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Weekly Encourager - 22 July 2012

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 23rd year of freedom from the bondage and free of all medication for over 24 years - thanks to Jesus

## A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO THOSE HELPING CHRISTIAN SCHIZOPHRENICS INTO FREEDOM

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MARK CHAPTER 9: The Healing of a Boy with an Evil Spirit: Key Verses 14-29:

When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. "What are you arguing with them about?" he asked. A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and dumb spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer."



Every person expressing love and concern in various ways to a family member or friend with schizophrenia needs to be encouraged and commended for their support.

It requires a deep level of commitment to remain alongside someone for months, or even years, whose life is in schizophrenic turmoil.

Such devotion acquaints one with the emotional toll and stress normally expended in showing compassion and help for an acute human need caused by such a complex mental condition.

How important it is for every Christian supporter to be living in hope of seeing the person suffering from schizophrenia set free through deliverance and healing. Faith in Jesus Christ is "the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11: 1) and produces confidence that even a fellow Christian with the psychotic bondage can be released and restored in life.

The purpose of this Weekly Encourager is to declare aloud that THERE IS REAL HOPE - on two important fronts:- Firstly, faith in Jesus can fill YOU with hope that He has defeated schizophrenia, and, secondly, the person you are concerned about can receive hope from YOU of being set free and forever changed.

What confidence have I in announcing that? **TWO WONDERFUL REASONS. Firstly**, the SURE PROMISE OF JESUS CHRIST. In Mark's gospel Chapter 11, Jesus says, "Have faith in God. I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours."

These are the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As such they are totally true and reliable. Every promise Jesus makes He is well able to fulfil. Contrary to how circumstances look, if you are holding on to the promised word of God, it will come to pass. God cannot deny His word. You may have professed that you believe God can do anything. But wait a moment. Have you applied that statement to your loved one suffering with schizophrenia? Do you really believe that God possesses the power to defeat the bondage? Or is there a lack of reality between what you say and what you believe?

In our reading quoted at the top of this article, Jesus exposes a lack of faith. There is a lack of faith within the Christian church that schizophrenia CAN BE DEFEATED today. But that does not alter the fact that the power of Jesus is just the same today as it was in the New Testament days. Christ's ability to deliver and heal has not changed one iota because as God He "is the same yesterday and today and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8).

You may have come to the end of yourself in your personal care of a husband or wife, or son or daughter who has suffered with this embroiled condition for longer than you wish to recall. In a cry for help received last week-end, a wife confessed: "I do not know what to do or where to turn. My husband needs supernatural deliverance from demons. I just can't leave him to rot away in an institution without doing everything possible to help." How comforting it would be in her situation for her to know the support and fellowship of other Christians. Prayer and practical help coming from caring hearts would do a great deal in keeping hope alive!!

It's easy to understand why human resources get depleted in caring for a loved one who is troubled with schizophrenia. So demanding are the physical, emotional and spiritual challenges over a length of time, that even the best of carers begin to faint. How to keep faith alive that there is a way out for your loved one is no mean achievement. If there is even a germ of faith in Jesus occupying your heart which believes in HIS power to bring healing through deliverance, then keep faith alive - and humbly ask God for more.

Never allow the devil to steal the precious faith you have in the Lord Jesus. The father who had some faith that Jesus could heal his son was desperate to see him delivered and healed. He brought the small amount of faith he had to Jesus and there was sufficient to work on. Jesus used the faith that the man had. Refuse to be discouraged in any way, and don't be dictated to by what your circumstances tell you. Keep faith active, living and conscious in your heart expecting to see a healing of your family member or loved one. Keep calling out to God for His intervention, allow your faith in Jesus to be quickened by the Holy Spirit and so become filled with anticipation that something good and glorious is going to happen!!

Yes, there is a way through!! Jesus is still able to do the impossible. Keep believing that? The problem in the mind and life of someone suffering schizophrenia can rightly be described as a mountain of a problem to move. But it's not impossible for you to move it with faith in Jesus. Faith CAN move that mountain, says Jesus. Take seriously the words of Jesus concerning proving His power to perform what He has promised - then there's no reason why you shouldn't be able to witness a breakthrough in the life of the person you care for. The words of Jesus are eternally true. You remember, Jesus said: "These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me." (part of John 14:24). When you place your faith in Jesus and claim His promises, the mountains are moved, make no mistake. Keep faith ever-increasing and you will see the mountain sink into a plain.

**2. INSPIRING HOPE IN THE ONE YOU ARE TRYING TO HELP:** Did you know that because of your confidence in Christ you can impart hope in someone considered to be "a lost cause without hope". I love to be able to write about this because as someone who suffered with schizophrenia for 26 years, I was inspired to have hope of defeating the bondage by those who

loved and prayed for me. Having been free of schizophrenia now for more than 21 years, I ask God to help me send out beacons of hope around the world to those Christians longing to be free.

I mentioned in a recent Weekly Encourager that for more than 22 years, my daily discipline was one of holding on to Jesus in a bid to survive the demonic onslaught on my life. It was only as real hope began to be birthed in my spirit that I moved to a different stance of spiritual warfare to claim my freedom.

