



## **Weapons for the season**

Your greatest tools of spiritual warfare are:

Obedience to God's word, walking in righteousness, forgiveness and repentance and staying close to God.

It does not matter what stage of your journey you are on; as we receive healing, we should be growing closer to God and have a better understanding of spiritual principles. Even if we are fragmented or there is dissociation, there is a part of us that started the healing journey. As we deal with the timeline and bring healing to the various parts of us that carry wounding, the core of who we are is being strengthened through the Spirit within us. We need to start showing the fruits of a transformed life. *1 Samuel 15v22 says "Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the Lord? Obedience is better than sacrifice, a listening ear than the fat of rams".*

Commit to be obedient and steadfast in the Lord so you can be strengthened. Keep in the Word of God, as it is your manual to life and it washes and cleanses with its truth. When we are obedient, we carry God's grace and His favour. The Word says that we may suffer for doing good but if our suffering comes out of disobedience, then we carry the consequence of that. And as we have discovered in dealing with trauma, we carry the consequence of the disobedience of others. This is why forgiveness is so important.

Ephesians 6v13-17 speaks of the armour of God. In essence, we put on Christ and this is our armour. Romans 13v14 says that we put on Christ so that we do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The armour is a defensive weapon but there are also other weapons that we have that can afford protection. At the beginning of 2022, I did a fast and waited on the Lord for the new year and what I needed to do for the year. On the first day, I asked God if there was anything new He wanted to give for the year. Something for the new season. As a counsellor, I often ask God for new tools in my belt to help me to help others. Weapons are something we need when we are doing spiritual work and ministry with clients. Each day, God gave me a weapon to unpack, and I knew in my spirit that these would be significant for us to grab hold of, not only in this season but for the coming seasons. Obviously, there are many things in the Word that can be weapons, but these were specific to the season, and I feel they apply to all seasons. I felt it necessary to remind you of these powerful weapons that can keep us through any storm or trial. I have added another to the list that the Lord pressed on my spirit after this fast, and that is joy. Ask the Lord what are your weapons for the season you are in that will help you get through.

The weapons were as follows and given to me in this order:

- The Shelter of the Most High
- Choice
- Focus
- Love
- Peace
- The Blood of Jesus

- Joy
- The name of Jesus

## 1. Weapon one - The Shelter of the Most High

The shelter of God is a dimension of refuge that we can enter into that keeps us safe. The passage of scripture God gave me for this weapon was Psalm 91v1-4.

*He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High, will remain secure and rest in the shadow of the Almighty (whose power no enemy can withstand). I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust (with great confidence, and on whom I rely)!" For He will save you from the trap of the fowler, And from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you and completely protect you with His pinions, And under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and a wall.*

The key here is to dwell in that shelter. What does it mean to dwell? A dwelling is a permanent place of abode. It means to live in a place — to reside there. It means we enter in like we do our home because we live there. It is our place of safety. We need to understand that the Most High God, the Creator and Sustainer of everything, has given us a refuge in Him - that means He is a dimension we can enter into and be safe. In Psalm 57v1 David says *"Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; and in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, until these calamities have passed by"*.

Once we are in there, nothing can touch us. Who would try to take on the Living God? It is like we can hide there, away from the bully and know that he cannot reach us. Just as a child from a safe home would run into their home away from the bully, knowing that they are safe from what is outside. If they have a good daddy, then even better, they know that their dad is there to protect them.

The rest of Psalm 91 continues to speak of the benefits for those who trust in the Lord and come under His shelter. All these benefits are tied to our protection from the enemy and to keep us from fear or terror. We do not need to be afraid of anything that might try to harm us day or night. We will only stand by and see the fall of our enemy. We will see him get what he deserves as if we are looking out of the window of our dwelling with God at what is happening outside.

Verse 9 gives a promise: *"Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, even the Most High, your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you nor shall any plague come near your dwelling"*. There is also a promise that He will give His angels charge over you! You will be kept from harm.

Verse 14 speaks of the fact that if we set our love on Him, He will deliver us. This is why He delivers us. We might say, *"But then why are there still things happening to me or in my home?"* There is sickness, there is strife, there is pain or suffering, whatever it may be. Your response to all that is happening determines the answer. If you are in fear, constantly anxious or in torment, a possible reply might be this to ponder:

Are you dwelling in that shelter or only visiting now and then?

I can promise that in that shelter His peace is overwhelming. God never promised us a life without suffering, but He is giving us a promise of His protection and peace through all of it. Isaiah 54v17 says that no weapon formed against us will prosper. So the weapon will form, but it won't prosper. It is often what we do when we face the "weapon" that determines the

outcome. Do we let it get us, or do we use what God has provided to protect ourselves, like the shield of faith that protects us from the arrows of the enemy (Ephesians 6v16)? It is of no use if we do not use it.

