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THE *Shield*

"But Thou, O Lord, art a shield for me;
my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."

PSALM 3:3

The purpose of conflict is to reclaim territory for the kingdom of God...Restoration

The purpose of patrol is to establish borders around that reclaimed territory...Preservation

The Excellency of Defense: *The Word made Flesh*

After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

Genesis 15:1

If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in your land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land. And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and a hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight: and your enemies shall fall before you by the sword. For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you and establish my covenant with you. And ye shall eat old store, and bring forth the old because of the new. And I will set my tabernacle among you: and my soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people.

Leviticus 26:3-12

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up?

Deut 32:4,30,31

Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.

Deut 33:29

Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard.

I Samuel 22:23

Thou hast granted me life and favour; and thy visitation hath preserved my spirit.

Job 10:12

Yea the Almighty shall be thy defence, and thou shalt have plenty of silver.

Job 22:25

Lord, how are they increased that trouble me! many are they that rise up against me. Many there be which say of my soul, There is no help for him in God. Selah. But thou, O Lord, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head.

Psalms 3:1-3

I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, Lord, only makest me dwell in safety.

Psalms 4:8

"My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart.

Psalms 7:10

For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the Lord; I will set him in safety from him that puffeth at him.

Psalms 12:5

Preserve me, O God; for in thee do I put my trust.

Psalms 16:1

For by thee I have run through a troop; an by my God have I leaped over a wall. As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God? It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect. He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me up my high places. He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Thou hast enlarged my steps under me, that my feet did not slip. I have pursued mine enemies, and overtaken them: neither did I turn again till they were consumed. I have wounded them that they were not able to rise: they are fallen under my feet. For thou hast girded me with strength unto the battle: thou hast subdued under me those that rose up against me. Thou hast also given me the necks of mine enemies; that I might destroy them that hate me.

Psalm 18:29-40

The Lord hear thee in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee

Psalm 20:1

And David spake unto the Lord the Word of this song in the day that the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies and out of the hand of Saul. And he said, The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior; thou savest me from violence. The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

Psalm 22:1-3,47

Let integrity and uprightness preserve me; for I wait on thee.

Psalm 25:21

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.

Psalm 28:7

Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me. O love the Lord, all ye his saints: for the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

Psalm 31:2,23

Thou art my hiding place; thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance. Selah.

Psalm 32:7

An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength. Our soul waiteth for the Lord: he is our help and our shield.

Psalm 33:17, 20

The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them. The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

Psalm 34:7, 17, 19

Plead my cause, O Lord, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul I am thy salvation.

Psalm 35:1-3

Withhold not thou thy tender mercies from me, O Lord: let thy lovingkindness and thy truth continually preserve me.

Psalm 40:11

God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. The princes of the people are gathered together, even the people of the God of Abraham: for the shields of the earth belong unto God: he is greatly exalted.

Psalm 47:8,9

Deliver me from mine enemies, O my God: defend me from them that rise up against me. Because of his strength will I wait upon thee: for God is my defence. But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defence and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing: for God is my defence, and the God of my mercy.

Psalm 59:1,9,16,17

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me o the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah. Thou wilt prolong the king's life: and his years as many generations. He shall abide before God for ever: O prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him.

Psalm 61:1-4, 6-7

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence, I shall not be greatly moved. He only is my salvation he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

Psalm 62:2,6,7,8

Hear my voice O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from the fear of the enemy. Hide me from the secret counsel of the wicked; from the insurrection of the workers of iniquity.

Psalm 64:1

In Judah is God known: his name is great in Israel. In Salem also is his tabernacle, and his dwelling place in Zion. There brake he the arrows of the bow, the shield, and the sword, and the battle. Selah.

Psalm 76:1-3

Let the sighing o the prisoner come before thee; according to the greatness of thy power preserve thou those that are appointed to die;

Psalm 79:11

Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

Psalm 84:9,11

Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my god, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

Psalm 86:2

For the Lord is our defence; and the Holy One of Israel is our king.

Psalm 89:18

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and underneath his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.

Psalm 91:4

But the Lord is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge.

Psalm 94:22

Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints: he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Psalm 97:10

O Israel, trust thou in the Lord: he is their help and their shield.

Psalm 115:9

The Lord preserveth the simple: I was brought low, and he helped me.

Psalm 116:6

Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe: and I will have respect unto thy statues continually.

Psalm 119:114,117

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber

nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even forevermore.

Psalm 121

Blessed be the Lord my strength which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight: My goodness and my fortress; my high tower and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.

Psalm 144:1-2

The Lord preserveth all them that love him: but all the wicked will he destroy.

Psalm 145:20

The Lord preserveth the strangers; he relieveth the fatherless and widow: but the way of the wicked he turneth upside down.

Psalm 146:9

But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from the fear of evil.

Proverbs 1:33

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. By knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

Proverbs 3:19-26

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14

The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

Proverbs 16:17

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

Proverbs 18:10

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

Proverbs 21:31

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

Proverbs 24:6

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Proverbs 29:25

Every word of God is pure; he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Proverbs 30:5

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God for walls and bulwarks.

Isaiah 26:1

As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.

Isaiah 31:5

And in that day will I make a covenant for them with the beasts of the field, and with the fowls of heave, and with the creeping things of the

ground: and I will break the bow and the sword and the battle out of the earth, and will make them to lie down safely.

