

That Annoying Cricket..... By Aletha Hinthorn submitted by Larry Driver

A cricket in our kitchen was making it difficult for me to concentrate on what I was reading. What a distraction! I noticed though that when I'd walk or knock on the wall, his chirping would stop. Evidently he didn't like the vibrations.

Satan responds much the same way to our praising God. His annoying whispers of "Don't trust God" or "He's failing you this time," or "You might as well quit trying," disappear when we are "overflowing with thankfulness" (Colossians 2:7). Satan flees because He cannot dwell in God's presence, and we make His presence at home within us when we praise Him.

Because praise produces the atmosphere in which the Divine Presence resides, it is the most effective shield against Satan and his attacks. In *Destined for the Throne*, Paul Billheimer suggests that because Satan is allergic to praise, "where there is massive triumphant praise, Satan is paralyzed, bound, and banished."

God "inhabitest the praises of Israel" (Psalm 22:3 KJV). Often we want an awareness of His presence, but we have not provided those conditions that welcome Him. Praise prepares the way for Him to come. Thank You, Jesus, for always noticing and responding to genuine praise. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice" (Philippians 4:4).

THERE IS POWER IN THE BLOOD

by Terry Wane Benton

Wonder working power! What does the blood Jesus shed on the cross really do for me? It works wonders on a sin condemning conscience. It says Jesus was willing to pay my debt on condition of repentance and confession to those already baptized into Christ (Acts 8:21-22; 1 John 1:7-9). It works wonders in knowing that I can live and die forgiven without the weight of all my sins mounting up on my conscience until I am eternally ruined.

There is power in the blood to release me from my condemned state. There is power in the blood to give me a sense of real worth. When others have treated me as worthless to them, I can always recognize that someone loved me enough to die for me. I must be worth something. There is power in the blood to give me a mission with hope.

Formerly I was just wandering aimlessly with no direction, mission, or hope. But Jesus' blood gave me a direction to take, a purpose and mission, and a fantastic hope of eternal life. There is power, power, wonder working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb. You can and should take advantage of that powerful resource available to all who will hear the gospel.