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Weekly Encourager - 24 November 2013

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 nearly 26 years off all medication - thanks to Jesus.

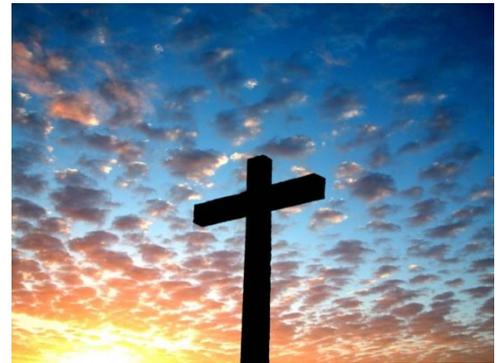


**The Wedding Day
spills over with rejoicing**
Chapter 10 from Schizophrenia Defeated



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!"

Chapter 10 from Schizophrenia Defeated

An important lesson the Holy Spirit was constantly teaching me was to keep my freedom intact. The discipline of the spiritual life of prayer, reading God's word, and waiting on God were necessary to fulfil. I knew instinctively that if I was not only to maintain my freedom but enlarge it, I needed to do what the Bible calls "stand fast in the liberty" which Christ had now brought into my life.

I continued the discipline of early morning prayer in order to enjoy the wonderful benefits through meeting and finding God in the early hours of the day. Jesus himself proved it.

In the past, I had found it needful to throw back the sheets to pray in the heat of the battle. Now there was a greater joy and release in rising to pray following deliverance and healing.

I took the matter extremely seriously that I was definitely not going to lose my freedom. In no way would I allow satan and demonic forces to invade my life again. I heeded the warning given by Jesus in Matthew's gospel, that once having been set free it was important to keep free or else the enemy could return bringing with him demons "seven times worse" than the ones who had departed.

So at every opportunity when travelling to work on the bus or train I would pray, open up my little Christian workers' personal testament and meditate on the word of God. I had always been one for writing down inspirational thoughts for use in sermons, but now I "banked" them in a small hardback book and would categorise everything under headings. The issue of standing fast became the issue of daily living. I was determined that the only thing that mattered day in and day out was to both start the day and finish it with God, keeping faith intact.

This had always been the emphasis during the days of struggling into freedom. I remember saying to Dr Skevington Wood that the Lord was showing me one important lesson on which everything else depended, namely that of knowing I was consciously standing fast in the liberty which Christ had imparted to me. He replied:

"You've certainly got it right. Everything stems from that."

I assembled all the thoughts God was giving me under about 15 or more section headings on the secret of Christian living that standing fast in the freedom of Christ imparted. There was an overlap in many sections, but I knew that here were the answers to being filled with the Spirit; living in the word of God, and the ability to maintain an effectual prayer life, as well as shatter the kingdom of darkness. Issues of loving God and keeping the unity of the spirit among fellow believers, I also found among the benefits of standing fast.

I mistakenly thought, though, that this discovery that God had shone into my heart must be known by every Christian. I soon discerned that this was not the case. It was such an important lesson God had revealed, indeed what I would call one of His secrets, that I was so sure every Christian who professed to be going on with God knew it too.

In mixing with Christians, I had the impression that there was a longing in their lives to know God more deeply and enter into the rest promised in the Bible. I concluded that God's best for a believer comes through "falling into the ground and dying to self", and then being really filled with the Holy Spirit, during which the secret of standing fast is imparted.

Throughout the remaining months of 1990 I pursued relentlessly this need to stand fast and keep my freedom. I was inspired by God's promise to Joshua in the early days of commissioning him as Moses' successor. If I meditated on God's word "day and night and allowed the law of God not to depart out of my mouth", I too would become strong and have good success.

I realised how such meditation had been important in preserving my life and keeping satanic forces at bay. One day I listened to a programme on my walkman in the lunch hour and heard a professional woman who had received electric shock treatment say that after-effects had destroyed her memory. She wanted to write about her experiences but found that the treatment had both shattered her memory and totally destroyed all recollection of the past.

I rejoiced in my spirit over the mightiness of God's power to keep my mind functioning well despite everything I had gone through. To be delivered out of an insane prison house with my mind and spirit fully intact was indeed a miracle. Even the unpleasantness I remembered in perfect detail. What power, I thought, there is in the helmet of salvation spoken about in the letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6: 17) to ward off evil spirits seeking to run amok in a Christian's life. "Lord," I thought, "to as many as believe You do indeed give Your power to be victorious. You who search the heart know what is in the mind of the spirit. How true!!"

