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Weekly Encourager - 6 December 2015

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey NOW IN HIS 26TH YEAR OF FREEDOM FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA AND OVER 27 YEARS OFF ALL PSYCHOTIC MEDICATION - THANKS TO THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.

JESUS SAID: "I AM THE WAY AND THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE"

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN CHAPTER 14

Jesus Comforts His Disciples – (Jesus said) "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."



Jesus the Way to the Father

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No-one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."

Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you for such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it.

Jesus Promises the Holy Spirit

"If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. Before long, the world will not see me any more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. On that day you will realise that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you. Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Then Judas (not Judas Iscariot) said, "But, Lord, why do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?"

Jesus replied, "If anyone loves me, he will obey my teacher. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

"All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

"You heard me say, 'I am going away and I am coming back to you. If you loved me, you would be glad that I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe. I will not speak with you much longer, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold on me, but the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.

"Come now; let us leave."

Elsewhere in John's gospel we read of other claims by Jesus: "I am the bread of life" (6:35), "I am the light of the world" (8:12), "I am the good shepherd" (10:11) and the two-fold assertion "I am the resurrection and the life (11:25).

We notice that the claim, "I am the way and the truth and the life" is a statement which only the Son of God has the right to make. If it had come to us from any other historical or present-day character, whether famous or not, he would have been written off as an imposter. Only because Jesus Christ is more than an ordinary man and God in the flesh, is he able to make such an amazing claim. It should challenge those who question the divinity of Jesus to look again at the revelation of God in Christ – for those in the faith these words of Jesus confirm believe in him as the Son of God.

JESUS IS THE WAY: As the late Archbishop William Temple used to say: "Though the goal is unknown, the way is well-known for it is the Lord himself. We have to pass through him, as Jesus told the literal-minded Thomas if we are to come to the Father. We must be so united with Jesus that as he offers himself to the Father, he offers us also."

Jesus is the Way. There are two choices open to us in this life. We either accept Jesus as the Way or refuse him. Our end in this life is the same. We return to dust. And what matters at the end of life is not any private ambition we have achieved, or any power or material gained but whether or not we have followed Christ and have known him to be our Saviour.

Having said that we ought to be able to see the waste of time and purpose in following men. History is full of incidents where regret has been felt by those who have followed a king or a leader, or a man of any kind. Only the Lord is worth following!! Isaiah, the Old Testament prophet found this to be true for he writes: "In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple." (Isaiah 6:1). He saw God at that time! He appears to have been following the king, but with the king out of the way, so to speak, he sees God the source of ultimate reality.

Christians have to be able to tell unbelievers what Jesus has to offer when he is recommended as being the Way. I will mention three things that Jesus offers. First of all, He offers us His divine resources of grace which equip us for the way or journey through life. We understand that God not only created us, but He also died to redeem us by coming into history and taking upon himself our sins and our sorrows. He also gives us real fellowship with Himself as we travel through life which is the most wonderful privilege and joy we can know while living down here on earth. He also gives us help for the journey enabling us to face whatever life may throw at us. Yes, Jesus is the Way to the Father and seeing him we see the Father.

JESUS IS THE TRUTH: In the teaching of the Bible, truth is something of importance. But it refers to the ultimate truth about God and man. John, you remember, opens his gospel account by referring to Christ's relationship to God by saying that in the beginning "He was with God." Because Jesus is God and is therefore the truth, He stands apart from everyone else. He is the genuine, the authentic, having the same nature as God. He is the wonder-working God who stepped into history over 2000 years ago for the sole purpose of bringing many sons to glory as He laid down his life to obtain our redemption from sin. He is the Saviour of the world that we celebrate at this time of year, but on every other day of the year, because He loved us and continues to love us with an everlasting love. He conquered Satan and the kingdom of darkness for us and enables life to be lived in unbroken fellowship with him. He has the power to break every chain that binds us and bring into our lives the greatest and largest freedom through His unfailing love that we can know down here on earth.

It must be said that the truth mentioned here has little to do with telling the truth or speaking lies but rather truth as the ultimate thing which must be honoured. Yet there is a connection to which I will now refer. It is not uncommon to meet people who say that Christians are not telling the truth when they say: "Turn to Christ, He is all you need." They look at you with a queer expression as if to suggest that Christians are off-balance. But Christians are not!! They never have been and they never will be. We say turn to Christ because there is truth in Him and in no other. He is the One who is the express image of the Father.

