

IT'S SUPER KID WITH A TOWEL!

Psalm 28:7 – *The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me.*

I grew up watching the original *Superman*. I didn't care that a pair of glasses distracted everyone from connecting the true identity of the world famous Superman with the mild-mannered reporter Clark Kent.

I loved when Mr. Kent transformed into a man of great strength by changing into that outfit with the large "S" on the front and the flowing cape accessory. That "S" wasn't just a cool logo; it served as a shield against bullets (I didn't even care that the bad guys only shot him in the "S." Why not aim at a shoulder or leg?). When Superman toted those tights, I felt safe.

After the show would end, little boys all across America, myself included, would wrap a towel around their necks and go into pretend mode.

Superman gave me a glimpse of how God can be my strength and shield. Spiritually, as believers, we can all put on that "outfit" of His power and protection.

PRAYER: *Father, thank You for giving the Holy Spirit to indwell me, so I can tap into Your strength to live a fruitful life. Remind me to put on that "outfit" each day by acknowledging You in prayer and asking You to live through me.*

CJ

YOU CAN SIT HERE

1 Thessalonians 5:18 – *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*

I was the last one to board, and all I wanted was to start my journey home. The first leg of my adventure required a two-hour flight from Malawi to South Africa on a now-defunct African airline company. Making my way down the aisle, my excitement turned to dismay when the steward said to me, "I'm sorry. Your seat has been oversold."

Without any seats available, my hopes of starting my journey home seemed grim. Desperate to stay on the plane, I asked the steward if there was anything he could do to help me. He thought for a moment, then pulled out a metal folding chair from the galley and said, "You can sit here—next to the lavatory."

Without hesitating, I sat down. For the next two hours, I rode without a seatbelt and next to the bathroom on a tiny, propeller-driven airplane—breaking every passenger aviation rule known to man. The ride was uncomfortable, scary, and less than ideal. Nevertheless, I was overwhelmed with gratitude.

A Word of Challenge: Don't allow circumstances to dictate your level of thankfulness. Find the silver lining. Resist the urge to complain and offer thanks to the Lord for the many good things in your life.

PRAYER: *God, help me today to be thankful in all circumstances.*

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THE MIKE TYSON PRAYER

Psalm 3:7 – *Arise, Lord! Deliver me, my God! Strike all my enemies on the jaw; break the teeth of the wicked.*

This verse falls into the “I can’t believe that’s in the Bible” category. Here is David praying, “Hit them in the face, God. Break their jaws!” Why in the jaw? Because that’s where the voice of accusation comes from. In other words, it’s, “Break all of the teeth of accusation out his head, God.”

That is very different from how we pray. It’s not, “God, please stop this, if you are able.” Rather, it’s much more like, “God, slug them! Mike Tyson uppercut them right in the mouth, break out all of their teeth, and shove them down their throats, God!”

I remember sports analysts saying that Trevor Berbick would give Mike Tyson a great battle, yet Berbick did not make it one half round with Iron Mike. Not surprisingly, Tyson’s most famous for saying, “Everybody has a plan, until they get punched in the face.”

Sometimes, it feels like God’s enemy is taking ground in our lives. He’s intimidating and injuring us. Remember, it’s okay to pray the Mike Tyson prayer: “Punch the enemy in the mouth, God. Drown out his accusing voice in my head with Your truth. Show Your power!”

PRAYER: *God, I sense the enemy is at work today against me, against my family, against my relationships. Fight the enemy in Your power, Father, not in mine. Shut up the voice of accusation that comes against me.*

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