

iSEECHURCH



iSEE PRAYS

Introduction

We believe that prayer is a pillar for revival. This booklet is not a comprehensive teaching on prayer but scaffolding for our congregations to experience the power of prayer. It is a declaration of dependence on the Holy Spirit. We believe prayer is essential for the outworking of our shared mission to see nations transformed by the power of the Gospel (Genesis 13:14-17). In this booklet we discuss some important elements of practice, when iSEE PRAYS.

Late in 2021, we were praying together when the Lord showed me a vision. In it I saw 'seed' scattered everywhere on the ground. The streets, homes, schools, parks, and public spaces had 'seeds' of revival strewn all around. I knew that this incorruptible seed had been sown by the generations. I also understood that the seed needed the prayers of the saints to germinate, grow and multiply. The scene was an invitation to be a part of a bumper crop. I believe that as we pray and prophesy, we water and nourish the seed. Through spirit inspired prayers, we speak life into the white harvest Jesus spoke about in John 4.

This reminded me of Ezekiel 37:1-14, where the prophet describes his vision of; The Valley of Dry Bones. This passage illustrates how our 'voice' works in cooperation with God's Spirit for His purposes. In this book, we will explore 9 key thoughts, gleaned from Ezekiel's vision, using the acronym "iSEE Prays".

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E **is for Enthusiasm** - Our prayer is energised by expectation and by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

E **is for Every Believer** - We believe that prayer is so simple, a child can do it. It is the privilege of every believer to be trained and to participate in God's army.

P **is for Prophecy** - We believe that as New Testament believers, it is our privilege to proclaim the good things God has promised.

R **is Righteous** - We believe that we have been made righteous by faith. Therefore, we boldly enter the throne room of grace and pray.

A **is for Ask** - We believe that we are blessed with every spiritual blessing', so we keep on 'asking'.

Y **is for Yes & Amen** - We believe that Jesus is the incarnation of God's love and promises. My responsibility is to add my 'Say So' and agree with heaven to see answers to prayer.

S **is for Spirit** - I will pray in the Spirit often.

+ Some Pastoral Considerations re: Personal Prayer Ministry.

Ezekiel 37

The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord to a valley filled with bones. 2 He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out. 3 Then he asked me, “Son of man, can these bones become living people again?” “O Sovereign Lord,” I replied, “you alone know the answer to that.” 4 Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, listen to the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord.’” 7 So I spoke this message, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. 8 Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them.





9 Then he said to me, “Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’” 10 So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. 11 Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, ‘We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.’ 12 Therefore, prophesy to them and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the Lord. 14 I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the Lord, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the Lord has spoken!’”

I - Intimacy

We believe that relationship with our generous heavenly Father is the foundation of our authority in prayer.

Ezekiel 37:1

The Lord took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the Lord...

We call it, 'The Valley of Dry Bones,' and it records a vision received by Ezekiel the prophet. Its message shows how we can co-labour with the Spirit to release restoration and revival. It is worth noting that, it begins with an ordinary guy who prays. From that position, 'he was carried away by the Spirit'. When he prays, he gains insight into the dynamics of revival.

Ezekiel is an example of someone who is dedicated to God and has positioned himself to hear from heaven. Praying connects us to our heavenly Father and to the things He cares about. This priority of relationship is evident when He taught us to pray; 'Our Father'

Father is not just a 'title' but a relationship. In the Spirit realm, authority flows from this relationship. Consider Jesus' parable in Luke 15. A rich man's son had foolishly left the household and suffered from the loss of relationship. He finally decides to return home.

Luke 15:20

"So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. 21 His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son.' 22 "But his father said to the servants, 'Quick! Bring the finest robe in the house and put it on him. Get a ring for his finger and sandals for his feet. 23 And kill the calf we have been fattening. We must celebrate with a feast, 24 for this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.'

So the party began



This parable shows the healing of the relationship as a gift from the Father. His words convey joy, love and trust, and the restoration of full authority to his son. This parable is our story and reminds us of amazing grace.

The robe is our righteousness, gifted by the Cross. The ring is the sign of our authority. And the sandals show we belong in His family, (slaves were barefoot). Our part is to humbly come, and allow the love and grace of the Father to reposition us as heirs. The Father himself declared the son ready to act in his name. Intimacy with the Father is the necessary foundation for authority in prayer. We can step into this relationship, boldly, attune to His heart and pray in His name.

