Thought Tools

Your Money or Your Life!

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Forward to a Friend

Have you noticed that people say things like, “Open communication is the *lifeblood* of this organization” or “A reliable fuel supply is the *lifeblood* of this airline?” But they seldom say “New members are the gall bladder of this club” or “Busy bureaucrats are the big toe of government” What is so special about blood?

Like Superman swooping in to the rescue, here comes Ancient Jewish wisdom with the answer.

Regular readers of Thought Tools know that in the Lord’s language, Hebrew, when one word is used for two apparently separate concepts, those two ideas are really very connected to one another.

The Hebrew word for blood DAMIM is identical to one of the words used throughout the ancient writings of Jewish wisdom to mean money.

Blood = DAMIM = Money

What are the similarities between blood and money?

Both money and blood are most useful in quantity. The singular of both words is seldom used. “I need some blood” but never “I need a blood.” “Can you lend me a money?” No, I don’t think so.

Blood and money both comprise countless individual elements, each one identifiable, but needing to be aggregated with many others to be useful. Blood is made up of countless units called red and white cells and money is made up of countless units like pennies or dollars.

Blood and money are relatively fungible. When you borrow my car, I want that car returned, not a similar one. When you pay me back the ten dollars I loaned you on Friday, I really don’t care that it is not exactly the same $10 bill I gave you. In fact, you can even write me a check.

Organs like a heart or liver often get rejected when transferred from one person to another, which makes transplants very challenging. Blood, however, can be moved from person to person with comparative ease just like money.

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Ask the Rabbi

I have not told my wife about some money I received. My intent was to invest it in a business venture and surprise...
Both blood and money need to circulate in order to be effective. Bags of blood can contribute to human health; but merely sitting on the shelf in the blood bank they aren’t doing their job. It is just the same for bags of money. They are not doing anyone any good merely sitting on the shelf in the money bank. That is why when people fearfully hoard their dollars rather than spending or investing them, our economy totters.

Finally, both blood and money carry nourishment to the furthest reaches of the organism whether a country or a body. If blood is cut off from an extremity of the body, like a toe, the toe will die. When a customer in Maine buys goods from a seller in the remote foothills of the Rockies, the entire country thrives. The medium of exchange necessary for that transaction is money. When a craftsman in Africa sells a bracelet to a teacher in England, money has made that craftsman healthier just like a blood transfusion would.

By using the identical word for blood and money, Ancient Jewish wisdom teaches that our money is indeed our lifeblood and must be treated every bit as seriously as our real blood. For instance, a hemorrhage of either entity must be stopped and treated immediately. Tainted blood and tainted money both have the power to destroy life. Unfortunately, many of us fail to take financial first aid as seriously as we do medical first aid.

Wrapping your inner soul around the idea that your money IS your lifeblood is step one in becoming fiscally healthier. How we think about money very much impacts our ability to create it. I wrote and recorded my audio CD, Boost Your Income: Three Spiritual Steps to Success with genuine passion because I was fired up with the possibilities of helping people add to their life-blood. This program is very effective either alone or in conjunction with my book Thou Shall Prosper. You will gain many practical ways to think about increasing income.

This powerful money/blood principle of viewing your money as almost as important as your blood is one of the keys to why throughout history, Jews have been disproportionately good with money. Fortunately, this key is now available to all regardless of religious heritage.

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**Susan's Musings**

This week’s musing - *It is True Confession Time*

A few weeks ago I wrote of the joys of meeting new friends by having strangers stay over for Shabbat. I sincerely meant what I wrote, which put me in an awkward situation when the very day after that blog appeared a close friend asked if we could put up a family of six that he knew. They would be visiting our city in a few weeks time....

To read the rest of Susan's Musings click [here](#)

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Warren

See Rabbi Lapin’s Answer

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