Hosea 2:18

And he said unto him, Thy brother is come; and thy father hath killed the fatted calf, because he hath received him safe and sound.

Luke 15:27

Eyewitness Account: *Divine Covering*

To stand as watchman has increasingly more significance to my own life and ministry. After the following events, I now understand the priority of standing guard over my own heart, home, workplace, family, partners, city, and nation. Yes, standing guard: making sure that nothing gets in that should be kept out and nothing gets out that should be kept in.

In the midst of some personal challenges a friend simply said, Remember Psalm 91. I pondered on this insightful truth that created an imagery of being fully covered by the One who is the incomparable Defender and a Mighty Warrior. By the end of the week, my Refuge birthed an indelible song in my heart, entitled "Hiding Place". He perfectly fit that song in my spirit that inspired confidence in Him alone. I didn't understand all that it was creating in heaven and earth, but I continued to sing it everyday for over two weeks. Only after 9-11, I saw this psalm as one of the acceptable sacrifices to God that spared our City from ruin. I believe there other untold accounts.

Within the past several years another prayer warrior enlightened me about the ruling spirits over Cleveland, so I began binding the spirits of murder and suicide, having a view of the Terminal Tower as I journeyed to work.

The Lord brought to mind a prophecy delivered in the 1980's by a renown ministry: It declared that Cleveland will no longer be known as the mistake on the lake. In 2000, the Lord quickened in my spirit that Cleveland will be known as the New International Bible Belt, paralleling the effects to the light of New Jerusalem in the book of Revelation.

So the morning of September 10, 2001 I didn't think it unusual to ask the Lord for Cleveland for our inheritance as Psalm 2:8 suggests. After retiring that evening, the Lord gave me a clear vision of mounted horses with angels holding lit torches and I heard these words, "the city is safe". Puzzled and not knowing what was to befall our nation the following morning, I innocently said okay in my heart and drifted off to a restless sleep.

When I found out what had transpired on 9-11, all fours planes had fallen. There are documented accounts that the fourth plan that succumbed in Pennsylvania was in Cleveland's airspace, flew over the Cleveland Airport but turned around. There were moves to evacuate the

downtown area and people were called not to report to scheduled meetings in that area.

I know our City was hedged by wall to wall protection that could not be penetrated by destruction's forces. While divine protection averted danger for Cleveland, it was in no way automatic. God's faithfulness to be the watchmen over His Word caused it not come back empty. Just like there were not any breaches between those angels in the vision, God's faithfulness is also without breach.

Engage God's help as you employ Psalm 91 in your daily prayer and meditation time. His sweet presence will surround you with his protective forces and keep you in tact no matter what fear, oppression, or terror you may face. You're empowered to defeat the enemy.

*Life cannot be extinguished
when God is enthroned in the hearts of receiving believers.*

Prayer Covering: *I'm taking uncharted territory.*

Dear Heavenly Father, in the precious name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior. With boldness and confidence I approach you knowing that you always hear me and that your tender mercies and bountiful favor are available and ready to be delivered to me at all times. Jesus redeemed my life from destruction, so I rest under your everlasting arms. Because of the blood covenant, provision has already been made for my divine protection. So I apply the blood to me, family, loved ones, workplace, community, city, and nation and I receive the benefit of deliverance, protection, and preservation. I know you never sleep nor slumber. Your angels keep watch over me and all that I claim because they hearken to your Word to deliver me from evil. I charge the angels to keep this assignment No weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that rises up against me, I shall condemn, bringing any planned or formed weapon to complete destruction. I use my authority in prayer so I bind the spirit of fear, terror and oppression. I cast you out of my life, and I forbid your interference in my circumstances. Lose your hold right now, in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. You can no longer be a stronghold over my life, because the Lord is a stronghold for me whenever there is any hint of trouble. I have gained full recognition and acceptance as a heir of God, joint-heir with Jesus Christ, as the authority in the earth. Without a shadow of doubt, I reign over you and am no longer in bondage to you because God has given me a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind. I am the head, and you are the tail. I am above in everything, and you are beneath in everything. You are continually under my feet. I am free of your influence so I walk at liberty. By faith, I receive therefore I stand fast in perfect soundness because I am surrounded by your love which cannot be overthrown. In Jesus' name. Amen.

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Adoption: *Salvation & the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*

Dear Heavenly Father, I come before you to acknowledge my need for salvation. I repent of my sin and ask you to forgive me. I invite you to be my Savior and the Lord of my life. Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." I believe that I am saved, right now. I believe that You have accepted me as I am. By the shed blood of Jesus Christ, I believe You have included me as the newest member in the heavenly family right now. I believe I receive all the benefits of salvation right now: forgive all my iniquities; heal all my diseases; redeem my life from destruction; crown me with loving kindness and tender mercies; and satisfy my mouth with good things so that my youth will be renewed like the eagles as Psalm 103:3-5 declares. I declare that there is absolutely nothing in my life that needs saving. I am saved to the uttermost.

Now that I am saved I am an immediate candidate to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues, as was experienced in Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Therefore I believe, I receive the Holy Spirit right now. John 7:38 declares, "He that believeth on me (Jesus Christ), as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." I believe I am empowered to be an eyewitness as Acts 1:6 declares, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth".

Thank you for salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I believe I am brand new. II Corinthians 5:7 says, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." **In Jesus' Name, Amen.**

I salute you as the newest member of the body of Christ. This is the most important decision you will ever make in this life. Welcome to our family.