If you know Jesus Christ as the Truth then you have a wonderful privilege and responsibility of being able to tell others of the great discovery you have made. There is every reason why you should be confident as you proclaim Christ to others. Knowing Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you possess the greatest secret of life that has been revealed personally to you.

I heard many years ago of a young Hindu who stayed at the International Methodist House in London. The room he was given, he was told, was his to use as he pleased. Some visitors to the home expressed their concern when they were shown his room and witnessed posters of Hindu gods on the walls. "Why is he allowed to put up such pictures in a Christian institution" the visitors asked their escort. Back came the reply: "The room is his home. He has permission to use it as he wishes." As a result of being prayed for and witnessing the warmth of Christian fellowship in the home, the young Hindu came in time to know Jesus as the Truth. There was no preaching, but God was at work mysteriously. First of all, the two side pictures were removed and finally the centre one was replaced by one of Jesus.

JESUS IS THE LIFE: In one of our favourite Christmas hymns, "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" there is the verse:

*Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the songs of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Risen with healing in His wings.*

Only King Jesus can bring light and life into our lives. Until He does just that, our lives are totally poverty-stricken. He only wants to do us good. Please don't think like the man who was asked if would like to become a Christian and replied: "I am sorry, I have enough problems already!!" He figured that to know Christ was to add to his burdens when in fact Jesus takes all of life's burdens and imparts a spiritual freedom and a deep lasting joy.

When we take hold of Jesus Christ by faith and He takes hold of us, then we are in a position to know His fullness of life flowing into our lives. Once we determine to “have” Jesus as Saviour and Lord of our lives and surrender everything that stands in the way from the kingdom of “self” within us, He will flow into our lives without any doubt whatsoever. Self has to be dethroned, allowing the Holy Spirit alone to abide on the citadel of our hearts.

The life of Jesus in a human being is the most attractive and fulfilling life of all! When you know that the Lord of heaven and earth lives in you, considers you very precious in His eyes, and loves you with an everlasting love, these are personal facts well able to totally change your life for each and every day. Someone said: “Be not satisfied until you can say that Jesus is an infinitely lovely being.” If you can’t say that it would normally suggest that you haven’t fallen in love with Him to such a degree that He has captivated your life.

The fullest expression of the freedom of Jesus in our lives is realised when we become “captive” to the Lord Himself. “Make me a captive Lord and then I shall be free, Force me to render up my sword and I shall conqueror be. I sink in life’s alarms when by myself I stand, Imprison me within thy arms and strong shall be my hand.” George Matheson who wrote those lines realised that in order to achieve the best relationship with Jesus Christ he had to surrender life in totality to his Saviour. He had to die to self in order that the life of Christ could take over.

Wishing you the very best Christmas celebration and all God’s best in your life during 2016 as we worship before the KING of kings and LORD of Lords of whom we can say, He is the “True God of true God, Light of Light eternal...”

FOR FURTHER READING – See Archive File

2012: 1 July – Prayer Power Breaking Through Schizophrenia’s “Gates of Brass and Bars of Iron”

2011: 18 December – Look Beyond Christmas To The Triumph Of Jesus On The Cross

2010: 7 November – Every Schizophrenic Needs To Know The Transforming Love of Jesus

A PRAYER OF HOPE FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: “Lord God Almighty, will you hear my prayer and make the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ real to me. Wipe away my sins that were atoned for on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus in order that I might not have to die eternally. I believe that Jesus took all my sins and my sorrows and made them His very own and after three days He rose again from the dead and now makes intercession for me. By the power of His shed blood, I believe I am now set free and opened up to all the resources of His grace and power. I am looking forward to the day – why not today – when the evil bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is totally defeated. I ask You, Heavenly Father, to help me drive out the dark, spiritual presence by the light and power of your conquering Holy Spirit’s presence. I want to know the reality of the promise Jesus made that whoever follows him will not walk in darkness but will have the Light of Life. Make it happen for me, as I pray in the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.

See below in the pictures **BEFORE AND AFTER** deliverance and healing, the visible difference made by the power of the Holy Spirit on my great day of freedom in May 1990.