Like David and Goliath, David didn't let the size of Goliath deter him, he trusted in the God of Israel. We need faith to engage places that are outside of our natural understanding and the natural world.

The second thought to ponder might be: do you set your love upon Him? Many of us don't even trust God, let alone know or understand fully what loving Him means or how much He loves us. We often base our love for God and His for us, on our experience of man. Forgetting the awesome sacrifice that Jesus did for us. What greater love is there than that? It is easy to blame or question God when things don't go right or our circumstances look bleak or overwhelming. It is not for us to examine God and make up our minds about His goodness in taking care of us. That is a done deal. He couldn't have done more for us than can testify any more of His love. He gave us His only Son as atonement for our sins. He wanted us reconciled to Him; He loves us, and that is not debatable.

It is for us to examine our hearts toward God and those areas where we are not dwelling in Him. It is for us to examine the season we are in; is He busy building something into our character in this season, or busy removing something that shouldn't be there? We might need a bit of hardship to expose what we need to deal with. It is for us to examine whether we can trust God, love Him, and enter into Him even when we feel He is not there, not taking care of us or we don't feel Him near.

The dwelling place we have in Him doesn't close its doors because of something we have done or not done or because the enemy is raging against us. It only becomes unavailable if we choose not to enter in and dwell in that place of refuge.

## **2. Weapon two - Choice**

Matthew 7v14 says *"Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life and there are few who find it"*.

We see in the passages below that before us are set two paths: we can choose the path we will take in the same way we choose the gate we enter. The broad gate that leads to destruction (death, cursing) or the narrow gate that leads to life.

*Deuteronomy 30v15-16 "See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess"*.

This passage goes on to say what will happen if our hearts turn away from God to idols to serve them. We will perish, and even if we enter the land to possess it, it will be short-lived. How often have we tasted success, tasted breakthrough and then felt it slip through our hands? It just doesn't seem to last. Could this have something to do with what is in our hearts or in the DNA of our bloodline? What choices have been made that impact us individually or generationally?

Deuteronomy 30v19 says *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing, therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live"*. Verse 20 says that God is our life and the length of our days; we need to love Him and obey His voice if we are to enter our promised land.

What is this land we go in to possess? Today, we don't fight territorial battles in the natural for our land we live on in the same way they did in ancient times and throughout history. Of course, we still see wars for lands and turf wars in ganglands, but we don't necessarily fight for the house we decide we want to buy or rent to live in. This land we need to possess is our natural and spiritual land or territory; it is the land that God has given us in the spirit to possess, to have dominion over. We do have a say in what happens on earth through what we stand for and through what we pray and warfare for. We can enter into this and His promises for us through choice. Choosing Him above the noise of the world, choosing Him even when it looks like the giants in the land are too big, and choosing to obey Him even if it is contrary to societal norms and pressures.

In this season, we will be faced with choices, and the choices we make will determine our outcome: life or death, blessing or cursing. Now more than ever we need to stay on the path that leads to life and blessing, not only for us but for our generations to come. Remember that every battle we fight in the spirit has a natural manifestation. Every choice we make about our life and how we choose to live it will have a spiritual and natural manifestation. You will see the fruit of either life or death, blessing or cursing. Take up your weapon today and choose life so that heaven and earth can witness and manifest His glory through you and in your circumstances!

### **3. Weapon Three - Focus**

Achieving anything in life requires a fixed focus on the goal. We set goals in order to achieve something. Every time we get distracted from the end goal, it takes us a step back. It might even take us on a detour that takes us longer to get back again. What we also need to realise is that Satan is also wanting to distract us from the things of God and what He wants us to focus on. Without a fixed focus on the plans and purposes of God for our lives, we can easily end up on Satan's timeline and end up on a detour that causes us frustration and needless pain.

We need to understand that when we focus on the things of God and what He has revealed to us for our life's purpose, we are building in the spirit realm. What we build in this life in the natural is only temporal. It is what we are building for eternity that is lasting.

