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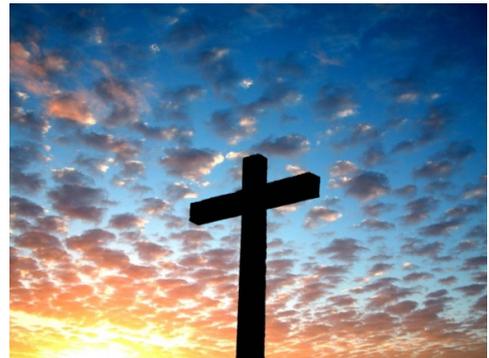
Weekly Encourager - 16 June 2019

SCRIPTURAL ADVICE, HELP AND INSIGHT ON HOW TO TRUST THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA FROM JAMES STACEY NOW STARTING HIS 30TH YEAR OF FREEDOM FROM THE DEMONIC BONDAGE AND OVER 31 YEARS OFF ALL ANTI-PSYCHOTIC MEDICATION

HOW GOD CAN USE THE AFFLICTION OF SCHIZOPHRENIA TO BRING HOPE TO OTHERS

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS GENESIS CHAPTER 41: Key verses 46-52:

Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from Pharaoh's presence and travelled throughout Egypt. During the seven years of abundance the land produced plentifully. Joseph collected all the food produced in those seven years of abundance in Egypt and stored it in the cities. In each city he put the food grown in the fields surrounding it. Joseph stored up huge quantities of grain, like the sand of the sea; it was so much that he stopped keeping records because it was beyond measure. Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph by Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On. Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, "It is because God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father's household." The second son he named Ephraim and said, "It is because God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering."



How does God go about dispensing hope to thousands of people living in a hopeless condition? It is a question you can turn over in your mind following the reading of our Scripture passage for this week. Well, to start with, we must acknowledge that His ways are not our ways and as such He acts altogether differently to achieve His ends.

Reading about the long imprisonment and wilderness experience Joseph endured before being eventually freed caused me to remember the question I raised some years ago: **Why did it take so long before God delivered and healed me? Why did the bondage have to last 26 years - more than a third of a lifetime - before He eventually brought me out?** These questions no longer unsettle me since I believe that the length of my schizophrenic imprisonment was determined by God who had a divine purpose behind it all. Without the suffering I went through, He would have been unable to bring into my life the tender compassion for other sufferers which found birth in my soul.

I could never have imagined the present day freedom in which I am now living. God has restored and is still restoring the years which "the locusts have eaten." Not only were there many years when securing freedom was hard to envisage, but never in my mind came the thought that one day, God would be able to be glorified through the affliction. He is now able to use it for His glory and show His faithfulness and power to set free that many other schizophrenic sufferers will thereby be filled with hopefulness too.

I somehow thought around my early twenties when schizophrenia disrupted my life that I had lost God's plan for the future. All thought about serving God in the ministry ran into a permanent cul-de-sac since the time spiritual darkness hit my life. Because I perceived that serving God only had to do with preaching and witnessing, it never crossed my mind that God had other ways in which to speak through people...through the path of suffering. Many preachers have preached their greatest sermon in affliction and suffering.

The intensity of years of suffering were both forgotten and gave way to fruitfulness most significantly on our trip to Colombia in 2010 where the highlight of my life so far in infusing other sufferers with hope, was realised. Not only that, but I tasted personal enrichment of love, patience, compassion, tenderness and a thousand other flowers and fruits of the blessed Spirit which I experienced inside the furnace of affliction with Jesus. I had to go to the people of another country to taste this richness.

May I offer today some encouragement to those of you who are struggling with schizophrenia and long to be free. Never ever give up hope! The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ knows everything you are facing and passing through. Cultivate a prayer life and obtain strength through reading God's word. Get others to pray for you – I mean really pray. Ask them to pray for “the bars or iron and the gates of brass” around your mind which Satanic powers have erected, to be blasted wide open by the power of God.