In spite of this tremendous preservation of mind by the Lord Himself, both Tina and I were aware how deeply entrenched the schizophrenia had been. It was becoming increasingly apparent to us that the return to normal full freedom and wholeness of life was going to be a continuing process.

Tina had far more insight and revelation about the process than I had. She still observed that there was mental, emotional and spiritual ground yet to be recovered in my life, which she was expecting, but didn't envisage the fight to be so long. Though I was showing continuing signs of God's delivering and healing power in numerous ways, she expected me to move ahead at a faster pace.

She was encouraged, however, in observing my ability to relax more and find an ease in performing jobs. To both start and finish tasks immediately was a great contrast to past performances, which contained no perseverance or flexibility. This aspect of progress gave her hope when at other times she and others still observed some of the traits present before deliverance.

The demonic forces had built themselves so deeply into my thought patterns and behaviour that it was going to need my continual cooperation with the Holy Spirit to break the entrenchment for good.

To those helping schizophrenics back into normal living, the emphasis on the difficult job ahead is only too well known. Ida Mae Hammond says in her book *Pigs in the Parlour* that the schizophrenia deliverance is the deepest, most involved and most determined deliverance that she and her husband have encountered. It requires, they say, continuing cooperation with the Holy Spirit after deliverance and healing have taken place so that real wholeness in one's life may be established and enjoyed.

Ida Mae Hammond also says that it is hard work for the schizophrenic pressing through to full freedom. "I greatly admire schizophrenics who fight through to victory. I admire these victories above all other deliverances," she says.

These observations greatly encouraged me to continue seeking full restoration, and I wrote: "To be healed of a physical disease or condition means that you are restored to good and former physical health. To be healed of schizophrenia manifests firstly in the enjoyment of mental freedom once lost but now restored, and in the ability to function normally in everyday life hitherto acknowledged as a major impossibility."

Before being set free, I understood absolutely nothing about my illness of schizophrenia. I now had more insight into what is a very baffling problem to mental health professionals, for whom the cause and cure has remained shrouded in uncertainty. My priority had been in opposing its presence in my life and overcoming it through prayer. It became important to begin understanding the complexity of the illness in order to knock out the schizophrenic patterns completely, thereby making room for my true personality to come forth and replace it.

A revelation was given by the Lord to Ida Mae Hammond at a time she and her husband were helping a Christian woman earnestly desiring deliverance. God said to her: " 'Schizophrenia is a disturbance, distortion or disintegration of the development of the personality.' He instructed me to put my hands together, palms facing and with fingers laced together tightly. He said this represented what the schizophrenic nature was like. Each hand represented one of the dual personalities within the schizophrenic, neither of which was the real self. They were tightly interlocked. The Lord said: 'Your hands represent the nest of demon spirits that make up schizophrenia. I want you to know that it is demonic. It is a nest of demon spirits, and they came into this person's life when she was very, very young. I will show you how it operates'."

I saw only too plainly that the core of the schizophrenic was rejection and rebellion with the control demon called schizophrenia (or double-mindedness) which invites other demons in, in order to cause the distortion of the personality. When I read that it commonly begins in childhood or infancy and sometimes while the child is yet in his mother's womb, my mind flashed back to the knowledge that my mother wanted me to be a girl. I could accept that if the schizophrenia nature is in the mother then the illness could be demonically inherited as the demons pick out one or more of her children to feed down through. The rejection within herself creates problems in her relationships with the child who is exposed to rejection by the mother's instability.

I began comparing my healing and deliverance with that of the Gadarene paranoid demoniac recorded in Mark 5. He was a different type from the hebephrenic variety I was classed as. The third type is known as catatonic. I wondered if, where it is recorded that after Jesus had healed him and he was found "sitting there, dressed and in his right mind", it meant that the demoniac had not to go through any further process of restoration. How long had he had it? Was he a young man? Did Jesus complete deliverance, healing and restoration all in one go?

Tina and I talked this over time and time again. She came up with this explanation:

"I believe that when Jesus was on earth He healed all that were oppressed and every manner of sickness, as the Bible records. Because He was God in human form there was no restriction in any way to the operation of His power and authority. He himself indeed said: 'all power in heaven and earth is given to Me.' I believe that the Gadarene demoniac was delivered, healed and restored in one completed work all taking place at once."