Some time ago I was in prayer and asked the Lord to show me what I had been building in the spirit for that season. Each season, we will have a new level to build that follows the previous one. Even though I had been working toward the vision God gave me for my life, and for that season, it did not feel that it was what it should be. I could sense that I had been on a few detours and even allowed the enemy to hijack me onto his timeline a few times. The Lord showed me a building in progress. It had a foundation laid and the wall of the structure was in the process of being built. In some places, the wall was at different heights, but all in all, it had not progressed much past my upper thigh. As I stood with the Lord in that place, I asked Him what He was showing me. He said to me that this is what I asked Him to show me; this is what I had built. I was somewhat taken aback as I was expecting something quite different. Maybe at least a completed project or two. I asked the Lord why, after all I had been doing, was this all there was. He said to me that every time I got distracted from what He had called me to do, the building stopped. Every time I lost focus or got weary, the building stopped. A couple of times, I allowed myself to get involved with things that seemed good and were ministry, but it wasn't the path that helped me get to the vision. It was a hijack and I got onto the enemy's timeline without realising it.

This is why we need to stay focused as Jesus did when He had to go to the cross. He knew the suffering that waited for Him but He also knew the reward. He still did His Father's will and He kept focused on the plan and purpose for redemption of man.

Isaiah 50v7 *"For the Lord God helps Me, therefore, I have not been ashamed or humiliated. Therefore, I have made My face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame"*.

In John 17v4, Jesus is praying the High Priestly prayer, and He says to the Father that He will complete the work that He has given Him to do and He will glorify Him in the earth. Let this be our declaration also.

Let us, therefore, use this powerful weapon of focus and not allow ourselves to be distracted from our calling. We need to stay focused, not for ourselves only, but for the bigger picture of God's plan for the earth and His Church. And in this focus on the end goal, never forget that focus on God is what brings us to our end goal. He is the one who will give us all we need to achieve what He has laid before us. Just as Jesus said, *"For the Lord God helps Me"* (Isaiah 50v7).

#### **4. Weapon Four - Love**

When we operate in God's love for others and understand His love for us, we have a powerful weapon. When we come to love God with all our being, we add unmeasured power to that weapon.

John 3v16 *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him, should not perish but have everlasting life"*.

1 John 3v16 *"By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay our lives for the brethren"*.

Luke 10v27 *"So he answered and said, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind,' and 'your neighbour as yourself.' "*

In the world, "love" is often used as a weapon, and I put this in brackets. Love, used as a manipulative tool, is not love. Love used in accusation is not love. Many use the word love without realising what love actually means. They also use it to take advantage of others and their emotions. Love is not a selfish thing; it is something that requires sacrifice. 1 Corinthians 13 lists all that love is. I can guarantee you that none of us can say that we have loved as God has laid out for us to love.

Matthew 7v12 *"Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets."*

We cannot truly love others without God. Ephesians 1v14-19 *"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God"*.

Love makes space for others. The width, length, depth and height of God's love is architectural. It is a realm we enter into. It must be received in our inner man and we need to root ourselves and ground ourselves in that realm. It is the only way we will truly understand love in the way God intended it for us and for others.

Anyone who has had their heart broken knows that love can come with the risk of pain. But we also know that life-giving relationships that operate in true love and in God's love have the ability to bring healing. God is love, and in Him is the power to heal the brokenhearted. Whether that brokenness came through relationships, trauma or other experiences, healing in God's love is possible.

*1 Peter 4v8 "And above all things have fervent love for one another, for "love will cover a multitude of sins."*

*Proverbs 10v12 "Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins".*

In love is forgiveness. Just the way Jesus died for us for the forgiveness of sins. We should not take offense, carry bitterness and resentment toward others, gossip about others, or slander them because of their wrongs, real or perceived, toward us. Love is a powerful weapon against the legal rights that the enemy is just waiting to use for our destruction. The starting place for freedom is always repentance and forgiveness. Relationships with others carry the potential for Satan to wreak havoc in our lives if we do not walk in love. And we cannot escape relationships so let us learn to operate out of a place of love.

*1 John 4v18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love".*

When we are in Christ, we need not fear as in God's love; the fear of judgment is dismissed. There is no more condemnation (Romans 8v1). If we are in Christ, we know His love, and if we live in fear of judgment, we have not been made perfect or mature in His love. It means our identity in Him still needs some work. The only person that needs to fear judgment is the one who rejects Jesus (John 3v18).

Satan builds his kingdom on fear and lies. In God's love, we have all we need to dispel the fear and lies. Put on love as a weapon, ask God to give you His love and heart for others and start to walk it out. Don't let the enemy get the better of you by getting you to respond from an immature understanding of love or out of your wounding. Abandonment and rejection will skew God's love. Examine your heart before the Lord and ask Him to show you where you have gone out of His guideline for love and get back into alignment with this powerful weapon against the enemy. Ask God to give you a greater revelation of His love for you.

