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Weekly Encourager - 1 July 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

PRAYER POWER BREAKING THROUGH SCHIZOPHRENIA'S "GATES OF BRASS AND BARS OF IRON"

**THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS ACTS
CHAPTER 12: Key Verses 4-19:**

Peter's Miraculous Escape From Prison: After arresting him, he (Herod) put him in prison, handing him over to be guarded by four squads of four soldiers each. Herod intended to bring him out for public trial after the Passover. So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him. The night before Herod was to bring him to trial, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries stood guard at the entrance. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up, "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists. Then the angel said to him, "Put on your clothes and sandals." And Peter did so. "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me," the angel told him. Peter followed him out of the prison, but he had no idea that what the angel was doing was really happening; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed the first and second guards and came to the iron gate leading to the city. It opened for them by itself, and they went through it. When they had walked the length of one street, suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know without a doubt that the Lord sent his angel and rescued me from Herod's clutches and from everything the Jewish people were anticipating." When this had dawned on him, he went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. When she recognised Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!" "You're out of your mind," they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel." But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, they were astonished. Peter motioned with his hand for them to be quiet and described how the Lord had brought him out of prison. "Tell James and the brothers about this," he said, and then he left for another place. In the morning, there was no small commotion among the soldiers as to what had become of Peter. After Herod had a thorough search made for him and did not find him, he cross-examined the guards and ordered that they be executed.



Read the above Scripture passage with faith in your heart and the words will have power to infuse hope into your life that schizophrenia can most certainly be defeated.

Peter's deliverance from prison, or any other well-known Bible incident showing divine intervention in impossible situations, imparts a holy confidence that with "God all things are possible".

Just think of it for a moment – God shut up the mouths of the lions when Daniel was in the den with them (Daniel 6); Jesus Christ healed "all that came to Him" (Luke 6: 17-19) - and He said "all things are possible to him that believes" (Mark 9:23). Surely, that is enough to inspire confidence that there is a way out of schizophrenia!!

I take great delight in believing that God has always known what is best for my life. To have suffered in schizophrenia's isolation and bondage for 26 years may be considered by some to be too long a period to wait for God to turn up to do something. Nevertheless, I believe that I came out and was delivered and healed just at the time God wanted it to happen. God is always on time, never early and never late!! He knows what is best for your life, too.

I still believe the Scripture that was entrusted to me on the night I received Jesus as Lord and Saviour at the age of 14, namely that "ALL (not some) things work together for good to them that love God who are the called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

How God protected with His faithfulness and love for more than a third of a lifetime, and then smashed the gates of brass and the bars of iron around my mind. Achieving freedom for me was no less a miracle as wonderful as Peter walking out of prison!! I believe His purpose in allowing me to endure such a long prison sentence of schizophrenia was to impart "His treasures in darkness and to show forth His glory." After all, you can only help others with schizophrenia, and give them hope, if you have lived on the "inside" and come through it all with Jesus!!

When emails come through from schizophrenics seeking a lifeline of hope for themselves, I know why that happens. It is perfectly obvious that someone who is struggling to become free should turn to me, or anyone else for that matter who has been freed of schizophrenia, for some kind of support. They know I have lived with schizophrenia, but now am free – and they covet and earnestly seek to be on the same side of freedom too!

Perhaps the greatest encouragement I can pass on is that although the struggle and fight to become free is often long and without any seemingly clear signs of progress – the will to endure and persevere must be carried through.

Have you really faced up to the question of how you are going to defeat schizophrenia and see total freedom restored to your life?

Make no mistake - it is only through the direct intervention of Jesus Christ in your life that the mental chains surrounding your mind will be broken.

Not everyone is fully convinced that the powerful hold over the mind and life has its roots in a demonic bondage – and, to put it bluntly, such a declaration upsets some Christians, many psychiatrists and others alike. But the admission is the truth and must be asserted.

Had it not been for the direct intervention of the power of Jesus, I have no doubt that I would still be in a mental prison approaching nearly 50 years of disintegrating personality of life.

But the good news I have to declare is that God in His great love brought me into a saving knowledge of His Son Jesus Christ and conquered schizophrenia in my life and brought His real freedom to me. The stranglehold of a spiritual power over my mind was broken over 21 years ago – and I am so confident that such a breakthrough can be yours as well. I know what it is like to live with your thinking powers in bondage and reduced failing mental strength. Medication did not help either, as it produced a passivity and numbing of the mind which enabled a demonic presence to have a hey-day.

I feel that the description from the Bible of strong gates of brass and bars of iron is a fitting one for someone suffering with schizophrenia. (Read Isaiah 45 verse 2). Many who write in to us complain that their mind is no longer their own particularly since there are now strange voices in their head which were not present before. A vice-like bondage in the mind is now upon them.

There is only one spiritual power available that is stronger than Satan or any demonic presence and it is the Resurrection Power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, only the power of God can laser His Way through such a stronghold!!

You may ask: "Can I possess the strong power of the Holy Spirit and see the gates of brass and bars of iron around my mind permanently demolished?" By faith in the Lord Jesus and living a life of prayer with His authority you most certainly can!!

Think again about Peter's deliverance from prison and let it inspire your faith. Jesus loves you, died for you and makes available today all you need to fight the good fight of faith FOR HIS FREEDOM.

Pray for the release of God's power as you live the life of faith in Jesus and you will overcome - use that power and authority to burst out of the prison cell in His Name once and for all time.

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

2011 14 August – Persevere In Seeing The Face Of Jesus As You Battle Through To Freedom
2010 5 September – The Power Of God's Love Setting The Schizophrenic Totally Free

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.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” Matthew 8:16-17

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Hebrews 11:32-34

Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Psalm 77: 13-15

The Weekly Encourager:

8 JULY: “Jesus – Look To Your Faithfulness And Set Me Free!!”

15 JULY: “This One Thing I Know – Jesus’ Love Never Failed Me Yet”

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

