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Weekly Encourager - 13 October 2013

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia, from James Stacey now in his 24th year of freedom from the bondage and free of all medication for over 25 years - thanks to Jesus.

## HOW TO PREVENT SCHIZOPHRENIA DISINTEGRATING YOUR PERSONALITY

### THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MARK CHAPTER 5

Verses 1-20 – The Healing of a Demon-Possessed Man: They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no-one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No-one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.



When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" For Jesus was saying to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man – and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis (Ten Cities) how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

The interviewer of the live Christian television programme asked me to define what schizophrenia is – and was a little surprised at my reply.

I said: “Schizophrenia is the disintegration of personality”. Those words were not mine but were borrowed from a psychiatrist. Nevertheless, they were a fitting and accurate description of such a disturbing and devastating mental illness.

The reality of the disintegration of personality among someone suffering schizophrenia is the heart of many letters and emails we have received over the past eight years. Parents speak of “losing” a son or daughter once so full of life but now showing a mystifying and heart-breaking change in their personality.

I, too, can testify to facing such a dramatic change in my personality. At first, I was totally baffled and confused at what was happening in my life. Then I realised that I was being constantly attacked and assaulted by evil spirits robbing me of life itself and committed to my destruction. Prayer warfare helped by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God became my life-line of opposition from then on.

Such discernment about schizophrenia – and the necessary spiritual resistance to both oppose and defeat it - is unknown to many Christians. Even parents who believe in Jesus can lack spiritual insight about a bondage playing havoc with the life of their son or daughter. Without a spiritually-discerned revelation of schizophrenia there is no motivation to pray and earnestly seek a deliverance and healing.

My parents, brothers, family members, journalist colleagues and Christian friends could not understand the change that had taken place in my life. But I knew what was happening, thanks to knowing Jesus Christ as my Saviour and Lord and having the living presence of His Holy Spirit in my life. A non-stop prayerful resistance to an evil personality within my life became the priority of each and every day!!

I was brought into a living relationship with Jesus Christ at the age of 14 when the power of the Holy Spirit brought conviction of sin and opened my eyes to what He had done in dying on the Cross to redeem me and procure eternal life. But the moment schizophrenia dawned, another evil personality moved in on a war footing intent on dominating and taking my personality apart in pieces.

The important question needs to be asked: “How can a normal person prevent schizophrenia disintegrating their personality without acknowledging the force of evil spirits behind the condition?”

As a Christian parent facing the daily sadness of having a son or daughter suffering the madness of schizophrenia, you must seek to arm yourself with all the spiritual discernment from God about this evil condition. Take hold of all the panoply of His power and wisdom from the Word of God available to you and pray your loved one into both deliverance and healing. God can give you an understanding about schizophrenia and what is needed to overcome it in the life of your family member. He is able to increase faith and confidence so as to make you mightily effective in prayer.

In our bible reading from Mark 5, Jesus encounters a man demon-possessed whose entire life shows he was taken over and ruled by evil spirits. Just think of it!! Here is a man created in the image of God with a personality of his own now obscured because the personalities of evil spirits were reigning in his life. This man no doubt lived a normal life earlier, but now no-one wanted him around, so it was in the tombs and in the hills he lived crying out and cutting himself with stones.

Let's underline the isolation of his condition in which he cried inwardly unable to find help. Schizophrenia is a lonely path to tread, even though as a victim you are personally trusting Jesus to carry you through and out. Having battled with schizophrenia for 26 years, let me say that it is a very, lonely existence in which the spiritual bondage causes a lot of internal crying. Your son or daughter maybe in the hands of a psychiatrist but that does not prevent them experiencing hour upon hour of lonely isolation where desperate cries rise from within just wanting to be free and normal again.

You may take some comfort believing that your son or daughter is not in such a similar condition as Legion because they do believe in Jesus and as such cannot be demon-possessed. The Holy Spirit

lives within them. The spirit of schizophrenia attacks the mind and creates havoc there – it cannot enter the human spirit where Jesus is resident and His ownership is present (Ephesians 1:13-14). But so strong is the key demon of schizophrenia in the nest of spirits it controls that a Christian is in danger of being overcome and so lose the ability of living with Jesus in control of his life. That's why a spiritual war has to be waged by every schizophrenic fighting for his freedom – and coming to his aid should be other Christians who are required to help knowing what an intense battle he is facing.

Make no mistake about it, a full-scale war is in progress the moment there is an eruption or dawning of schizophrenia. It is normally in teenage years or early adulthood that the illness manifests itself. The depth of confusion it causes is devastating – and the ability of being able to survive depends on how strong a faith in Jesus a person may have built up in their life already and, most importantly, on having caring, compassionate, spiritually-discerned help from other Christians coming alongside to assist in the fight for survival, deliverance and healing.