S - Spirit Words

God has provided for us a weapon of phenomenal power. The **Sword** of the spirit. We activate this weapon when we speak God's Word.

**... and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
Ephesians 6:17**

So I spoke the message as he commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. Ezekiel 37:10

Words are our God given superpower to *call things that aren't as though they are*. When we pray in alignment what God says, with authority, we wield the **Sword of the Spirit**. The intentions of heaven are birthed onto the earth through the spoken faith of believers. The War is decided. Jesus defeated the enemy and has released 'every *spiritual blessing*'. Now it is the work of the believer to **proclaim** the time of the Lord's favour and establish His Kingdom on the earth through *Spirit inspired words*.

David prayed in Psalm 19; May the **WORDS** of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you ...

E - Enthusiasm

Our prayer is energised by expectation and by the **dunamis** of the indwelling Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 37:9 Speak a prophetic message and say, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, O breath, from the four winds!'

Enthusiasm - from the root meaning: '*en theos*' (in God). The word for breath in this verse, is the same as is used in the book of Genesis when God breathed his own essence into the first humans and gave them life. Therefore, we honour Him when we use this 'life' to pray with passion and enthusiasm. Our enthusiasm and confidence comes from the knowledge that God's eternal plan is being implemented through our prayers. This expectation energises our prayers with faith and authority.

When iSEE prays, we will enthusiastically believe for God's will to be done. This includes; miracles, healings and revival in the nations. For these seeds to manifest in signs, wonders, joy and salvation. At one time, Jesus was speaking to the crowds, when he said that *"the kingdom of heaven suffers violence"*. This is an enigmatic verse and offers a graphic picture of the energy we engage as believers as we displace the darkness through prayer and proclamation.

E - Every Believer

We believe that prayer is so simple, a child can do it. It is the privilege of every believer to be trained and participate in God's army.

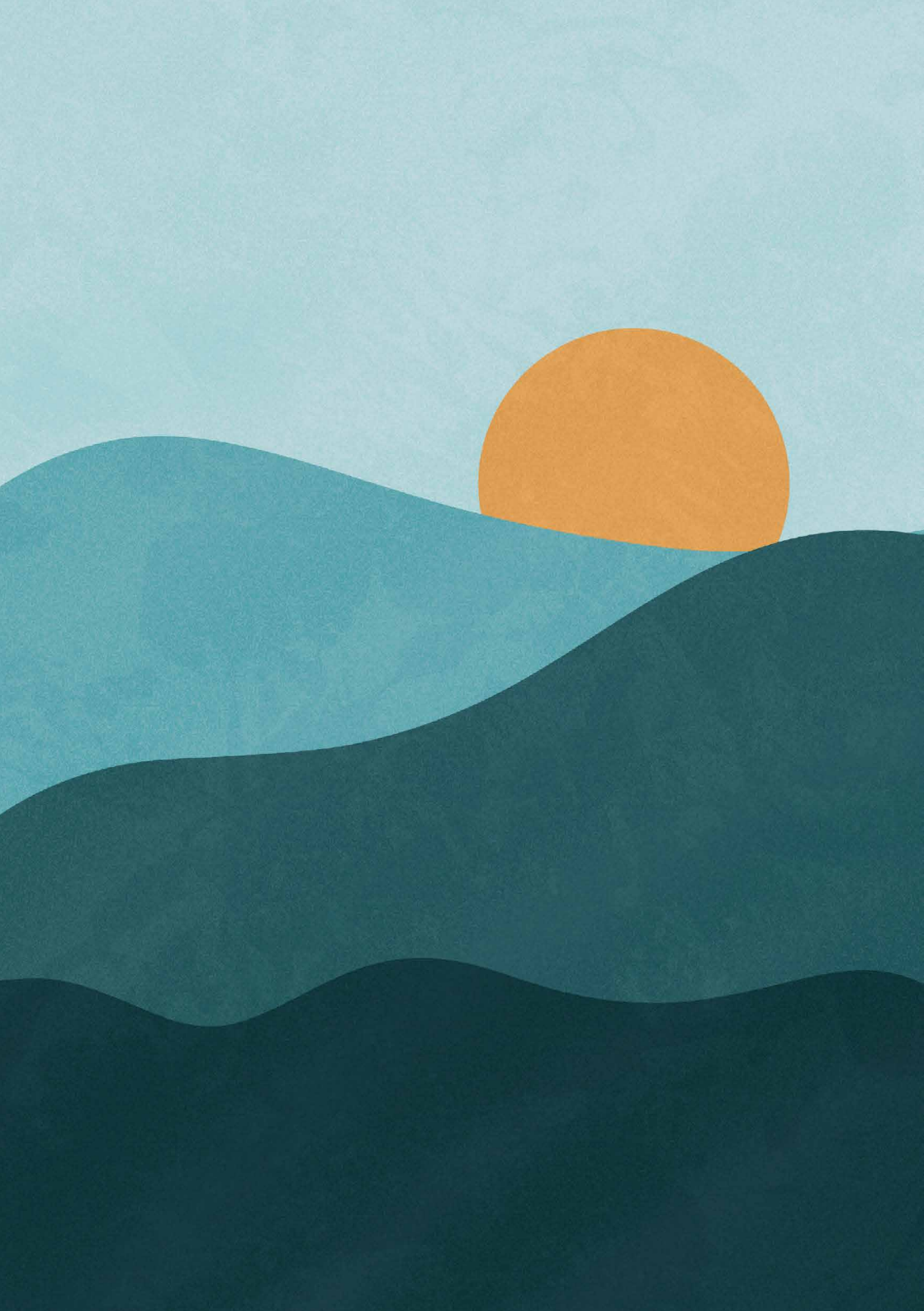
Ezekiel 37:10 They ALL came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army.