## **5. Weapon Five - Blood of Jesus**

The blood of Jesus means nothing unless we appropriate it. It is one of our weapons that must not be taken lightly. The blood of Jesus is precious, and we would do well to keep that fact in mind. We must never take the sacrifice of Jesus for granted or use grace to cover our continual refusal to be obedient or act out our will.

*Hebrews 10v29 "Just think how much worse the punishment will be for those who have trampled on the Son of God, and have treated the blood of the covenant, which made us holy, as if it were common and unholy, and have insulted and disdained the Holy Spirit who brings God's mercy to us."*

A commentary on the above passage says this *"The concern here is not a loss of salvation, but of God's punishment on those who willingly rebel against His will. Since the new covenant is superior to the old covenant, we can expect those who "profane" the new covenant to suffer greater consequences for disobedience".*

Revelations 12v11 gives us one of the keys to appropriating the blood. *"They (us) overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the lamb and the word of their testimony and that they loved not their lives unto death"*. We can overcome Satan by testifying about what the blood of Jesus has done for us and that we live our lives in a way that shows that the will of God is more important than staying alive. To quote Derek Prince *"The only kind of Christian Satan is frightened by is a committed one"*. One that will lay down his life to do God's will.

Psalm 107v2 says *"Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom He has redeemed out of the hand of the enemy"*. We have redemption through the blood of Jesus.

*1 Peter 1v18-19: "Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible (or perishable) things like silver or gold from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."*

We have been taken out of the hand of Satan. When we are obedient to Christ, the blood protects us. When the Israelites had to mark their doorposts to prevent the death of their firstborn, they had to follow the instructions given to them, and they had to apply the blood. If the blood had not been applied to the door, there would have been no protection.

Jesus is our Passover Lamb (1 Corinthians 5v7) and we need to walk in obedience and walk in the light, staying in fellowship with Him to be protected (1 John 1v7).

One thing Satan loves to do is bring condemnation upon us. He loves to make us doubt our salvation, our worthiness, and our standing with Christ. He loves to remind us of our failings and weaknesses. But the blood of Jesus also brings justification.

*Romans 5v8-9 " But God demonstrated His own love toward us, in that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood we shall be saved from wrath through Him"*.

A theological dictionary definition defines justified as:

*"the act by which God moves a willing person from the state of sin (injustice) to the state of grace (justice), the change in a person's condition moving from a state of sin to a state of righteousness, or the act of acquittal whereby God gives contrite sinners the status of the righteous"*.

So we see it is by God's grace we are justified not through anything we have done. When we are sincere in our repentance and we are sorrowful for our lives of sin or disobedience, we are given the status of righteousness. This is part of our weapon when the enemy comes to us with condemnation. We are now in Christ through His blood (Ephesians 1v7). We have new life in His blood (John 6v54). Leviticus 17v11 says that life is in the blood; therefore, through communion, we partake of this new life in Christ.

Taking daily communion is part of the weaponry linked to the blood of Jesus. It is a powerful reminder of His sacrifice and that we now, through the new covenant, have access to Him at all times. We do not need a priest to go through. He is our High Priest (Hebrews 10v18-24). We are sanctified through Jesus' sacrifice, so let us keep faith and approach boldly. Daily communion keeps us in a repentant state before the Lord, causing us to examine our hearts continually for any evil that may be there or creep in.

Lastly, we need to know that the sprinkled blood of Jesus speaks as a voice on our behalf. Knowing this is also a powerful part of the weaponry. When I do work in the Courts of Heaven, this is always a comfort. Hebrews 12v22-24 is actually a Courts of Heaven reference and it speaks of the voices we need to come into agreement with and activate our faith toward them.

*These voices speak on our behalf and they speak on behalf of our purposes on earth. By coming into agreement with these voices, we give testimony to them (Robert Henderson - Courts of Heaven).*

This brings us back to the beginning where part of appropriating the blood is giving testimony of it.

Hebrews 12v24 says *“and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel”*. Derek Prince, in response to this verse, says that the sprinkled blood of Jesus that speaks on our behalf in heaven contrasted with the blood of Abel. There are three main points of contrast. Abel’s blood was shed against his will. Jesus willingly gave His blood. Abel’s blood was sprinkled on the earth. Jesus’ blood is sprinkled in the holiest of holies. Abel’s blood called out for vengeance. Jesus’ blood pleads for mercy. There are times when we are weak, when we are under pressure, we just can’t pray, we wonder if we are going to be able to draw the next breath. It is good to know at those times that the blood of Jesus sprinkled in the immediate presence of God is always speaking on our behalf calling out for mercy.