She stated this knowing and believing at the same time that God had done a mighty, genuine work in deliverance and healing in my life - though the process of getting back into normalcy of living and wholeness for me would still be a continuing process.

Throughout the first seven months of my new freedom, I continued enjoying what was a new life. I recorded the following on New Year's Day, 1991:

"I am amazed how my suppressed emotions have been released since May Day. The best way to sum it up is to say: 'The Lord has done and is continuing to do a new thing.' I can now say that the same discipline which had been such a struggle to maintain before being set free, is now being maintained with a rest reigning in my heart. The only point I am having to watch at the moment, and in the future, is the need to address tiredness and fatigue which have always been a real enemy."

Observing my progress, Tina was now beginning to take seriously my proposal of marriage. Our relationship had always been subject to the will of God and I had made it clear to her that "I only wanted her if God brought her." She had always prayed about whether it was right to go ahead and get engaged in much the same way that my first wife Pam had done. How privileged I was that she too was seeking God for His answer.

She received guidance in prayer and was satisfied that it was right to proceed. While shopping in the town centre of Chesterfield for the engagement ring, we heard a local band playing "Amazing Grace". My mind flashed back to the time we included the hymn in our family contribution at a service at Zion Church in 1980. On hearing the words of the last verse, "When we've been there, ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first began," I thought: "Lord, Pam has been with You almost ten years now. And she has no less days to spend with You than the day she passed into Your presence."

I also recalled her parting words on the last night before she died: "Jim, you should remarry for your sake and for the sake of the children." Here I was choosing an engagement ring for my second wife, whom I knew she would greatly approve of. One of the delights I am looking forward to on getting to heaven is to link up these two wonderful women God brought into my life. They both loved and cared for me and together helped me defeat the devil and all his fury and madness. It will be a glorious reunion in the presence of Jesus.

Having been set free I was now able to cooperate more with the Holy Spirit. The balanced truth of the word of God in demolishing satanic lies and footholds in my thought patterns became very powerful. I readily agreed with Tina that I would benefit greatly from ministry and help from a professional Christian counsellor. We contacted Colin Nowell of Wholeness in Christ, who had left the Methodist ministry in order to have more time to minister to broken and shattered lives.

Colin first came to our house with a dear friend, David Bailey, the Baptist minister in Chesterfield, who was also involved in healing and deliverance. It proved such a profitable time that I knew it was right to continue seeing Colin at his home in Ecclesall, Sheffield. The ministry was carried out with the utmost consideration of being under the control of the Holy Spirit.

I was first asked how long a time I could cope with, as it was Colin's experience that people coming to him with schizophrenia could often only manage short spells of counselling and prayer. I agreed to a two or three hour session each time as my stickability since being set free had improved. I wanted to advance the good work God had begun.

The session with Colin moved my progress ahead quite significantly. I was pleased that contact with him came so close after being set free. Tina was more than delighted one day when she came along with me to the session to be introduced by Colin to a unique book, called War on the Saints by Jessie Penn Lewis with Evan Roberts, the Welsh revivalist. He advised us to obtain the full text unabridged edition, as the 'abridged' edition lost the content of the main thrust in eliminating important teaching regarding demonic influence on Christians. The editors of the first work based their decision to discontinue the original version "first and foremost" on their rejection that Christians could be demonised.

A copy of this work was soon in our hands and Tina began to devour its pages. She read how when believers receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit they can sometimes enter into conflict with the powers of darkness and may discover the presence and activity of evil spirits already lurking in their lives. Such a discovery in unbelievers would be accepted, but it was "to the shock and even surprise for Christians to find it to be true."

When Jessie Penn-Lewis made this discovery, she was misunderstood and her teaching misinterpreted, hence the decision to "abridge" her work and so lose the main thrust of her book.

I was unable at first to see things contained in the work as clearly as Tina, but later agreed to the spiritual perception of Mrs Lewis' remarks considering how the baptism of the Holy Spirit in my life had disturbed an opposing presence.

Tina had in the early days of ministering to me given me spiritual indigestion when she introduced me to three volumes of *The Spiritual Man* by Watchman Nee, obtained during her days at Birmingham Bible Institute. She had tried, albeit in vain, to enlighten me with certain truths about the body, soul and spirit realm. Then, they were too deep for me to grasp. Certain truths were repeated in the books by both authors, though the treatment by each had its own particular slant.