BEFORE DELIVERANCE AND HEALING

showing the "gates of brass and bars of iron" around my mind requiring the power of Jesus to shatter once and for all.



THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL

by Rebekah Laue of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, U.S.A.



AFTER DELIVERANCE AND HEALING

picture taken at 6.15 a.m. at Derby Railway Station five days after Jesus set me free, on my way to show Tina "her new man"

IF YOU HAVE NEVER INVITED JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, AND WISH TO, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER WITH ALL YOUR HEART: "Lord God Almighty, I approach you in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many sinful things I have done. I am truly sorry for the sinfulness in my life, but most of all I acknowledge the sin that separates me from you. I accept the death of Jesus on the Cross to redeem me and extend the gift of eternal life. Gratefully, I give my life back to you as I now ask you to come into my life. Come in as my Saviour and Lord and cleanse me. Come in as my Lord to control me. Come with the strength of your grace and the power of your Spirit to defeat the evil spirit of schizophrenia that troubles me. Now you have set my spirit free, pour your delivering and healing power into my life as I take authority in the name of Jesus through the power of his blood over the intruding force. I assert your ownership of my life and resist any legal right that the devil seeks to hold over my life and bind up and expel any evil presence. I believe that my mind can be completely set free and my whole life enjoy the total freedom of Jesus. Amen.

PROCLAMATION FOR GOD'S PROTECTION by Derek Prince

NO WEAPON that is formed against me shall prosper and every tongue which rises against me in judgement I do condemn. This is my heritage as a servant of the Lord and my righteousness is from You, O Lord of Hosts. If there are those who have been speaking or praying against me, or seeking harm or evil to me, or who have rejected me, I forgive them. Having forgiven them, I bless them in the name of the Lord." *

NOW I DECLARE, O Lord, that You and You alone are my God, and besides You there is no other – a just God and a Saviour, the Father, the Son and the Spirit – and I worship You!

I SUBMIT myself afresh to You in unreserved obedience. Having submitted to You, Lord, I do as Your Word directs. I resist the devil: all his pressures, his attacks, his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against me. I do not submit! I resist him, drive him from me and exclude him from me in the Name of Jesus. Specifically I reject and repel: infirmity, pain, infection, inflammation, malignancies, allergies, viruses, and every form of witchcraft.

FINALLY, LORD, I thank You that through the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, I have passed out from under the curse and entered into the blessing of Abraham whom You blessed in all things:** exaltation, health, reproductiveness, prosperity, victory and God's favour. AMEN

*see Matthew 5: 43-45; Romans 12:14

**see Galatians 3:13-14; Genesis 24:1

We are continuing to insert in the Weekly Encourager some powerful Scriptures to read, memorise and meditate on for USE in your prayer battle to drive out the demon of schizophrenia. By so doing your confidence in the Lord will grow because the words will impart "spirit and life" into your spirit, and so equip you in your fight for freedom to know the deliverance and healing of Jesus.

(Jesus said): "So with you: Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no-one will take away your joy. In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16:22-24

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6:10-12

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time and for ever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7

You may be reading the Weekly Encourager for the first time and have stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia. Or every week you visit W.E. for encouragement and help to overcome this "monster" of mental illnesses and have been given REAL HOPE that the Lord Jesus is the only One to open the prison door to freedom in your life once and for all time. We encourage you to keep logging into the site as often as you can for scriptural advice as we continue to point to Jesus who is well-tried and tested in the area of setting captives free from a bondage that no-one else can conquer. Our website www.schizophreniadefeated.com seeks to magnify the dear Son of God who left the courts of heaven to come to our world and die for you and me on the Cross at a place called Calvary just outside Jerusalem over 2,000 years ago. In that sacrifice, he paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine and on the third day rose again as "The Resurrection and the Life". He releases TODAY into your life and to anyone accepting his sacrifice, the same victorious life that brought him back from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit. Why not invite him into your life right now? It's a life-transforming experience that you CAN REALLY KNOW – which is well able to defeat and conquer the hell of schizophrenia you struggle with, for good!!



"I will proclaim your mighty acts, O sovereign Lord" Psalm 71: 16

James Stacey, Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals