

## Power in the Blood

*16 In the case of a will, it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, 17 because a will is in force only when somebody has died; it never takes effect while the one who made it is living. 18 This is why even the first covenant was not put into effect without blood.*

Hebrews 9:16-18

**NUGGET** – I have a keychain that keeps just my office keys on them. I got it in San Francisco many years ago at the cable car power station. It is a strand of the twisted wires that, when bundled together, forms the cables that runs under the streets. It's that cable that gives power to the cable cars. The cable cars are equipped with a 'claw' type device that clamps around the cable, which moves at a constant speed. When the car gradually engages the clamp around the cable, it gains traction and the car begins to increasingly move at the same speed as the cable. To stop the driver simply disengages the claw/clamp and engages the brake handle which, using a block of wood on the track, brings the car to a halt.

I tell you this because that cable reminds me of the nugget verses today. Like the cable car gets its power to move from an outside source, so also a will or covenant also needs an outside source of power. In this case, it requires the blood, the death, of the person making that covenant. Only then, only with that death, that outside source of power, does the covenant gain 'traction' so to speak.

And once that death has occurred, then that will cannot be altered or changed. It takes on a permanence that is inviolable. As the death provides power it does so by transferring, if you will, the power of life from the person to the covenant. The will, the testament becomes alive with the power of the blood of the person who died.

When Jesus died on the cross He gave the power of His blood to the New Covenant *in* His blood. That covenant is what grants us forgiveness of sins. The power of Jesus blood forever enlivens the New Covenant, fulfills the law of the Old Covenant, and so forever are our sins forgiven.

It says in verse 22 *In fact, the law (the old covenant) requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.*

So by fulfilling the demands of the old law, by sacrificing Himself on the cross and rising to new life again, Jesus Christ establishes the New Covenant. In His blood we are granted the forgiveness of sin. The power of the New Covenant comes from a source that is both external and eternal; the holy, precious, and innocent blood of Jesus.

### **APPLICATION -**

1. What shape is your will in? Have you looked at your 'last testament' lately? Remember that when you pass away, that document is given power by your death. What does it testify to? What does it say about what you believe? Does it reflect your faith in a clear way? Take a look at it, review it and see if there is something to add or change, before it is forever put into effect.

**PRAY** – Dear Jesus, Your Blood is the power of the New Covenant. By Your blood you have forever paid our debt under the old covenant. May we be ever mindful that the power by which we live in that covenant comes from outside of ourselves, that it comes from Your grace. In Your name we pray, amen.