Everything in Christ is living. If the blood has a voice, it is living. We need to partner with Christ and all that comes with serving a living God in order to overcome the times we are in. Pick up your weapon and fight! It was a sacrifice you could never repay so appropriate it, don’t let it be for nothing in your life.

## **6. Weapon Six - Peace**

*To enjoy peace, our unbelieving thoughts must be stilled, and we must learn that the Lord reigns - Charles Spurgeon.*

The state of the world currently is not one that inspires peace. It is clearly under the sway of the enemy. For now, he has been given a time to “rule” this world, but our Lord Jesus Christ has overcome Him already, and therefore, in Christ, we can have peace. *John 16v33 “I have said these things to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”*

We need to grow in our knowledge of Christ to understand His peace as a weapon. *2 Peter 1v2 “May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord”*. As we enter into Christ, He becomes a dimension of peace that creates a safe place for us to be amidst the chaos. Ask Him to show you what that looks like. Activate your spirit man to enter in. Peace cannot be accessed by the soul, as the soul is too easily affected by what is happening around you, which brings fear.

Jesus gives us a promise: *John 14v27 “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid”*. If we stay Spirit-focused and operate out of our authority in Christ, it is possible to have peace even in the storm.

*Romans 8v6 “For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace”*.

We are also admonished to seek peace with others. The key to peace with others is, firstly, finding peace in God and being at peace with ourselves. This will overflow to those around us. All around us, we see the signs of strife bringing division and disunity. We see in



the natural the manifestation of the battle taking place in the spiritual realm. Satan seeks to bring strife as he knows that it holds the capacity for much evil. *James 3v16 "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work"*. The opposite of evil is righteousness which is sown in peace. Jesus is the ultimate Peacemaker, He gave His life for our peace. In Him is all we need.

*James 3v18 "Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace"*.

*Matthew 5v9 "Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called sons of God"*.

*Hebrews 12v14 "Pursue peace with all people and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord"*.

What stands out in all these scriptures is the theme of righteousness, sonship and holiness that goes with seeking peace. It highlights how important it is; it is a key to unlock identity in Christ.

*Philippians 4v17 "And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus"*. I don't know about you, but this is the peace that I seek. Let us take up this weapon and seek Him who brings peace and pursue peace with others.

## **7. Weapon Seven - Joy**

There are so many scriptures on joy and rejoicing that it is hard to choose which ones to use for this weapon. What does stand out is that rejoicing is an important part of our walk with God. Every morning when I wake up, I start my day with two verses. This first is *Psalms 118v24 "This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it"*. The second is *Psalms 103v1: "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name."*

This sets up my day on the right foot. Before I even get out of bed and anything happens, I declare that my day will be good, and I instruct my soul to bless the Lord. In the following verses, we see instructions to rejoice:

*1 Thessalonians 5v16-18 "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you"*.

*Philippians 4v4 "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"*

There must be a key here, a weapon for us to use. Praise is a weapon and when we are rejoicing in the Lord, we are praising God. Satan wants to see us despairing and in mourning; the last thing he wants to see is that we rejoice amidst our trials. Yet this is the very thing we need to do. Remember that God inhabits the praises of His people! So when we praise, we are inviting God to inhabit that situation.

We see in *Nehemiah 8v10* that Nehemiah instructs the people *"Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength"*. This joy we can have in the Lord is not dependent on our circumstances but on our internal state of knowing who our God is amidst our circumstances. By staying close to Him, we can partner with His joy, and it becomes a weapon against the enemy.

*Psalms 16v11 "You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore"*. We see that it is in God's presence that there is fullness of joy.

Perhaps when we are feeling joyless, we need to ask ourselves, when was the last time we were in the presence of our Lord? When was the last time we just went to rest in Him? Ask

the Lord what is blocking His joy in your life. Ask Him for a greater measure so you can overcome the sorrows that would steal your joy. I know that trauma and other adverse circumstances have the ability to steal our joy. Comparison is also a thief of joy. When we compare ourselves to others or compare our situations to others, we can be tempted to move away from a place of peace in Him.

A big part of healing is getting back to a place of joy. <sup>1</sup>Friesen et al. (1999), in the Life Model - Living From The Heart Jesus Gave You - speak of getting back to joy camp. They posit that a child from an early age has a desire to experience joy in loving relationships and it becomes a most powerful force. When we encounter trauma at an early age and throughout our life, it starts to separate us from this childhood joy.