In Ezekiel's vision the whole house of Israel was included in the army. Every Believer has the potential of a warrior. Our Father in heaven has given each one of us His Spirit and identifies us as His children and therefore, His heirs. Spiritual Warfare is not so complicated that anyone is ever disqualified.

There was a sad time recorded in Judges 5, when the people of God had laid down their weapons. They had discarded their inheritance and became vulnerable to their enemies. When Israel chose new gods, war erupted at the city gates. Yet not a shield or spear could be seen among forty thousand warriors in Israel!" **Judges 5:8**

Let this be a lesson for us as New Testament believers. The prophet Joel wrote, 'Hammer your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Train even your weaklings to be warriors.' **Joel 3:10**

Let's keep prayer simple, and in this way, every believer can be battle ready. It is our mandate to invite people into a life of prayer and to call up the warrior in every believer.



P - Prophecy

The meaning of 'prophecy' in this context is to 'foretell' ... 'to declare something before it appears'. So, part of our role as people who pray, is to discern God's heart and then to prophesy. Ezekiel's example in v11 is helpful here. God instructs him to say the opposite to what everyone else is saying, 'to prophesy' God's plan for the dry bones. When all Israel is declaring 'hopelessness', Ezekiel is commanded to prophesy, "life". The Spirit invites him to speak with full authority into the moment to release the miracle.

On the day of Pentecost, those who 'waited in Jerusalem' became the recipients of the outpoured Holy Spirit. Yes, they spoke in tongues and gloriously encountered the Dunamis power of the Spirit, but importantly, they also became, 'sons and daughters who prophesy'.

Prayer is believing for God's will to be done and saying so, out loud. When Jesus gave instructions to the disciples on how to pray, He included an invitation to prophesy ... "Your kingdom come and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

The Bible teaches us that our faith is **voice activated**. The scripture invites us; "let the redeemed of the Lord say so". The power of God entrusted to us is activated by the power of our words. Let's be intentional about how we steward this authority in Jesus' name. This booklet has a deliberate emphasis on the power of our words because Prayer is made up of Words. Made in God's likeness we inherently have this power to be creative through the words we say. When our words are consistent with the superior truth of heaven, we'll see His Kingdom come.

According to James, our tongue holds the power to make or break our lives. The Proverbs say it like this; "*The tongue can bring death or life*". To be effective in prayer we must understand that what we say as well as what we pray, matters!

R - Righteous

We believe that we have been made righteous by faith. Therefore, we boldly enter the throne room of grace and pray.

Ezekiel 37:14 I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live again ...

