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Weekly Encourager - 17 March 2013

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 23rd year of freedom and 25 years off all medication - thanks to Jesus

OVERCOMING YOUR RELUCTANCE TO MAKE A FRIEND COULD LEAD TO YOUR FREEDOM

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MARK'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 2

(Verses 1-12) Jesus Heals a Paralytic: A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. So many gathered that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralysed man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven."



Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Immediately, Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins ..." He said to the paralytic, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

It will be apparent to your loved ones and close friends how schizophrenia has dramatically changed your life from the person they once knew.

I can testify how severe and devastating that change can be from the very start of the appearance of schizophrenia erupting in my life.

What follows the moment the evil spirit breaks out is that it normally eradicates from view the enjoyment of the person you knew yourself to be and the person your loved ones knew, too.

Schizophrenia robs and steals the life of your true self. This is not restored through the psychiatric world seeking to contain the devastation with various forms of medication whose effect will make you passive and further throw you out of touch with the real you. Jesus Christ alone is the Deliverer and Healer!!

How difficult to find a friend at such a time. Work for you may not now be possible as a limited life-style has taken over. Being productive may seem a lost art and you just can't be bothered to verbalise to a friend the disintegration of personality hitting your life.

Because of fear and ignorance in not understanding what has happened to you, some people keep you at a distance. It can, therefore, be hard to find a real Christian friend. But if you only knew it, there is a real need for you to meet someone possessing revelation from the Spirit of God and filled with hope in Jesus to come to your rescue. Such people still do exist today!!

TODAY, I WANT TO ENCOURAGE AND PLEAD WITH YOU TO SEEK OUT SUCH A FRIEND. YOUR RETURN TO LIFE-FREEDOM THROUGH THE INTERVENTION OF JESUS IS GREATLY ADVANCED AS YOU DO!!

There were several of the 26 years I battled schizophrenia when I failed to see that the bondage was not too difficult for Jesus to deal with. The Satanic darkness had somehow hidden from my sight the power of the blood of Jesus to bring a deliverance and healing. You, too, may be in that position today.

The faith I had in Jesus and the fellowship I enjoyed with Him were so dramatically interfered with by the confusion and mental upset caused by the spiritual darkness. It's hard to explain this to someone who has never experienced such an onslaught, but you know what I mean.

You must realise how much benefit there is in having at least one caring, spirit-filled Christian standing with you in your affliction. I needed such a friend to help me overcome schizophrenia. Wonder of wonders, God used a Christian dating agency to supply my need. It came through making contact with Tina, an understanding nurse, who eventually became my wife. The love of Jesus in her heart sought to come to my rescue. (see Archive File listed below for 3 April, 2011 for more details). God began to move me forward on the highway of freedom simply because I made the effort to contact Tina at a time when I was feeling friendless and thought the bottom had dropped out of my life. I soon fell in love with her and though she wanted to end our relationship after a few months, I was unwilling to let her go. What followed from Tina's side was a greater involvement in my life and her persistence in getting others to help me through prayer. In just over two and a half years, Jesus broke into my life and gave me His power to drive out the spirits of schizophrenia, religious spirit and suicide. I BURST OUT OF THE PRISON HOUSE INTO THE FREEDOM OF JESUS. That was 24 years ago this coming May Day. Praise the Name of Jesus!!

Let us look at our Scripture reading at the top to gain encouragement from the real story of the paralytic brought by four friends to Jesus. I wonder if it was the paralytic himself who asked for help to be taken to Jesus, or was it at the instigation of the four that they sought Him out? The Bible does not say. Whichever is true, it shows determination to 'make it' to receive healing from Jesus.

NOTICE, THE PARALYTIC ARRIVED AT THE PLACE WHERE JESUS WAS PRESENT: There is nothing recorded about the conversation between the paralytic and the four men who were carrying him. It would have been interesting to listen in and hear what was said at the point they came to the house only to find "there was no room left, not even outside the door." Having made the journey to find Jesus, they were not going to miss this golden opportunity of an encounter with this popular Healer. In an earlier visit to Capernaum when the whole town "gathered at the door, he healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was." Maybe the paralytic was absent from this first gathering, or he could have heard reports of all the "goings on" that happened. He did not want to miss meeting Jesus on this second occasion. His friends made a way by uncovering the roof above Jesus and after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralysed man was lying on. Jesus couldn't but notice what was happening.