Through God bringing my wife Tina into my life, I progressed from “hanging-on to Jesus” and found a desire to want to become free. Hope was implanted in my spirit through Holy-Spirit compassion coming from Tina. Her prayers, and those of her late father Maurice Winterburn and his dear wife, Esther, supported by a group of Christian friends up and down the country, imparted REAL HOPE into my life that I could be free. Hope seemed to come more alive after the time God led me to come off all medication. After surviving a kind-of cold turkey period and the strangeness of managing to live without medication in one form or another, I began to get spiritually stronger and grasp hold of the promises of Jesus.

But don't let me mislead you by saying that it was all easy and a smooth ride to live in those days of preparation for deliverance. My mind had become so entrenched in the condition of schizophrenia that I was in a real bondage. I battled too with a religious spirit and a spirit of suicide. A powerful trio indeed!! Not only did I know there was something wrong in my life but I looked as though I was in a prison-house. (see the picture lower down). After changing my job from being a post office clerk working in a demanding job behind the main counter in town, I moved into a less-pressurised office job 13 miles away from home. The light of God's word which I daily read and repeated was beginning to shine into my mind. It says in the Psalms: “The entrance of your word gives light” and spiritual light was beginning to threaten the dark demonic spirits lodged in my mind.

The prayers offered for me were beginning to penetrate the darkness and I was beginning to pray more. A greater confidence in God grew in my heart as the days and months went on. I took over the baton of the prayer warriors supporting me in regular prayer and made a vow at work one day that I would “seek God” in my tea-breaks and dinner breaks until He broke the evil presence in my life.

Right up to the day of deliverance my mind was shackled and fittingly described as the Scripture puts it as having “gates of brass and bars of iron” encircling it. You can't get a more entrenched description than that!! I was involved in such a spiritual fight with Jesus by my side that it seemed really unimportant to know that it was “schizophrenia” I suffered from. What really mattered was that I knew there was a power of spiritual darkness seeking to take ownership of my life and I must resist it at all costs and never allow it to overcome me. But out walking on the hills with Tina on Deliverance Day, she just happened to mention that my problem was one of schizophrenia. At the moment, I heard the Holy Spirit whisper in my spirit – “Yes, that is what it is.” In a prayer time that followed, God broke through and assured me that by the end of the time I would be a free man, and I believed it. (*Details of the deliverance and healing can be found in Chapter 9 of “Schizophrenia Defeated” on the website*).

What I am seeking to point out is that through the efforts and prayers of Tina, her father, step-mother and others, HOPE was imparted into my spirit. HOPE BIG ENOUGH TO INSPIRE ME TO WANT TO BE FREE AT ALL COSTS.

Such hope anchored in your life through knowing Jesus Christ as your Saviour can touch a family member or friend who suffers with schizophrenia. Holding on to Jesus, you can offer to do what it takes to see that person released into the conquering love and power of Jesus. You know that Jesus has already won the victory so are you prepared to labour on in love and strong intercession until you see the chains around their mind completely snapped and the powers of darkness driven out for good. You can be sustained by the power of the grace of God until you have the joy of seeing a breakthrough. As you battle through, you are looking for signs of victory in the person you are helping. You wish to know an authority and power

imparted by Jesus scattering the spiritual darkness in His Name and bringing freedom to the captives.

Are you ready to believe that the answer to schizophrenia is found in your Saviour, Jesus Christ? Knowing that Jesus has won this monster of a bondage in the "battle for the mind", are you ready for a challenge to do all that needs to be done to implement the victory and see your loved one or friend set free?

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

**2012** 18 March - Learning How To Pray In The Power Of The Holy Spirit

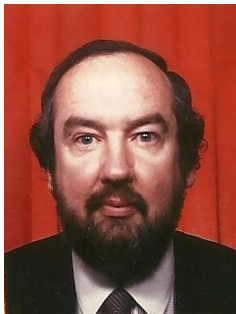
**2011** 22 May - Allow God To Open Your Tightly Closed Mind To The Schizophrenia Deliverance

**2010** 8 August - Overcoming Fear Of Schizophrenia In The Church

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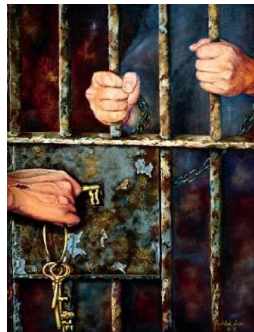
*A PRAYER OF HOPE FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: "Lord God Almighty, will you hear my prayer and make the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ real to me. Wipe away my sins that were atoned for on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus in order that I might not have to die eternally. I believe that Jesus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

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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

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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.

(Jesus said): "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers." Luke 22:31

We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5: 7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6

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## **The Weekly Encourager:**

**29 JULY: "This One Thing I Know – Jesus' Love Never Failed Me Yet"**

**5 August: Know Your Authority In Jesus Before Expelling The Demon Of 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-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*

