

**MAGH**  
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## **“No Weapon”**

Isaiah 54:17

*“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.”*

### **1. Introduction**

This week I was prodded not once, but a few times, and reminded around the victory that has already been declared for us in the name of Jesus.

This truth is declared for us throughout the Scriptures including:

1 Corinthians 15:57:

*“But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Romans 8:37:

*“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.”*

Philippians 4:13:

*“I can do all this through Him who gives me strength.”*

John 16:33

*“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

1 John 5:4

*“For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.”*

Ephesians 1:3:

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”*

We don't fight FROM defeat—we fight FROM victory.

**\*\*\*Prayer Point 1 – let's give God thanks for His victory!**

## 2. But then life...

It's easy for us with the distractions of life, our baggage and the constant struggle with the flesh, to go into a victim mentality as issues come up. To blame others and not take responsibility.

I have been taught this kind of behaviour is called 'below the line behaviour', where we divert to language of denial and blame. Starting our thoughts with, 'you did that' or 'they did that', identifying others as the cause of our issues.

On the other hand, 'above the line conduct' is where we take responsibility and we identify what we've done in a situation and what we can do to resolve it. We take ownership, responsibility and we take action.

Over the last while I've noticed I've been jumping into thoughts and patterns that I now see are 'below the line.' These can be subtle and small thoughts here and there. But together they can combine and I was starting to feel a level of discontent at the way others were behaving.

I was reminded this week by two prayer warrior friends (which included Barry and his message on Thursday morning), that we need to approach things from an 'above the line' position.

As Christians, this means a position and posture that declares the victory has already been won by Jesus' sacrifice for us on the Cross! Knowing Jesus died for us so that our sins could be forgiven.

If we don't approach issues with that mindset, the enemy will look for ways to create wedges in our faith and relationships.

'Below the line behaviour' is where the enemy keeps us stuck.

What I've seen is that as our faith grows and our relationship with God strengthens, the enemy will look for ways to attack our position. And he knows how to do that in a way that seeks to upset the gains that we have been made.

Often this will appear in our marriages or closest relationships.

Yes we know we are yoked with our wives, but the enemy looks for areas that we may be yoked but not synced. The enemy loves to see us desynced.

Do you know how hard it is to be yoked but not walking in sync. It's like a three-legged race where one person's left leg is tied to another person's right leg and they must work together to run in tandem using three "legs".

Watching these races can be funny because those out of sync fall and trip over each other.

But the winners in that race are always those most in sync.

And this isn't just theory - I have been living this out ...

Testimonial:

My wife felt we weren't in sync in regard to attending Connect together. She called this out and waited patiently for us to attend together.

After some time I stopped attending the Connect I was leading, however, we then we went travelling and didn't go and find a new Connect or attend together.

That's where the reality of 'faith without works is dead' comes into play. What I was reminded of is that it's my role as leader of family to step up and make sure I'm leaning into God and asking for direction.

I needed to plead the blood of Jesus over my mind and thoughts.

Because my mind was telling me - it's her fault. I'm not responsible.

But God showed me - that was below the line.

Again, we don't fight FROM defeat - we fight FROM victory. And I was reminded this week that we must choose to live from that position daily.

I need to give everything to God - daily – if not I will gravitate towards 'below the line behaviour' aka blame, denial, pointing at others - which is the way the enemy gets in.

We need to be praying, "Sorry God, please help me and protect me over the enemy right now."

Reminded of this I prayed for guidance and felt the push to just call our Connect leader at Church and ask for help to being guided on the Connect to attend. She was so kind and understanding and with her help this week we went to our first Connect together in a while and it was wonderful.

This is a personal example of how we need to hand our situations to Jesus every day – we can't just drop and leave it - needs to be constant handing over – and I wasn't constant.

Every day I have been catching myself when my thoughts have drifted into below the line stories or negativity. Each time I've pleaded the blood of Jesus over my mind and prayed for my thoughts to be transformed in the name of Jesus.

So far I can say I'm feeling more positive and upbeat and more in tune with God. What a blessing this has been.

**\*\*\*Prayer Point 2 – Lord, we plead the blood of Jesus over our thoughts that they be positive and filled with your love, compassion, wisdom and peace.**

### 3. Boldness

In these moments of the enemy trying to desync us with our partners but also with God, we have His word to remind us again as He did in Isaiah 54:17:

*“No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,” Says the LORD.”*

Be reminded in these times that it is God who is the string around us as we run a 3 legged race with our wives!

But this is not something we can be lukewarm about, we need to tackle these attacks with boldness and strength.

Look at the boldness of the apostles Peter and John in the book of Acts.

They had been arrested by the Jewish elders but look at how they tackled their enemies:

Acts 4:8-13; 18-20:

*<sup>8</sup> “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: “Rulers and elders of the people! <sup>9</sup> If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a man who was lame and are being asked how he was healed, <sup>10</sup> then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. <sup>11</sup> Jesus is “the stone you builders rejected, which has become the cornerstone.’*

*<sup>12</sup> Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.”*

*<sup>13</sup> When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.*

*<sup>18</sup> Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. <sup>19</sup> But Peter and John replied, “Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to*

*you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*

I love how Peter and John double down at the end of their first incarceration. They are told go but not speak of Jesus and instead of just walking away they declare – “*Which is right in God’s eyes: to listen to you, or to him? You be the judges! <sup>20</sup> As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*

Then soon after there was the second incarceration of Peter and John in Acts 5:29; 33; 40-42. Despite being persecuted, their boldness only grew:

*<sup>29</sup> Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than human beings!*

*<sup>33</sup> When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death.*

*<sup>40</sup> ... They called the apostles in and had them flogged. Then they ordered them not to speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.*

*<sup>41</sup> The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. <sup>42</sup> Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Messiah.”*

This is what it looks like to live above the line – to live in victory.

### **\*\*\*Prayer Point 3 - Intercession Prayer**

This morning is about stepping back into the victory Jesus has already won for us.

Let’s dedicate the last 10 mins to intercession for men who currently feel the attack of enemy in their lives.

Please raise your hand if you need prayer for:

*A relationship that is out of sync.*

*A mind that has slipped into below the line thoughts.*

*Stepping into a posture of victory – the one that He’s already given us.*