One of the greatest hindrances to a life of prayer is the 'feeling' of being unworthy. The enemy constantly accuses us, and we must defend our heart with the shield of faith. Way back in the book of Ezekiel the promise is spoken that the day is coming, when God will put His Spirit inside the believer. That day is now. By grace we have 'been made righteous'. We each wear the robe of righteousness, the signet ring of authority and the sandals of an heir, by faith. Therefore I enter boldly into the throneroom of grace.

Romans 8:1 So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus. 2 And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death.

When Jesus said, "It is finished", He removed the punishment of sin and made it possible to live in Him and be free from condemnation. Our task is to ***believe!***



A - Ask

We believe that we are blessed with every spiritual blessing'. This is our inheritance so we will keep on 'asking', believing and receiving for the things that belong to us, through Jesus.

Ezekiel 37:3 Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign Lord," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that."

Ezekiel does not know the answer here, so he returns the question to the One who knows. He 'asks' and finds that the answer is 'yes'. Once he knows what heaven's plan is, he begins to **prophesy** that truth with authority. As an heir, we have been 'blessed with every spiritual blessing', and therefore we are entitled to ask for the things God has promised. I believe that once we have asked, we 'believe we have received it', and then we can begin to thank God.

In Matthew 7, Jesus famously said, 'Keep on asking'. What a wonderful, open invitation for us as God's children to keep on asking throughout our lifetime for all that God has for us. His resources are unlimited, and His wisdom and love immeasurable. We can ask for more of what we need without ever coming close to exhausting His riches. There is a time to ask and a time to receive. When we receive we give thanks.

Y - Yes & Amen

We believe that Jesus is the incarnation of God's love and promises. My responsibility is to add my agreement with heaven to see answers to my prayers.

Ezekiel 37:14 ... and I have done what I said. Yes, the Lord has spoken!"

What we say, and what we pray, determines our agreement. When we persist in believing, a mighty Amen resounds in heaven and releases the thing that we pray for.

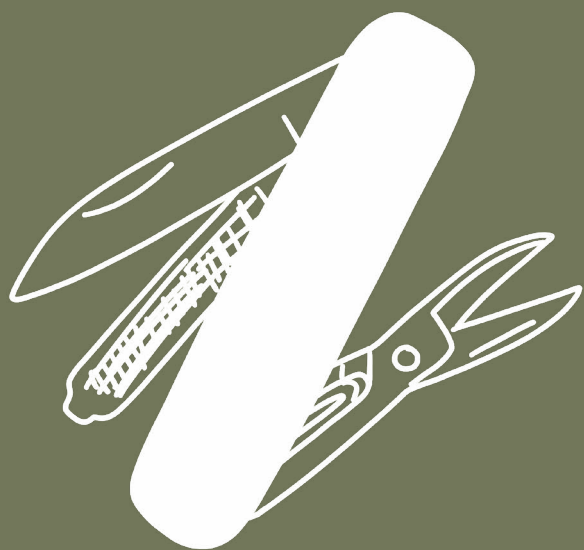
2 Corinthians 1:20 *For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. 21 It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.*

Our prayers must reflect our hopes and belief in the goodness of God. Sometimes it takes longer than we first expected and the challenge is to keep on believing. This verse in Judges 4 offers some insight;

Judges 4:23 *So on that day Israel saw God defeat Jabin, the Canaanite king. 24 And from that time on Israel became stronger and stronger against King Jabin until they finally destroyed him.*

In verse **23**, we read that God defeated Jabin. Done! Then verse **24**, tells us that *'the people fought'* against that same wicked King, (Jabin) and that they *'became stronger, and finally defeated him'*.

This reflects the reality that a victory can be true in heaven, while on the earth we continue to wrestle for it to change our circumstances. There may be a delay between our 'prophesying' and seeing the miracle. This gap will test our faith. However, this is the time that we choose to *believe* by maintaining our 'Amen' with heaven's, Yes!



S - Spirit

Praying in the Spirit is like a spiritual Swiss Army Knife. When iSEE prays, we will also pray in the Spirit.

Ezekiel 37:5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Look! I am going to put breath into you...

The prophets continually looked forward to the time when the Spirit would reside inside the believer. What a privilege it is to live in this time. From the day of Pentecost, believers have been led and empowered by the indwelling Holy Spirit. With the coming of the Spirit came the manifestation of *speaking in tongues*. For the New Testament believer, this gift provides a way to pray God's will in an effortless way. **Romans 8** assures us that, '*when we don't know what to pray, the Spirit helps us.*' How good is our Father in heaven. In 1 Corinthians, we learn a few things about the power that is released when *we speak in tongues*.