Our engagement took place in May 1991, with the proposed wedding day being fixed for 19th October. Tina's father, Maurice, had only one reservation about our going ahead and that centred around my being able to keep up with Tina. But he had faith to see in future days that "God, who had begun a good work in healing, would attend to any deficiency", as he himself later witnessed.

In addition to wedding plans needing attention, there was the involvement with my brothers in caring for our mother. She was showing signs of not being able to look after herself in her new small flat. Her condition now warranted going into an old people's home, something she had asked us "not to do to her." An attractive proposition came along, however, to have a trial stay of six weeks in a newly-opened residential home located mid-way between myself and my brothers. She felt at home soon after being admitted and decided to stay.

In previous months, I had cut myself free from an ungodly soul tie of domination and control which my mother had over me. I continued visiting her, but there was not the same preoccupation with the need to be always making visits, which often left me emotionally sapped. Because she was not a "free" person I longed to lead her to a life-changing encounter with Christ, though she seemed unable to grasp my explanations of the love of God. There were times when I thought I was getting through. I prayed for her to see her need to receive Christ, but there was a life-long rejection and a root of bitterness which needed dealing with.

It was hard to minister adequately enough to show how her life had been blighted because of what had happened in childhood. Greater insight into all this was to dawn on me later on when she became senile and was unable to receive explanations.

Throughout her life, Mum had never broken free of the rejection which dogged her. Her desire for me to be a girl manifested itself later during a conversation with Tina, when in her deep confusion she said: "I'm having a baby girl."

Tina, always one to live in reality, faced her with things as they really were: "No, Mum Stacey, you're not! You have had three sons and the last one was James and I married him."

As though brought to her senses with a jolt, my mother then said: "Ah, yes."

It was a great relief, with a wedding ahead of us, to know that Mum was being cared for so we could apply ourselves to the seemingly gigantic task of planning all the arrangements with freedom.

I stirred at 5.45 a.m. on our memorable day, 19th October 1991, and had a leisurely start to what was going to be a great time of rejoicing. Many of the 175 guests attending the service at the Lye and Stambermill parish church, near Stourbridge, West Midlands, had been instrumental in praying me through, along with some of the 100 extra friends joining the evening reception. God's favour rested on the weather, as the sun shone throughout, making it an ideal occasion - though the days either side were weatherwise as different again.

When Tina arrived with her father to stand alongside me at the front of the church, she looked stunning. Whether the pale oyster dress with pearl buttons down the front was exactly the same version that I saw in a flash in the vision way back in 1988 raises an interesting question, but at least in appearance there was a resemblance. I continually thank God for the vision, without which I would not have pursued Tina and refused her decision to finish. Though not ready for marriage at the time it was given, I just knew God was planning something.

As I told Tina in a 15-verse birthday morning love-song that year:

“God saw me trying to secure
What I could not then discern
Midst mental blues and inward pain
I needed love again.

“I thought I’d never love again
And feel my heart-strings beat
The way they’ve done since I met you
It’s been God’s special treat.”

I could have used the first verse on our wedding-day,
for I had so much gratitude in my heart:

“I can’t express on this special day
My deep love for precious you.
If my heart could be unlocked
Its store would surprise you.”

My deep joy was to see my children, my own mother, and my dear mother-in-law, Mum Horton, rejoicing in our happiness. Having my own personal friends present who had known me during difficult periods of my life in and out of mental hospitals added to the joy. My former pastor, Rev Ernest Anderson, supported Rev David Woodhouse, the Vicar. David set the scene at the outset for a time of celebration and thanksgiving in the presence of God.

Tina’s stepmother, Esther, caused a laugh as we boarded the wedding car. Having been alerted by Tina that the loops on the front of the dress were a little insecure, she drew near to the window and allayed any concern, saying:
“I’ve got me needle!”

Later Tina went into the ladies’ room with her to have the loops attended to. Esther was a first-class seamstress, having made three of the four bridesmaids’ dresses in deep pink oyster.

A barn dance brought the proceedings to a joyous climax. We finished up with “They shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace, and the mountains and the hills shall break forth before them.”

It was a perfect end to a perfect day, and we all knew the Master of Ceremonies who had made our marriage possible!



Tina and I on our Wedding Day, 1991

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.

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.

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

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

