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The Weekly Encourager - 23 February 2014

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia, from James Stacey NOW IN HIS 24TH YEAR OF FREEDOM AND 26 YEARS OFF ALL MEDICATION - thanks to Jesus.

MY PRAYER HAS POWER WITH GOD

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS 1 KINGS CHAPTER 18: Key Verses 16-39:

Elijah on Mount Carmel: So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah. When he saw Elijah, he said to him, "Is that you, you troubler of Israel?" "I have not made trouble for Israel," Elijah replied. "But you and your father's family have. You have abandoned the LORD'S commands and have followed the Baals. Now summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel's table."



So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount Carmel. Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him."
But the people said nothing.

Then Elijah said to them, "I am the only one of the LORD'S prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. Get two bulls for us. Let them choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the LORD. The god who answers by fire – he is God."

Then all the people said, "What you say is good."

Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, "Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire." So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. "O Baal, answer us!" they shouted. But there was no response; no-one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

At noon Elijah began to taunt them. "Shout louder!" he said. "Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or travelling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened." So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no-one answered, no-one paid attention.

Then Elijah said to all the people, "Come here to me." They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the LORD, which was in ruins. Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the LORD had come, saying, "Your name shall be Israel." With the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD, and he dug a trench round it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, "Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood."

“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “O LORD, God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

Then the fire of the LORD fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried: “The LORD – he is God! The LORD – he is God!”

What an amazing incident is recorded in our reading above of Elijah’s overwhelming confidence that his prayer had power with God! Facing the prophets of Baal single-handedly on Mount Carmel, he passes to us an exemplary lesson of seeing mighty breakthroughs in prayer.

Every born-again Christian schizophrenic needing to come into the full liberty of the life and love of Jesus Christ, needs a powerful release from the bondage wrapped around their mind. It’s difficult, but by no means impossible to fight through to freedom on your own. When other Christians are fighting with you, your day of freedom is certainly going to happen much sooner.

The Weekly Encouragers are primarily aimed at giving hope and encouragement to struggling Christian schizophrenics, but I am equally convinced I should also be writing to stir up Christians to enter into a life of delivering prayer as a much-needed ministry to support them.

There seems to be little or no realisation for the most part in the Christian church that there are fellow believers with this bondage really struggling to get free. Where is the faith to believe, like Elijah, that the power of personal prayer can exorcise the schizophrenia demonic stranglehold?

It is much easier to leave everything related to the care of a Christian schizophrenic to the psychiatrist and the medical world rather than trust the living God of heaven revealed in Jesus to bring about a full restoration through deliverance and healing. I am so grateful that God told me to put my trust in His Son, Jesus Christ, though appreciating what help was given by some psychiatrists.

What can we draw from this story about Elijah triumphing over the prophets of Baal in a contest so dramatic? **FIRSTLY, HE WAS TOTALLY CONFIDENT THAT GOD WOULD ANSWER HIS PRAYER:** Slip inside the skin of Elijah, if you can, and feel how the power of faith enabled him to direct the whole proceedings knowing that God would honour his servant. After the delay in the Baal gods appearing and answering by fire, he taunts them by inferring that their gods are not really true at all. It was now his turn to call on the lordship of the God of Israel, and he was so sure of God answering by fire that he commanded they pour water over the sacrifice three times. Doesn’t that speak of an audacious faith that believes in God to such an extent that nothing can get in the way of His answer coming through. Our Lord Jesus Christ underlines in the gospel accounts that all things are possible to him that believes. “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24) You can trust your entire life on whatever Jesus Christ promises to fulfil because He is God of heaven and earth. No matter how long you have been suffering with schizophrenia, remember that faith in Christ CAN bring you into His glorious freedom where the bondage is totally defeated. Take hold of the words of Jesus, read them, memorise them, established them in your thinking, feed them into your heart ... and you will reap a harvest of freedom because Jesus says so.

Life's circumstances and what is happening to you – particularly in the realm of defeated thinking – do not change the truth of God's word and the power to receive answers through faith. The fact that Elijah faced 850 false prophets on his own mattered nothing because of the confidence he maintained that God was with him. In the book of James Chapter 5:17-18, it says: "Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops."

SECONDLY, HIS CONFIDENCE THAT GOD WOULD ANSWER HIS PRAYER STEMMED FROM HIS KNOWLEDGE OF GOD: Who is going to ask God for anything if they do not know him? As preacher Stephen Olford used to say: "We can't pray to 'Our Father who is heaven' if we haven't been born into the family." It was because Elijah knew God that he acted with such confidence. In fact, when it came to the time of sacrifice, he prayed: "O LORD, God of Abraham, Issac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. Answer me, O LORD, answer me, so these people will know that you, O LORD, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again." (verses 36-37). Take heart that if you know the one and only true God through His Son Jesus Christ, you too can be filled with the confidence that can receive answers to prayer. God is as keen to answer your prayers and mine as He was to answer Elijah's. You can conquer the exploit of defeating schizophrenia in your life through the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ just as Elijah triumph on Mount Carmel in God's strength to turn a nation back to God.