*When people get their joy properly connected to feelings that have been damaged by a fracturing world, they will sense a new power and aliveness in all their relationships. Building joy through life-giving relationships is the first part of recovery. Joy is a shared experience. It is the delightful feeling that comes from knowing someone is glad to see me. It means, "I'm glad to be alive because somebody is glad that I am alive. Somebody knows me and loves me right now, and it is a delight to be together." The joy goes back and forth between the receiver and the giver. Joy begins when someone is glad to see me, which stirs up the same feeling in me. Then my joy is returned to the giver, and the giver's joy is increased as well. The experience is mutual. Joy also comes from being in the presence of God, who knows everything about me and is "as glad as glad can get" that I am alive! His delight in me gives me joy. Joy is also a shared experience with God, as His joy comes alive in me and I return it to Him. Building joy includes getting closer to God and to people. (Friesen et.al 1999 p. 9-10).*

As we heal and become whole in Christ, we can start to get back to joy camp. Once we realise we have a loving Father that is always happy to see us, we can start to heal the hurts caused by painful relationships. Our pathways can heal and we can start to re-route to have more joyful encounters so that we can feel joy in our relationships and in everyday life.

*Isaiah 61v10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels".*

Irrespective of what we are going through, we have much to be joyful for, as we see in the above passage. What we have received in Him cannot compare to anything we are going through. He has been so gracious to us, and He says we are His Bride, and He has covered us with a robe of righteousness. Because of this, we have access to Him, and we can have joy because of it.

*John 16v24 "Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full".*

We see in this verse that we should ask in Jesus' name, and we will receive, and our joy can be full. We see here to ask in His name, the precious name of Jesus that holds so much for us. He wants to give us the fullness of joy. We need to approach Him more often in a childlike way and have faith that He hears and is faithful to give.

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<sup>1</sup> Friesen et al. (1999). *The Life Model: Living from the Heart Jesus Gave You*. Shepherds House - USA

*Isaiah 61v3 "To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."*

We see the most wonderful divine exchanges in this passage. This is what the Lord offers us through His Spirit. And it is for His glory. It pleases Him to give us these things because it enriches our life and brings glory to Him. We can be planted in Him as trees of righteousness. The oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.

## **8. Weapon Eight - His Name**

With this weapon, we come full circle back to our first weapon, and that is His shelter, that place of safety and peace we have in our Father God and in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. As the circle connects back, it creates a place of refuge for us that contains much power through the Spirit of God, that dwells in us, and that dwells in that place or dimension of refuge. When I think of looking at it from the top down, I see in the spirit a dome of protection, like an electromagnetic field that the enemy cannot penetrate. In that place is everything we need to stand strong and to overcome through our Almighty God and Saviour. No one is greater!

*Philippians 2v9-11 "For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father".*

Why is a name important? Our name often defines who we are. It sets us apart from others in our family. Our name has meaning, and therefore, we must choose the names of our children with care. Our name often carries who we are. Those who know you and are close to you will already carry a picture in their mind of who you are and what you represent. When they hear your name, this will come to mind. They will base how they feel about you on your behaviour and actions and those behaviours and actions will be linked to your name. That is what they most often recall. Your personality, who you are to them, or what you represent to them when they hear your name.

In the same way, depending on our relationship with Jesus, we will have a picture of what He represents to us. It might be different for everyone based on their experience of Him. The same way people respond to us differently. Sometimes just the mention of our name will carry weight; we can represent authority, respect and honour or at the mention of our name, people might not want to be around us.

The name of Jesus is loaded with power and meaning and represents so much more than just a name. It carries creation, authority, power, respect, honour and glory, and so much more - peace, love, joy, kindness, faithfulness and all the good things that come through His Spirit that is with us and in us.

What else does the Word say about the name of Jesus?

In the name of Jesus we ask and we receive. *John 14v13-14 "Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it".*

*John 16v23 -24 "And in that day you will ask Me nothing. Most assuredly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full".*

In His name we are healed. *Acts 3v6 "Then Peter said " Silver and gold have I none, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk". And he was healed!*

In His name we are saved. *Romans 10v13 "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved".*

We are cleansed, sanctified and justified in His name. *1 Corinthians 6v11 "But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God."*

*In His name we cast out demons. Luke 10v17 "Lord even the demons are subject to us in Your name".*

Everything we do or say should be in His name. *"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him".*

When we pray in the name of Jesus, we acknowledge that there is power in His name and we can come before God through the name of Jesus. Isn't it so powerful that He says whatever we ask the Father in His name, He will give us? Of course, we need to ask according to His will; otherwise, we ask amiss and do not receive. *James 4v3 says "You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures".*

We have authority in the name of Jesus. He has given this to us as we are joint heirs with Him. Therefore we also represent Him here on earth and have access to all that is His to help us (*Ephesians 1v3*). *Romans 8v17 "Now if we are children, then we are heirs, heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in His sufferings in order that we may also share in His glory."*

Because we have access to Jesus Christ through His Spirit, we have access to all that His name embodies. Think back to our chapter on the "Frequency of Jesus"; we can tie all of this into that frequency that He releases. There are many names of God, all representing facets of who He is and what we have access to through Him.

