV radiation; he had a type of skin cancer.

I went home, and I could not get the scene out of my mind. I went for a long walk, listening. Tears welled up again, and I believed I was told to go to him to tell him about how colloidal silver had healed me of a facial skin pre-cancer. I really did not want to tell someone of his stature and eminence anything having to do with medicine. He was national president of his particular branch of medicine. But, I obeyed.

I went back that morning to his office and asked the receptionist to see him, if he was free. Later he came out, and we sat in his little privacy room. I told him what I had heard, relating the story about my dealing with a skin cancer (defined as such by a MD when he saw it). With tears in my eyes I related how I had saturated the proud flesh for a week with colloidal silver on cotton balls under two band-aids. It never returned.

He said he was touched, and appreciated very much that I had come to see him. Then with just a tinge of something in his voice he cautiously asked, "How did I know it was skin cancer?" I replied, from an MD opinion.

Several months later I was in his office for another checkup, and asked where the Doc was. "He died, didn't you know?" Stunned, I made a comment how healthy and young he was, and asked what had happened. He had made up his mind to do what he was advised to get rid of the cancer, to take chemo in a Houston hospital. He did so, and two days later he was dead.

Now you can make of that story what you will. The issue is that I know it was the Holy Spirit who told me to do what I did. Did he outrage the Spirit of grace?

From experience I have noticed in believers a significant percentage of (prominently cancer) sickness was associated with some form of degeneration of esteem in the believer's mind towards the Holy Spirit, His Presence or anything associated with Him.

Recently a friend of some 40 years died horribly. For a long time he, an elder, and his family (a train wreck) had faithfully attended and supported a large gathering which rejected any expressions of the Holy Spirit; the elders there said as much.

In other words, in many cancer sicknesses, as well as family disasters, I find some sort of calumny or dismissal towards Him, some hidden shade of contempt and/or scoffing. I think that is the core meaning of what Jesus said about every sin, even against Him, would be forgiven, but not that spoken against the Holy Spirit.

The LORD has many forms of healing; washing seven times in the Jordan, resonant frequencies, colloidal silver, various chemicals and antibiotics, His Word spoken, dry air for TB, sticking your leprous hand inside your shirt, surgery, ad infinitum. In dwelling on this, the remedies are as numerous as the number of maladies. Moreover, of the sicknesses of the body, 1/3 have physical roots. The other 2/3 or so are rooted in the soul and spiritual realms. Our error is forcing the solution of a given realm into another.

A particularly vivid story in Numbers 12 reminds us of soul roots of physical sickness. Miriam and Aaron had murmured against Moses in the wilderness. God heard it and came down to deal with the problem. In the story, Miriam immediately contracted leprosy, undeniably linked to her murmuring (slandering). Here the root cause of leprosy was jealousy, murmuring (against God's anointed), ingratitude and their ilk.

We find the same attitude in Mark where Jesus has just healed ten lepers. Of the ten, one stopped and realized he was not just healed, he was made whole, a completely different state. In doing so, he turned around and with a loud voice glorified God, thanking Him. His gratitude stood in stark contrast to the ingratitude of the other nine.

There are things we do amiss which invite chastening; some invite severe chastening, some invite sickness, even death. Things which involve the blood of his Son and the holiness of His Spirit are particularly ominous.

This thing about the blood, intimately linked to the Holy Spirit, is serious business, very serious business. It is as Holy Ground as anything I could address.

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¹ Lev. 17:10-11; Deut. 12:23.

² Zodhiates, Spiros, *Hebrew-Greek Study Bible*, AMG Publ. Toronto.

³ Zodhiates, *ibid*.

⁴ Gen. 4:10; Heb. 12:24.

⁵ See *Transformation*, in this CD.

⁶ James 4:5, et al.

⁷ Ross, and Pawlina, *Histology*, Lippincott, Williams, and Wilkins, Publ. N.Y., N.Y., pg. 440-ff.

⁸ Sherwood, Lauralee, *Human Physiology*, West Publ., N.Y., N.Y., pg. 371.

⁹ Deut. 28:22, the word 'inflammation' specifically is one of the forms of curses.

¹⁰ Brand, Dr. Paul, *Fearfully and Wonderfully Made*, Zondervan Publ, Grand Rapids, MI.
Dr. Brand makes a superior type analogy.