Keep faith and belief alive that looks to the day when you will be completely free in Jesus! The reality of experiencing freedom seems out of sight at the moment. But looking to God and holding on to His promises, you will live to experience the freedom of Jesus. And though you may find it hard to accept, there will come a day when you too will be able to make use of your affliction and glorify God as you are able to help others who are still suffering with schizophrenia in the same way you did.

I am at present in correspondence with two Christian schizophrenics who are able to see and grasp what I am talking about. They are not free at the moment but have such faith in God to believe that freedom is going to come to their lives. It's faith-building to hear them talk about becoming free and how they expect Jesus to step in. When it happens they will both have a great heart to help others towards the same freedom.

On page 144 of *Schizophrenia Defeated*, I write: “Meditating on the words – “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”, (*2 Corinthians, Chapter 1*), I said to Maurice, aged 83 (Tina's father), who had just returned from a prayer meeting at church: “*Do you know, I've just had another reason why our testimony is not our own, but the Lord's. For in telling others what Christ has done for us, we are saying He can do the same for them. If Christ has brought us through suffering, we can offer hope to others than Jesus can bring them through too.*” He replied: “*What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus my Lord.*”

It is a privilege always to tell others of the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. But what a divine commission to lift up to countless numbers of people the same Lord and say that He is well able not only to deliver from the power of sin but to bring freedom out of the maddening bondage of schizophrenia. I feel it is a special task to reach such sufferers if only to give hope that the One who brought me out of such a prisonhouse of hell CAN also shatter the bars in your life. I so much want to continue to be “fruitful in the land of my affliction” to give encouragement.

A prayer: “Dear Heavenly Father, will you please cultivate in me the ability to hear your voice and grant a faith-inspired life in You. I see my need of possessing your power within my life in order to overcome the evil of schizophrenia. It's a hard discipline, but I am trusting you to help me overcome as I believe in You and Your Word. I offer my prayer in the Name of Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen”.

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File

2018 29 April - God's Guiding Hand Is Mighty As You Fight Schizophrenia's Untried Way

2017 10 September - God's Faithfulness Becoming A Shield And Rampart

2016 18 September - "I Greatly Admire Schizophrenics Pressing Through To Full Freedom"

WEEKLY ENCOURAGER 23 JUNE 2019:

HOW FASTING ADDED TO PRAYER AIDS THE BREAKTHROUGH TO FREEDOM FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA

Fasting is a higher level of intensity of prayer which many Christians who do not suffer from schizophrenia may never or seldom carry out. So what hope is there of a believer in Jesus with the deepest psychotic disorder of all venturing into this spiritual discipline? Every hope - though it may be a long time in coming – if you have reached the place of desperation in God in your daily fight to become free allowing the Holy Spirit to teach you about prayer and pray through you.

As more light and revelation is received from the Holy Spirit leading you into all truth, more power is given to challenge the darkness of the demonic condition of schizophrenia. This is in spite of prayer being an uphill battle in your struggle to reach the freedom in Jesus. You have a spiritual fight on maintaining your sanity.

Even though you may be unable to fast at the moment that is not to say that it will be always out of your reach. In response to moving into a living, active and conscious faith in Jesus, you are already qualified to ask, seek and knock at Heaven's door. If ever fasting was added to your prayer life, it would release a power supply of God's spirit your way which would accelerate your freedom out of schizophrenia.

Notice, there is a School of Prayer. Ruth Graham, the late wife of Billy Graham, used to say: "There is no way to learn to pray but to pray." How true!! And there is no way to advance in the school of prayer but by praying. The more you move into God's presence and meet with him, the more you grow in the ways of prayer. It's a lifetime pursuit.

I came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour at the age of 14 and entered God's School of Prayer then. By the age of 24 when schizophrenia dawned, I was used to praying, and stirred about what God could do through prayer at the time of attending Bible College. My whole survival rested on Jesus alone and what He had taught me in the realm of maintaining my spiritual life – even though assailed by mental demonic foes. I had already had opportunity to "learn Christ" and this stood me in good stead.

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 JESUS CHRIST 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 CHRIST.

And he (Jesus) said unto them. "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Luke 10: 18-19

The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth. Psalm 145:18

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you: that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: 2 Corinthians 9: 8

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