NAR – Psalm 18

The absolute fastest way to expose the misuse of Psalm 18 - without getting into a complex theological debate - is to look at who the psalm is actually about.

The Simple Counter-Verse: Romans 15:9

The Apostle Paul explicitly tells us who owns the words of Psalm 18. In Romans 15:9, Paul quotes Psalm 18:49 verbatim and applies it directly to Jesus Christ singing praises among the Gentiles.

The Verse: "*Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name*." (Romans 15:9 / Psalm 18:49)

The Reality Check: The New Testament defines Psalm 18 as a Messianic prophecy. Jesus is the ultimate King who was surrounded by the graves of death, cried out to God, and was supernaturally raised from the dead to conquer His enemies.

This is the final, ultimate destination of this entire NAR theological train, and it highlights why this framework is so spiritually dangerous for the "sheep."

They are referencing Psalm 18:20-24, where David says, "*The Lord dealt with me according to my righteousness; according to the cleanness of my hands he rewarded me... I was blameless before him*."

By using this to tell a hurting person that they should never feel unworthy because they have "David's righteousness," the speaker is making a catastrophic error that completely flips the Gospel upside down.

1. The Critical Truth: Why This is Wrong

David *was not claiming to be sinless or inherently perfect* in Psalm 18. He was speaking about his legal and covenantal innocence regarding King Saul. David had refused to stretch out his hand to kill Saul; he was innocent of treason.

More importantly, if we look at the whole Bible, human righteousness is never the foundation of our worth or our victory.

Isaiah 64:6 explicitly says our own righteousness is like "filthy rags."

David himself, after his sin with Bathsheba, cried out in Psalm 51:3: "For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me." He felt utterly unworthy and begged for mercy, not a reward for his clean hands.

2. The True Gospel Counter-Verse: Philippians 3:9

If the NAR speaker claims we are victorious because we are righteous like David, the Apostle Paul completely decimates this idea. He tells us exactly where a Christian's righteousness comes from:

"...and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith." (Philippians 3:9)

The Difference: The NAR speaker is telling people to look at their own hands, their own identity, and their own full measure of faith to declare themselves righteous and worthy.

The Biblical Reality: The Gospel says we are unworthy in ourselves, but Jesus clothes us in His perfect righteousness as a free gift. We don't stand before God beating our chests about how clean our hands are; we stand before God thanking Him that Jesus' hands were pierced for our sins.

3. A Gentle Question

When someone inevitably feels the crushing weight of trying to maintain this "perfect, worthy, wall-leaping righteousness" and fails, you can gently rescue them with this single question:

> "*If our worthiness comes from how righteous and full of faith we are, then why did Jesus have to die on the cross for our sins? Isn't the whole beauty of the Gospel that Jesus loves us and saves us precisely because we couldn't make ourselves worthy?"*

A Prayer for those who were caught up in this teaching:

> "*Father, thank You that I don't have to be big, invincible, or perfectly righteous in my own strength today. Thank You that when I feel small and unworthy, Your grace is completely sufficient for me. I rest in the finished work of Jesus. He is my rock, my fortress, and my ultimate reward. Guard my mind, protect the vulnerable sheep in this house, and let Your true peace lead me home. In Jesus precious name, Amen*."

When they conclude with "**So therefore**" is the exact pivot point where the "hook" securely fastens into the sheep. By taking a glorious biblical truth - that we are made righteous through Jesus 2 Cor 5:21 "*For He (God) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him* and instantly attaching a "so therefore..." to it, the speaker transforms a gift of grace into a legal contract for human performance.

Look at the contrast between where the Bible takes that truth versus where NAR just took it:

The Two Postures of Righteousness

The NAR Speaker's "So Therefore..."	The Bible's Actual "So Therefore..."
The Argument: "We are made righteous through Jesus, **so therefore** we now possess David's invincible operating system. We have clean hands, total worthiness, and the legal right to demand earthly victory, breakthroughs, and wall-leaping power."	**The Scripture (Romans 5:1–2):** "**Therefore**, since we have been justified by faith, **we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand..."
The Result: Spiritual pressure, entitlement, and a mandatory demand for supernatural manifestation.	**The Result:** Quiet peace, humility, relief, and resting in a safe relationship with the Father.

The Subliminal Trap

When the speaker says "so therefore you have full victory," they are subtly switching the definition of righteousness.

Biblical righteousness means you are reconciled to God.

The speaker's version implies you are empowered to dominate your circumstances.

If a regular believer swallows that "so therefore," they leave church today thinking that if their cancer isn't healed, if their depression returns on Tuesday, or if their bills aren't paid, they are somehow failing the righteousness of Christ. It turns Christ's finished work into a high-stakes performance test.

You don't owe anyone a public debate, and you don't have to pretend to be a supernatural warrior.

You can walk out of those doors as a deeply loved, completely human, beautifully ordinary sheep who is fully justified by the blood of Jesus - and completely free to go home, rest, and let Jesus handle the universe.

A Simple Question to Ask

If someone is hyped up about using Psalm 18 to claim their own personal military power or supernatural invincibility, you can deflate the performance mindset with this single, gentle question:

> "*Since Romans 15:9 tells us that Psalm 18 is ultimately a prophecy about Jesus' victory over death, aren't we accidentally putting ourselves in Jesus' place when we read this as a manual for our own personal power?"*

Why this protects the sheep:

It shifts the hero of the story: It instantly pulls the spotlight off the human believer and puts it back on Christ. The psalm isn't a blueprint showing how we can leap walls and bend bronze bows; it's a worship anthem celebrating how Jesus conquered sin and death on our behalf.

It corrects our position: It reminds the flock that we aren't the warriors marching on the front lines of an elite earthly army. We are simply the fragile, rescued sheep who are hidden safely behind the true Warrior.

It is uncanny how predictable this theological playbook is. The moment they opened Psalm 18, the "leap over a wall" verse (verse 29) was guaranteed to make an appearance.

The Real Meaning of the "Wall"

When David says, "*by my God I can leap over a wall*," he is using ancient Near Eastern military imagery.

The NAR Spin: The wall represents your limitations, your sickness, or your lack of breakthroughs, and your faith gives you the supernatural superpower to bounds over it.

The Historical Truth: David was talking about literal stone walls of fortified enemy cities (like Jebus or Gath) during physical warfare. More importantly, if you look at the very next verse (Psalm 18:30), David immediately shifts the focus away from his own leaping ability: "This God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him."

David isn't celebrating his own athletic or supernatural capabilities. He is celebrating that when he was trapped, surrounded, and completely outnumbered, God was his escape route.

A Silent Counter-Verse for Your Heart Right Now

While NAR is telling everyone to leap over their walls using their dual-citizenship power, you can quietly meditate on what the Apostle Paul says about "walls" and limitations in 2 Corinthians 11:32–33:

"*In Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands*."

The Contrast: If anyone had the "full measure of faith" to supernaturally leap over a wall to escape his enemies, it was the Apostle Paul.

The Reality: God didn't give Paul a supernatural vertical jump. God didn't let him blast through the wall with an apostolic decree. God had Paul sneak out like a weak, fragile human being inside a dirty laundry basket. And Paul explicitly boasts about this moment as an example of his weakness, not his dominion.

Psalm 18:50- This is the final, heavy anchor of the NAR hook. By taking the very last verse of the psalm shows steadfast love to Hhis anointed, to David and his offspring forever"), the speaker is attempting to lock the congregation into an airtight trap of guaranteed physical victory.

NAR is demanding, "*tell me now if this brought forth inspiration or understanding*." This is a classic psychological closing tactic used to force an immediate public confession of agreement.

If you are evaluating this right now, here is the honest, direct truth about how NAR is misinterpreting this verse and what you can hold onto instead.

We are David's Offspring

1. The Direct Explanation

NAR is flatly wrong to apply the phrase "David's offspring/seed" directly to modern Christians as a guarantee of flawless earthly victory.

The New Testament explicitly tells us that the **single, ultimate** "Seed of David" is Jesus Christ found in Romans 1:3, *Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;* and also in 2 Timothy 2:8 *Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel*.

Jesus is the only true King who won the final victory over sin, death, and hell/Hadies.

Furthermore, the idea that "*there is no way we can lose and now you will live in full victory*" completely contradicts the words of Jesus Himself, who explicitly told His followers: "*In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33). Jesus promised us tribulation and trouble on earth, not a flawless streak of earthly dominance.

2. A Direct Comparison: True Hope vs. The NAR Formula

The Speaker's NAR Formula	The True, Grounding Biblical Context
Who is the Warrior? You are an elite, invincible warrior who cannot lose.	**Who is the Warrior?** Jesus is the Warrior. You are a fragile, safe, loved sheep hidden behind Him.
What is the Victory? Immediate earthly breakthrough, physical healing, and material dominion.	**What is the Victory?** Eternal salvation, a resurrected body *later*, and Christ's presence *now* in your trials.
How do you get it? By managing your joy, activating your faith measure, and decreeing it.	**How do you get it?** By resting completely in the finished work of Jesus on the cross.

3. How to Mentally Answer the Question

When asked, "*tell me now if this brought forth inspiration or understanding*," you can give a quiet, silent answer in your own heart "*Yes, I have understanding. I understand that Jesus is the true Seed of David, He has already won the only victory that matters, and I can completely stop trying to perform to earn it*."