1 Corinthians 14:2 *...anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.*

...4 *Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5* *I would like every one of you to speak in tongues...*

These verses teach us a few things about speaking in tongues.

1. We speak directly to God.
2. We speak mysteries in the Spirit.
3. We edify ourselves.
4. Paul recommends it as good practice for the believer.

The Bible is where we learn the dynamics of Prayer. And the apostle Paul reminds us in his letter to the ***Ephesians 6:18***, '*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*'

Finally

We know that God hears us when we pray and that as part of His Church, the vision we steward must be fueled by Prayer.

Psalm 149 is a call out to us, as the people of God to pray. It is a celebration of every believer's authority over darkness expressed in praise. When we engage with God to push back the darkness, in our lives, our families and our cities, we activate God's power.

Psalm 149:6 May the praise of God be in their mouths and a double-edged sword in their hands, 7 to inflict vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples, 8 to bind their kings with fetters, their nobles with shackles of iron, 9 to carry out the sentence written against them—this is the glory of all his faithful people. Praise the Lord.

Some Pastoral Considerations re: Personal Prayer Ministry.

As a prayer warrior we will be called upon at times to pray for individuals and families for personal needs. The keys we have discussed are the same whether we are praying for our nation or an individual. However, wisdom is needed to ensure the person is treated in an ethical and loving manner.

1. **Personal Prayer is not counselling.** Unless you are a qualified counselor please do not advise the person in a course of action. We can of course share our thoughts and Holy Spirit wisdom but as such, it should be offered with humility in a tentative way. A good practice for personal prayer is to listen carefully to the person as they share their need, (resist adding your thoughts at this stage). Responding with kindness is an important part of ministering to the whole person. After expressing your empathy and appropriate inquiry for understanding, offer a statement of real hope. We activate people's faith when we speak life in this way. Holy Spirit will help you to know how to generate hope for the particular person. Do not feel like you must have an answer for their actual problem. Statements like, "This sounds like a difficult situation for you and your family, but God is deeply present for you and is only a breath away." Then pray and believe together as Holy Spirit leads. I usually begin by praying for wisdom and grace for every situation. If, in your view, the person is in need of professional help, please refer them appropriately.

Further, should the person need or ask for more in-depth ministry, speak with a mature leader in your congregation.

2. **Prayer for healing.** Healing is the same as above with the assurance that healing is our inheritance. We can confidently speak life and wholeness for the whole person. To be ready for this opportunity, look up some New Testament stories of healing to renew your mind and so you can share hope with the individual.

3. Where and who to pray for. Wherever possible pray in safe spaces with healthy boundaries regarding age and gender. As a general rule, men pray for men, and women for women. When praying for children, include the parent where appropriate, a childrens pastor, or a trusted colleague.

4. When 'laying hands' on someone to pray, always ask permission before touching them in any way. Do not push them or stand too close. I am short so often hold their hand but laying a hand on their shoulder can also help them to feel supported. If you feel like the person may be overcome and fall, you can stop and ask them to sit somewhere safe. If this should happen in the context of a meeting, ask someone trustworthy to support them while you pray.

5. Casting out demons. Dominion over the demonic is part of our commission for the outworking of the Gospel. As demonstrated by Jesus on earth, this can be a straightforward prayer of authority, exercised through the spiritual dynamics shared in this booklet. However, challenging situations can arise and you must be equipped with truth to counteract any presentation of a lying spirit. We speak freedom with authority in the name of Jesus, declaring the scripture that Jesus' name is over every other name.

Should the person begin to behave in ways contrary to themselves, it is often helpful to re-connect with the individual and ask them what is going for them. Remember to affirm them and get their agreement for deliverance from bondage. Afterwards, pray peace over them and follow up by debriefing with a seasoned believer.

In closing I will echo the words of Paul to Timothy:

2 Timothy 2 ...be strong through the grace that God gives you in Christ Jesus. 2 You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.

"I will put *my Spirit* in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land.

Then you will *know* that I, the Lord, have spoken, and *I have done what I said*. Yes, the Lord has spoken!"

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