### LET US DISCUSS HOW PERSONALITY DISINTEGRATES THROUGH HAVING SCHIZOPHRENIA AND HOW TO EFFECTIVELY PREVENT IT.

I speak from personal experience. The moment someone begins to suffer from schizophrenia and begins to hear voices is the very moment their personality begins to disintegrate. The dawning of schizophrenia can be so disturbing and upsetting that immediate entrance is obtained into a psychiatric hospital. What normally follows is examination by trained personnel and the prescribing of drugs and medication to subdue or normalise the condition. (Way back in 1965, the procedure was to administer electric shock treatment – something I found hard to endure).

There is a personality behind the voice every schizophrenic hears. Let's be clear about this. The voices being heard are not coming from one's own personality; they are most certainly not the voice of the Holy Spirit but of intruding spirits now desiring to keep their home within the life they have invaded. A schizophrenic is aware of something strange that is happening to him. The manifestation of this voice is what begins to disintegrate personality. It brings a bondage and the loss of control and freedom previously known in one's life.

Either a person is able to lean hard on Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit and resist the suggestions of voices or else he allows them to speak into his mind at will. Some wrongly regard these strange voices as their "friends" but to do so is only to allow their control of one's life to increase. It is at such a time that a Christian needs to affirm the ownership of Jesus and resist the voices speaking into his mind. The words of Jesus need to be spoken out from the heart and go into the mind: Had I not memorised the Scriptures, I would have been unable to remember the truth of the following words, Jesus said: "I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him, because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." John 10:1-5.

Little wonder that those looking on at the life of the person suffering schizophrenic witness such a change taking place. He/she is contending against a demonic presence in their life that is hard to cope with. Nothing has prepared them for this!! Do what they may, the voices and the evil spirits behind them refuse to leave in spite of every desire to get rid of them. The territory of one's life is invaded more and more by these voices – spreading into the mind, will and emotions, the whole area of the soul.

The strategy of the evil spirits usually follows a prescribed pattern. The first battle to win is to make a person's mind passive. This is often thought to be a walk-over because a person is usually plied with too much medication and is not monitored regularly enough. Little does the psychiatrist realise that to administer too much medication is such a great help to a spirit of schizophrenia in the process of wrapping a ball and chain around a schizophrenic's mind. That's why very few have enough strength or ability to take on even a small, undemanding employment of a few hours a day because the mind is so incapacitated and decision-making so clouded. How I managed to hold down various jobs in Royal Mail

while fighting schizophrenia and finish up with a Long Service Award for 25 years is only due to the strength and grace of my Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!!

But the evil spirit of schizophrenia is not content with producing passivity and letting it rest there. There is something deeper sought after. That is to bring about an entrenched passivity, a major stroke in the further disintegration of personality. For someone drawn into this condition, it is difficult to break free. Believing prayer and reliance on God, His Word and the power of the Blood of the Lamb can make a way!! But unless other Christians come to the aid of an entrenched passive Christian schizophrenic, the power to bring about a freedom will be difficult to attain, because the schizophrenic himself has no strength to fight with as he barely has enough resources to survive life itself.

In all this it is good to remember that with God all things are possible and that no matter how strong maybe the chains of schizophrenia wrapped around the mind, JESUS CHRIST HAS TRIUMPHED OVER ALL THE POWERS OF DARKNESS AND TODAY HE IS STILL IN THE BUSINESS OF SETTING THE CAPTIVES FREE!! THEREFORE, NEVER GIVE UP THE FIGHT TO FREE YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER. THOUGH THEY MAY HAVE BEEN HELD CAPTIVE FOR SO MANY YEARS THAT YOU HAVE ALMOST LOST HOPE OF EVER SEEING THEM BEING SET FREE AND RESTORED, IT CAN HAPPEN BECAUSE WITH JESUS CHRIST NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE!! BE FILLED WITH FRESH HOPE TODAY - AND BY FAITH PRESS IN TO BE THE MEANS WHEREBY YOU WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT THAT SEES SPIRITUAL DARKNESS DRIVEN OUT OF THE LIFE OF YOUR LOVED ONE AND SEE THE JOY OF CHRIST'S FREEDOM SHINING ON THEIR FACES!!

Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD'S favour and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion – to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendour." Isaiah 61:1-3

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

**2012:** 4 & 11 March – "God Specializes In Things Thought Impossible – Nothing Is Too Hard For Him!"

**2011:** 30 October – Faith In Jesus Releasing His Life, Authority and Power To Set You Free

**2010:** 20 June – Persevering In Faith, Prayer And God's Word Drives Out The Demon Of Schizophrenia

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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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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"

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*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.*

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**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): “If you love me, you will obey what I command. 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.” John 14:15-18

May your unfailing love come to me, O LORD, your salvation according to your promise; then I will answer the one who taunts me, for I trust in your word. Do not snatch the word of truth from my mouth, for I have put my hope in your laws. Psalm 119:41-43

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace, because the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8: 5-8

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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-trying 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*