Let us look at some of the names of God (there are many more):

El	The Strong One
Elohim	The All-Powerful One, Creator
El Shaddai	The All Sufficient One
El Emeth	God of Truth
El Kanna	Jealous God
El Nekumah	God of all Comfort
Adonai	The Lord
Yahweh	The only proper name for God. "I Am who I Am"
Yeshua Ha'Mashiach	Jesus the Messiah
Jehovah Jireh	The Lord Will Provide
Jehovah Rapha	The Lord Who Heals
Jehovah Nissi	The Lord is My Banner
Jehovah M'Kadesh	The Lord Who Sanctifies, makes holy
Jehovah Shalom	The Lord our Peace
Jehovah Tsidkenu	The Lord Our Righteousness
Jehovah Rohi	The Lord Our Shepherd
Jehovah Shammah	The Lord is There
Jehovah Sabaoth	The Lord of Hosts
Jehovah Tsur	The Lord my Rock

Jehovah Uzi	The Lord My Strength
Jehovah Ori	The Lord My Light
El Elyon	The God Most High
El Roi	The God Who Sees
El Olam	The Eternal God
El Gibor	The Lord Mighty in Battle
Parakletos	Helper
Rabbi	Teacher

Do you realise that when you partner with the name of Jesus, you receive all that is in His name? All of the above is part of the gift! Should we not make it a daily practice to engage our spirit man to interface with the name of Jesus, a powerful, mighty weapon that can empower us and give us what we need to rise up and overcome Satan and take our place on earth in authority and dominion? Our circumstances, our adversities and all that seeks to overpower us, need not make us feel overwhelmed. We just need to look to Jesus who is also the Author and Finisher of our faith. Trust in Him, trust in His name and release your weapon!

### **How do we appropriate these weapons?**

This prayer can be utilised as a part of your daily prayer regime and can be an addition to putting on your armour of God. We are putting on Jesus; we are partnering with Him for our day and all that encompasses who He is and what is available to us (Ephesians 1v3). You can also cover your family by adapting the wording as you feel led. As you become more familiar with the prayer you can shorten it to the weapon and a scripture to stand on.

### **The Prayer**

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. I declare that You are the only one true God! Our Creator and Sustainer of all. I thank You for this day; this is the day that You have made, and I will rejoice and be glad in it. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within in me bless His holy name. Thank You, Lord, that You load me daily with Your benefits - You forgive all my iniquities, You heal all my diseases, You redeem my life from destruction, and You crown me with lovingkindness and tender mercies; You satisfy my mouth with good things so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Psalm 103v1-5).

I speak to my spirit man today and I say rise up and hear the voice of the Lord this day, obey His voice and fulfil your calling and assignment this day. Holy Spirit, I give you charge over me, and I tie my spirit, soul and body to the will of God this day to obey, to listen and to hear You and Your instruction to me. Soul and body, you will submit to the leading of the Spirit, and you will take instruction through the spirit from the Holy Spirit. I come boldly into the throne room of God according to Hebrews 4v16 and I partner with and receive my measure for this day from the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of Wisdom, the Spirit of Understanding, the Spirit of Counsel and Might, the Spirit of Knowledge and the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord.

I receive this for my spirit to stand strong this day and operate in the power of God through His Spirit within me, for Zechariah 4v6 says, *"Not by might, nor by power but by My Spirit says the Lord"*.

I thank You Lord that the weapons of my warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. I bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. (2

Corinthians 10v5). I put on the full armour of God today, I put You on Jesus, as my garment, and I stand strong in battle, having girded my waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod my feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, I take the shield of faith with which I will quench the fiery darts of the wicked one and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God (Ephesians 6v13-17). I put on the garments of vengeance and wrap myself in a cloak of zeal and take my place in the army of the Lord (Isaiah 59v17).

