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Weekly Encourager - 13 May 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 24 years - thanks to Jesus

## JESUS CHRIST GIVES BOTH ENCOURAGEMENT AND ENDURANCE AS YOU FIGHT SCHIZOPHRENIA

### THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS PSALM 32

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sins the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD" - and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to you while you may be found; surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him. You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.

Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD'S unfailing love surrounds the man who trusts in him. Rejoice in the LORD and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

How comforting it is to know the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in all the trials of battling against schizophrenia!!

Through all the confusion of your mind, make sure you anchor faith in Jesus. It is necessary to run to Him for all the encouragement and endurance necessary to oppose the Satanic bondage.

The times you spend at the feet of Jesus meditating on His Word to provide strength to go on are both necessary and precious. Hiding in God is the way of finding hope to continue the fight.

Contending against an enemy who has suddenly erupted in your life is the most baffling thing to handle. Little wonder you need to lean hard on Jesus to make sense of the onslaught.

If what you are passing through is anything like my experience over many weary, faith-plodding years, it is hard to mark progress. Your feelings tell you nothing as you discover that living, active, precious faith in such circumstances is what endures.

We need to take a leaf out of the book of King David as found in the above Psalm. He had a relationship with God. The Lord was His shepherd. He must ever be our own personal shepherd in the whole of life, too.



You fully sense in this Psalm that it was only to the Lord he would flee in the hour of need. The Lord *alone* was the one he trusted to see him through. The arm of flesh – whether his own or another – was of no use, he needed the help of the Lord.

God has written a truth in our hearts which spurs us to rely on Him alone. We feel this is the most acceptable way. The cry for help you make to Him is always certainly heard. He will never leave or forsake once you have made Him the Lord of your life.

Though it would be a great advantage to receive the help of Christian friends to pray for you and support you through the onslaught of schizophrenia, the condition births such a withdrawal state through taking medication that it is often hard to communicate your need with others.

You may know just what I am referring to when the oppression over your life caused through the mental bondage is so great that you find it impossible to string a sentence together to describe what you are passing through. To turn to God for some form of encouragement in your isolation is all you can do.

But here is the good news!! There comes a time that your life is permanently filled with hope because the habit of seeking God and hiding in Him alone results in a faith-confidence. You know the certainty of being able to find comfort, encouragement and endurance in God no matter what you are passing through.

I remember a most difficult day when God enabled me to survive a day of tremendous mental oppression while working as a postman. The heaviness of the schizophrenia spirit was seeking to overcome my life. It was aided and abetted by a spirit of suicide and a religious spirit, and the pressure was both relentless and uncomfortable as I delivered the post to two housing estates and high-rise flats.

I had caught the 4.30 a.m. bus to work but awoke early enough to seek God for strength for the day. Having sorted out the walk in the delivery centre, it was something of a relief to get out into the open to be able to think a little more clearly. But once I had started the delivery, such a persistent oppression weighed heavily upon me that all I could do was to trust in God's word for both encouragement and endurance.

I had to keep on the move, of course. The thought of giving up and abandoning the delivery was a way out but the only course of action suggested to me by the Lord was to continue and finish. It's hard to keep moving when the pressure is on like that. But God's word is a sustaining force much more able to see us through than we know.

I could not speak to anyone about what was pressurising me that day. The waters were almost covering me – or, to be more precise, the presence of a dark invading force in my mind was near to overwhelming and conquering my spirit. Praise God for the strength that He provided to keep at bay every attack as my weary legs went from house to house pushing the letters through the boxes. How precious is the intervention of God to protect and sustain!!

You will experience many victories in your life once you make the Lord your hiding place. Even the devil cannot reach you when you are hiding in God's pavilion and fortress. You will proceed from one victory to another. The verse of a hymn we used to sing in Sunday School says: – "Yield not to temptation for yielding is sin, Each victory will help you some other to win. Fight manfully onward, dark passions subdue, Look ever to Jesus He will carry you through."

The hymn known as "Yield Not To Temptation" was a favourite in our Sunday School along with John Bunyan's "Who Would True Valour See, Let Him Come Hither." It mentioned the dark passions that occur in human nature which every believer in Jesus has to face as he/she endeavours to live in the new nature of Christ. Well, it was more of a battle against a dark presence rather than dark passions that I faced as a postman. I am so grateful to God that in the eight years or so as a Christian before schizophrenia dawned that He had taught me the benefit of trusting His Word and leaning hard on Him. If you are finding life difficult, resort to doing the same for Jesus will prove Himself faithful to you in that discipline.

You will need to remember the precious comfort provided by the Holy Spirit as you progress in defeating schizophrenia. The ministry of the Holy Spirit guides us into all truth, as Jesus promised in John Chapter 16:13. He is the Counsellor who lives within the life of every believer knowing Jesus as Saviour and Lord. What a wonderful promise Jesus gave when He said: **"I will not leave you as orphans. I will come to you."** Allow this promise to invade your life for it will indeed bring you great comfort. If there is one re-assuring truth that every Christian suffering with schizophrenia needs to know it is this one: Jesus is still living within you – He has not deserted you.

I feel privileged to be able to encourage those battling with schizophrenia and inspire the hope of Jesus to lead into freedom. St Paul writing in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 1, says: **"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."**

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**FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:**

**2012** 1 April – Enforce The Victory Of Jesus On Calvary By Prayer Warfare

**2011** 16 Oct – The Faith By Which You See Christ Inspires Hope To Conquer And Love To Endure

**2010** 17 Nov – Every Schizophrenic Needs To Know The Transforming Love Of Jesus

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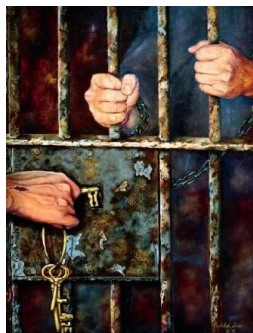
*A PRAYER OF HOPE FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: "Lord God Almighty, will you hear my prayer and make the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ real to me. Wipe away my sins that were atoned for on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus in order that I might not have to die eternally. I believe that Jesus 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.*

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**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.*

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## **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

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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.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31-32

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name for ever. For great is your love towards me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave. Psalm 86:11 -13

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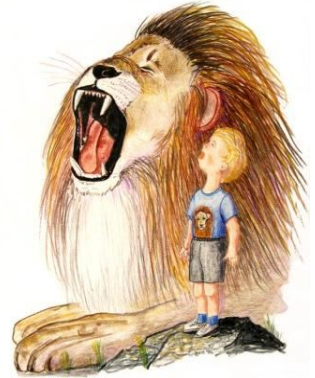
## The Weekly Encourager:

**20 May - When To Pray by R. A. Torrey**

**27 May - Possessing The Power Of Precious Faith Equips You To Defeat Schizophrenia**

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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](http://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*