NAR – Jesus' Joy

When a person pivots to talking about how "we need joy in faith like Jesus to the cross," they are referencing Hebrews 12:2 ("...*who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross*...").

Within the New Apostolic Reformation (NAR) landscape, this specific focus on "joy as faith's fuel to overcome" points directly to Bill Johnson and his teachings, specifically highlighted in books like his 2021 release*, Rejoice Into Joy: Three Keys to Experiencing the Fullness of Heaven's Joy*.

Here is how Bill Johnson and the NAR framework tie these exact concepts together:

1. Joy is Not an Emotion; It is an "Act of Faith"

In mainstream Christianity, joy is a fruit of the Spirit that comforts a believer during trials. In Bill Johnson's theology, joy is a weapon and a practical fuel. Johnson famously teaches that "rejoicing is the act of faith".

According to this view, you don't wait until you feel happy to praise God.

Instead, you aggressively choose joy during a crisis to legally "disarm hell" and force your physical circumstances to align with heavenly realities.

2. The "Supernatural Math" of Jesus and the Cross

When they talk about Jesus having joy on the cross, they are using Bill Johnson's specific interpretation of Hebrews 12:2. Johnson teaches a concept called "the supernatural math of joy," which argues:

The NAR View: Joy is the highest legal currency in heaven. Jesus was able to physically endure the horrific torment of Roman execution because He was looking forward to a specific reward: a redeemed, empowered church operating as "sons and daughters" on Earth.

The Application: Therefore, if Jesus used joy to survive the cross, modern believers must use that exact same "joy fuel" to push through spiritual warfare (James 4:7) and manifest their divine authority as sons of God (Romans 8:19).

3. Connecting the Pieces: Why They Put These Together

If you look at the list of scriptures used it shows how Bill Johnson's theology perfectly bridges them:

Psalm 37:4 & Psalm 8:4 You delight in God, recognizing your original human identity as a ruler over the earth.

Hebrews 12:2 You tap into the "Joy of Jesus," which is an aggressive spiritual fuel.

James 4:7 & Romans 8:19 Armed with that joy, you successfully command the devil to flee, causing the planet to stop "groaning" because you are finally stepping into your supernatural power.

This is why their language sounds uniquely focused on using joy as a stepping stone to manifest power, rather than just enduring suffering with quiet peace.