This day I will not fear anything because You are with me, and I will be strengthened in You; You will help me; You will uphold me with Your righteous right hand (Isaiah 41v10-12). I enter into the secret place of the Most High to dwell there and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say that You are my refuge and my fortress and my God in You I will trust. You will deliver me from the enemy, and You will cover me with Your feathers, and under Your wings, I will take refuge. I set my love on You, and therefore, You will deliver me. (Psalm 91). Today, I choose life and good, and I reject death and evil. I choose to walk in all that You command me, Lord my God; I will walk in Your ways and keep your commandments, statutes and judgements. I will live and multiply, and because of this, You, Lord, will bless me in my land, and I will possess all that is mine in Jesus' name (Deuteronomy 30v15-16). I reject and repent for any idolatry, personal or generational, that has caused me not to dwell in my land. This day, I choose life, and I choose blessing so that my descendants and I will live and be blessed abundantly (Deuteronomy 30 v 19-20).

Today, I focus on the end goal of the vision God has given me. I trust in His plans and purposes for my life and choose to set my face as a flint, and I know that because I trust in You, God for my life and destiny, I will not be ashamed (Isaiah 50v7). I will run this race and stay focused, knowing that I have a cloud of witnesses cheering me on who have completed their race before me (Hebrews 12v1); therefore, accomplishing the vision is possible for me through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4v13). I will complete the work you have given me to do and I will glorify You in the earth (John 17v4)

Thank You for Your love, Jesus. I enter into Your love today. I will keep Your word this day so that Your love may be perfected in me (1 John 1v7). Thank You for strengthening me through Your Spirit in my spirit, man, through Your love which is unfathomable. I enter into Your dimension of love through faith in my heart, and I declare that I will be rooted and grounded in Your love, and I ask that I will grow daily in the knowledge of Your love as I walk in love towards You, others and myself. I declare that in Your love, I walk in the fullness of God (Ephesians 3v16-19, John 3v16, 1 John 3v16).

I appropriate the blood of Jesus today, which covers me, and that speaks on my behalf in the heavens, that speaks of better things than Abel (Hebrews 12v24). I have protection through the blood of Jesus. I apply Your blood, Jesus, to the doorposts of my life, and I choose You! Revelations 12v11 says that I overcome Satan by the blood of the Lamb and the word of my testimony and that I love not my life unto death. This day, I testify of Your goodness, Lord, and Your wonderful grace and mercy in my life. I choose to lay down my life to serve You just as You laid down Your life for me on the cross. I lay down my will to do Your will, Lord. I have been redeemed out of the hand of the enemy through the blood of Jesus (Psalm 107v2, 1 Peter 1v18-19). I will walk worthy of You today, Lord, in all I do, and I will be the light as You are the light (1 John 1v7).

I declare that I am justified by His blood and I am saved from wrath (Romans 5v8-9). I will not live under a spirit of condemnation. Your word says that there is, therefore now, no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus; I will walk not according to the flesh this day

but according to the Spirit (Romans 8v1). I am hidden in You through Your blood (Ephesians 1v7) and I have new life (John 6v54).

(You can take communion at this point if you feel so led by the Spirit).

Lord Jesus, Your word says in Isaiah 26v3 that You will keep me in perfect peace if I keep my mind on You. Colossians 3v2 says that I must set my mind on things above and not on the things on earth, for I died, and my life is hidden with Christ in God. I enter this dimension of peace.

I receive and cling to Your peace today, not as the world gives it or defines it, but as You give it and it is defined by You. I will not let my heart be troubled nor will I be afraid this day (John 14v27). I set my mind on the Spirit, who is life and peace (Romans 8v6). I will not give room to strife this day but choose the fruit of righteousness which is sown in peace by those who make peace (James 3v18) and I will be blessed and be called a son of God (Matthew 5v9). Because I pursue peace with all people and holiness, I will see the Lord (Hebrews 12v14).

I choose joy on this day! I will rejoice in You, Lord (Isaiah 61v10). I believe that You delight in me and rejoice over me with singing (Zephaniah 3v17). I partner with the joy of the Lord, which is my strength (Nehemiah 8v10). I partner with Your healing power for my relationships and that You bring healing and restoration to any brokenness. I ask for life-giving relationships to experience Your joy in. I choose to abide in You and to trust in You so that my joy may be full. I love you and believe in you, and therefore I rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory because of my salvation by faith. (1 Peter 1v8)

Lord God, Your name is above every name that is named and at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, those who are in heaven, and on the earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2v9-11). I acknowledge this day that You are all powerful and I bow my knee to You as my God. I receive into my spirit, man, everything that is available to me in and through Your name. I enter into You Jesus, so that I may bear the fruit of our partnership (John 15v4). I partner with Your name, my God, and every other name You carry and bear witness with, and I receive power from the Most High for this day (Luke 1v35).

I thank You, Lord, that I am armed and dangerous through You and in You for this day. I give all praise and honour to You and glorify Your wonderful name. In the mighty name of Yeshua Amen!

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