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Weekly Encourager - 10 June 2012

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 22nd year of freedom from the bondage and free of all medication for over 24 years - thanks to Jesus

THE EVIL SPIRIT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA MUST BE DRIVEN OUT – BY YOU OR SOMEONE ELSE!!

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING:
MARK CHAPTER 9

Verses 14-29: *The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit* -
When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

A man in the crowd answered. “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

“O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

Jesus asked the boy's father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.”

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. “You deaf and dumb spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He's dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn't we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.” (some manuscripts say *prayer and fasting*)

An ever-growing number of Christians suffering with schizophrenia are believing in the power of Jesus Christ to drive out the evil spirit behind the bondage and then heal their blighted life.



If they can't find help from inside the church or fellow Christians – the place where it should reside - their persistence of faith is focusing on Christ Himself to equip them for the task of deliverance on their own.

I testify as one freed of 26 years of schizophrenia - which held me in a strong, mental prison - that Jesus alone is the One who can do what many in the psychiatric world view as impossible, and countless in the Church lack either faith or discernment to expect happening.

Read through our Scripture reading again and take hold of the glorious certainty coming over in the conversation between Jesus and the father over His ability to set the boy free.

The desperate father was absolutely certain what action was required to bring about the healing of his sick son.

His mission of compassion to find Jesus had one purpose – to have the evil spirit responsible for tormenting his boy driven out. He knew the source which had robbed him of speech.

In the absence of Jesus up the Mount of Transfiguration, the father expected that the disciples would be able to evict the evil spirit, but he was disappointed at their inability to help.

It's interesting on hearing the father recount his disappointment that Jesus highlights the reason for the failure of the disciples – it was all to do with a lack of faith producing the power to drive out the evil spirit.

After remarking, “O unbelieving generation, how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me”, Jesus then healed the boy and, later, in answer to their question, underlined to the disciples the added requirement of prayer with fasting to bring about the deliverance.

You may possess the discerning knowledge that there is a demonic source at the root of the bondage of schizophrenia, but seem unable to summon up the strength coming through faith to drive it out.

Having one or two people or even a larger group of Christians praying would help you battle through the difficulties of schizophrenia and make you stronger. Their help would seek to engage the direct intervention of the Holy Spirit moving in your life.

But learning faith directed to setting yourself free and making progress can be slow in coming when your mind is in bondage. For more than 20 years I NEVER sought the help of others to set me free. So preoccupied was I in surviving in life and holding down a job that it never occurred to me to ask others to pray for me. I can never remember anyone coming up to me and saying: “I am praying for you, James,” - but no doubt people were praying.

For years there didn't seem to be a discerning person around who had a handle on the hellish bondage I was suffering. The Holy Spirit is able to show Christians the reason why other Christians are in bondage and the necessary steps to freedom. It was only after I had come off all medication, after being guided by God, that faith increased and, through the increasing prayers of others, my will was stirred to believe in deliverance for myself.

However passive your mind has become, begin reading the Word of God. Take hold of the words of Jesus Christ which are spirit and life and allow them to become part of your thought-life. This could well be the first step in moving your deliverance forward. Shafts of light and truth coming into your mind through the power of faith can be the start of a real breakthrough!! Pleading the precious blood of Jesus over your life and declaring that you are His possession are powerful words of declaration that announce to the spirit of schizophrenia that you are challenging their legal right to be in your life. So take hope in God and His Word that this wonderful change can really happen in your life!!

As the Holy Spirit and the Word of God jointly ministered to my heart and life, I came to see that the demon of schizophrenia had to be “driven out.” Reading the gospel accounts of Jesus

“driving out” demons registered as the way forward in my life. Jesus spoke about the driving out of demons from people as evidence that the kingdom of God had come in power. **“But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God then the kingdom of God has come upon you.” (Matthew 12:28)**

I knew there were intruders in my life, as you may know, because of the voices attacking me. As a Christian believer of 10 years, I had no knowledge about the powers of darkness in that demons have personalities, and therefore voices, feelings, wills etc. When I understood that their intention was to live inside a person and rob and steal God's given freedom from their lives, my indignation rose to a constant high and strong opposition was raised to resist their presence.

Do not think that it is a gigantic, impossible task to pursue your own deliverance and healing!! Many Christian schizophrenics have to fight their own battles before deliverance comes. With God's help you can come through to the side of freedom!! Remember this, Jesus Christ is watching over you, He hears your every cry for help in the darkness, and His answers will be best fitted for your life!!

It is always an advantage to seek the help, prayers and support of other Christians in your quest to become free but should that support be scarce or non-existent, call out for God's resources. Even if the heat inside the furnace gets to unbearable proportions, still cry out to God for deliverance.

Many Christian schizophrenics write in to us saying they are pleased we have drawn attention to and exposed the harassing voices of schizophrenia. “I always had an idea the voices were from evil spirits,” is a commonly expressed view. “Reading your story has shown me that I have to oppose these voices and see that they are driven out. When the demons are eventually driven out, I know the voices will exit too,” says another.

FINAL THOUGHT: God can teach you the power of faith. He can open you up to the confidence of knowing His abiding Presence and Power in your life as you seek to abide in Him. You belong to the everlasting kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ and “because He is for you who can be against you”. Since His power has triumphed over all the powers of the enemy, ask God to increase your faith in Him to defeat schizophrenia.

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

2012 18 MARCH – Learning How To Pray In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

2011 9 OCTOBER – “Lord, My Deliverer, I Cry Out To You Again And Again”

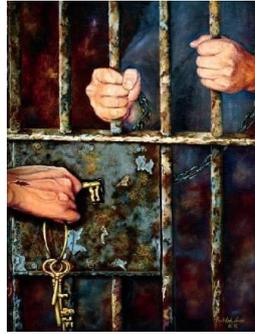
2010 26 SEPTEMBER – Know Your Authority In Jesus Before Expelling The Demon Of Schizophrenia

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.



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, too, can also be completely set free and my whole life enjoy the total freedom of Jesus. Amen.

PROCLAMATION FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

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 answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13

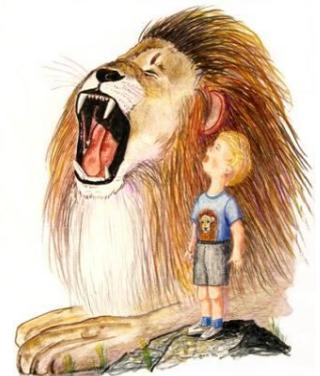
May the LORD answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. May he send you help from the sanctuary and grant you support from Zion... We will shout for joy when you are victorious and will left up our banners in the name of our God. May the LORD grant all your requests. Psalm 20:1-2, & 5

The Weekly Encourager:

17 JUNE: Faith Is Rising In God’s People To Help Schizophrenics Into Freedom

24 JUNE: “Jesus – Look To Your Faithfulness And Set Me Free!!”

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-trying 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