

# Empowerment Resource for Episode 12: Cultivating Joy and Peace

## Heart **Introduction**

After experiencing narcissistic abuse, joy and peace might feel out of reach. When you've spent years in survival mode, allowing yourself to relax, embrace happiness, and live in the present can feel foreign. However, cultivating joy and peace is a crucial part of reclaiming your power. This resource will help you rediscover what joy and peace mean to you and how to bring them into your daily life.

## Leaf **Section I: Letting Go of Survival Mode**

### Understanding the Shift from Survival to Thriving

Survival mode is a state of constant alertness, where your nervous system is always prepared for the next emotional hit. It keeps you stuck in anxiety and hypervigilance, making joy and peace feel distant. Transitioning out of survival mode requires intentional action.

- ◆ **Reflection Prompt:** Think about a time when you felt truly at peace, even if it was just for a moment. Where were you? What were you doing? How can you create more of those moments?

## Star **Interactive Activity:**

Identify three triggers that make you feel like you're back in survival mode. Write down one small way you can soothe yourself when those feelings arise (deep breathing, listening to music, grounding exercises, etc.).

## ☀️ Section 2: Finding Joy in Small Moments

Joy doesn't come from a perfect life—it comes from small, intentional moments of happiness. Even during tough times, you can create space for joy.

### ✨ Try this Joy Experiment:

Each day for a week, write down one thing that made you smile or feel good.

At the end of the week, reflect on which moments were the most meaningful.

How can you bring more of those into your life?

☁️ Reflection Question: What activities bring you joy that you've neglected? How can you slowly reintegrate them into your life?



## Section 3: Creating a Peaceful Environment

Your external environment affects your internal state. Creating a space that fosters calm and comfort is essential for healing.

### ◆ Small Ways to Cultivate Peace in Your Environment:

**Declutter your space**—remove items that trigger negative memories.

**Add elements that soothe you:** candles, soft lighting, calming colors, or plants.

**Create a no-drama zone**—a place where you can retreat for peace and reflection.

## Interactive Activity:

Take 10 minutes today to change one thing in your environment that brings more peace into your space.

Write down how you felt before and after making the change.



## Section 4: Releasing Guilt Around Happiness

Many survivors struggle with guilt when they start to feel happy. There's a false belief that because you suffered, you don't deserve peace. But the truth is—you do.

... Journal Prompt:

Do you feel guilty when you experience joy? Why?  
How can you reframe this thought to embrace happiness as your birthright?

Affirmation: "I am worthy of happiness, peace, and joy. My healing does not need to be justified to anyone."

## Section 5: Daily Practices for Cultivating Joy and Peace

Healing is not a single event—it's a practice. Here are five small daily habits to help you embrace joy and peace:

- 1 Start Your Day with Intention:** Set a positive tone with affirmations or gratitude.
- 2 Engage in Mindful Activities:** Reading, journaling, meditation, or a slow morning coffee.
- 3 Set Emotional Boundaries:** Reduce exposure to negativity (social media, draining conversations).
- 4 Move Your Body with Love:** Dance, stretch, or go for a walk in nature.
- 5 End Your Day with Reflection:** Ask yourself: What brought me joy today?

 **Interactive Exercise:** Choose one daily practice to focus on this week. At the end of each day, write about how it made you feel.

## Final Thoughts

Healing is about reclaiming joy and peace—one small moment at a time. There is no shame in seeking happiness; it is not selfish, and it is not undeserved. The more you embrace joy, the more you show yourself that you are worthy of a peaceful and fulfilling life.

 **Your Next Step:** Choose one action from this resource to implement today.  
You deserve it.

 **Save this resource** and revisit it whenever you need a reminder that joy and peace are within your reach.