The spiritual fight you daily face to be free of the demon of schizophrenia may be going on in your life and there is seemingly no answer coming. But don't give up. Keep reading the Bible all the time and filling your heart with the promises found there. Particularly, fix on the words of Jesus which are "both spirit and life". Keep asserting the ownership of Jesus to every evil voice that has invaded your life. Bind up those voices through the power of the blood of Jesus Christ. Tell the demons and Satan that they have no legal light in your life and get used to declaring their exit. Insist they lost their right to your life when the blood of Jesus Christ was shed at Calvary and strongly command they have to leave your life for good.

I had kept up having a trust in Jesus Christ for over 26 years but faith was mightily quickened in my life in 1990. The prayers of my future wife, Tina, her family and friends so ignited my spirit that I was determined to see freedom burst upon my life at all costs. A daily fight ensued. I got out of bed at 5 a.m. prepared for another day of battle. I wasn't going to let the daily grind of office work and the meaningless conversation of my colleagues rob me of the fire of God in my heart. My tea breaks and dinner breaks found me in the presence of God seeking a fresh touch to maintain the fight to be free. Then on a May Day Bank Holiday the answer came in a farewell prayer at Tina's home when I was about to leave to catch the train back to Chesterfield. I heard in my spirit the still small voice of the Holy Spirit who said: "Today you will be a free man." On reaching home, I simply turned the whole issue of what to do over to the Lord, and He guided me to blast the demons out of my leg through playing loud praise and worship. This was something not pre-arranged but the instructions received from the Lord at the time of praying. (*Read Chapter 9 of "Schizophrenia Defeated" on the web site for full details*).

THIRDLY, ENCOUNTERING SUCH A MAJOR VICTORY FOR GOD GREATLY STRENGTHENED HIS CONFIDENCE AND COURAGE IN GOD: Hard on the heels of the victory on Mount Carmel, you see Elijah declaring to King Ahab that "there is the sound of a heavy rain." The drought lasting three and a half years was about to finish. What a final conclusion to events which had seen the God of Israel at work through the faithfulness of one man desiring to bring Him honour and praise. Your confidence in God can grow and grow as you experience much smaller victories than you read of in the life of Elijah. In Sunday School, we used to sing with gusto: "Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin, Each victory will help you, Some other to win. Fight manfully onward, Dark passions subdue, Look ever to Jesus He will carry you though." Overcoming temptation has the same effect in imparting confidence in God as winning a spiritual victory resulting in personal freedom in which God has helped.

In the realm of breaking strongholds in our lives, progress is often made in stages. But even winning "slight" or what may seem "small" victories can boost your confidence in the power of Jesus Christ in a wonderful way. You can feel like the disciples returning from casting out demons and expressing their joy to the Lord. When you use the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to address evil spirits in your life, it boosts your confidence to know the darkness has been driven out from your life and freedom is enlarged.

FINAL THOUGHT: ALWAYS KEEP HOLD THROUGH FAITH of your confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ. Spending time in His Presence "will grow" your confidence and life in God, resulting in knowing Him better and bringing His power into your life "to do exploits" in your own personal life.

FOR FURTHER READING – See Archive File

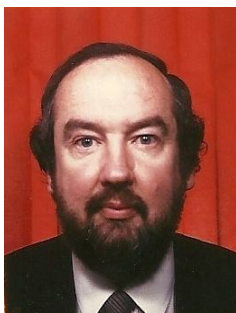
2013: 16 June – Trusting In Jesus With All Your Heart Will Keep Your Sanity and Win Freedom

2012: 28 October – When Enough People Pray Enough Time Your Deliverance From Schizophrenia is Near

2011: 6 February - Let The Power Of The Cross Grip You As You Read The Bible

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 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.

They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he (Jesus) was. And wherever he went – into villages, towns or countryside – they placed the sick in the market-places. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed. Mark 6:56

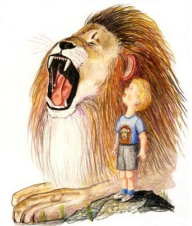
Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

I love the LORD, for he heard my voice; he heard my cry for mercy. Because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live. Psalm 116:1-2

WEEKLY ENCOURAGER:

2 March: Jesus Christ Gives Both Encouragement and Endurance As You Fight Schizophrenia

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