HE NEEDED HIS FOUR FRIENDS TO TAKE HIM TO JESUS: The paralytic was in such need that without the aid of the four friends he would not have been able to reach Jesus. Notice, it was the faith of the four men and of the man himself that Jesus "saw". "There is no reason for excluding the faith of the paralytic. They all had confidence in the power and willingness of Jesus to heal this man. The astonishing thing both to the paralytic and to the four friends is that Jesus forgave his sins instead of healing him. The sins had probably caused the paralysis," says one New Testament commentator. Schizophrenia has a way of losing you your friends. It is a difficult existence of loneliness that needs dealing with through the deliverance and healing of Jesus. To get you there, why not try seeking out a reliable Christian friend who really believes that Jesus can set you free. A friend who has a real interest in you as a person and to whom you can talk. Better still if you can link up with someone who has come through schizophrenia by the transforming power of the love of Jesus - that would be of great benefit to you. But even becoming friends with a Christian who just wants to help you and understand what is going on in your life is also beneficial.

A lot has been said about the failure of “care in community” affecting so many schizophrenics. In that setting, many will say (if there were able to put it into words): “I wish I had someone who really cared about me – or just befriended me.” I am so grateful to God that in my long bondage things began to change when Tina befriended me because, as she said, “I took pity on you.” God was in the meeting with her, for I received a real vision of the Lord a few months into going out with her in which I saw Tina in a bridal gown. I was not ready for marriage at the time, but held on to the vision because I knew it was from God. When Tina wanted to end our relationship, I would not let her go on the strength of what God had shown me.

THE PERSON YOU MAKE FRIENDS WITH IS LIKELY TO HAVE FRIENDS ALSO WILLING TO HELP

YOU: The paralytic needed four people to carry him to Jesus. He may have had only one friend to start with but that friend could have secured the other three. That is just a thought!! We do not know who they were and how they were “recruited”. Within the body of Jesus Christ, His Church, there are Christians who have friends full of the love and compassion of Jesus ready and willing to help such a person as yourself. That help comes in friendship and prayer. They understand that a volume of prayer is needed to get you free. When more people pray that will greatly influence your breakthrough into freedom. So they will intercede before God for YOU!!

I found that as Tina built up a group of prayer warriors concerned about my life, then the influence of their petitions impacted me and quickened life in the Spirit. The group began to grow first through her father and step-mother adding their prayers. Then other members of the wider family joined forces. Well-established Christian friends down the years soon joined and sent up their prayers to heaven. An answer was being prepared by God. In time, the volume of prayer on my behalf had amassed to such a degree that there was enough in the vials of heaven for God to say to the angel: “Release the answer to earth.” In other words, the prayers had been sufficient to “get the job done.” On May Day 1990 while in prayer the breakthrough came. God broke through in a marvellous way to declare that “by the end of the day I would be a free man.” The answer came just as I was preparing to travel home to Chesterfield from Birmingham. But I knew it was true. On reaching home, God guided and empowered me to drive out the evil intruders who had made havoc of my life for far too long. (See Chapter 9, Delivered And Healed Within Minutes on book download).

FINAL WORD: Do make the effort of locating a Christian to become your own personal friend. Ask God to help you. If your life has been lived in isolation, do reach out. Why not find a lively church where the love of Jesus is actively being shown in relationships. Most of all, keep praying to God to lead you to someone who will be the means of your eventual freedom through deliverance and healing. When you become free, you will be so glad you made the effort!! God richly bless you in your endeavours - in the Name of Jesus!!

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

2012: 29 July & 5 Aug – “This One Thing I Know – Jesu’s Love Never Failed Me Yet”

2011: 3 April – Pleading Prayer Support Of Others Will Hasten Your Defeat Of Schizophrenia

2010: 2 May – Calling Out To God On Your Own

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 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 to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you can eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him." John 6:53-56

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? I will show you what he is like who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice. He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When the flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built." Luke 6:46-48

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Weekly Encourager 24th March - The Indwelling Spirit Of Jesus Will Not Allow You To Quit

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