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Weekly Encourager - 24 January 2016

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey NOW IN HIS 26TH YEAR OF FREEDOM AND OFF ALL PSYCHOTIC MEDICATION THIS MONTH FOR 28 YEARS, THANKS TO JESUS CHRIST.

"THE BATTLE BELONGS TO THE LORD" CONFERENCE
Chapter 8 from Schizophrenia Defeated by James Stacey

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS
1 PETER CHAPTER 1

Verses 3-13: Praise to God for a Living Hope: Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.



In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith – of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though by fire – may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look in these things.



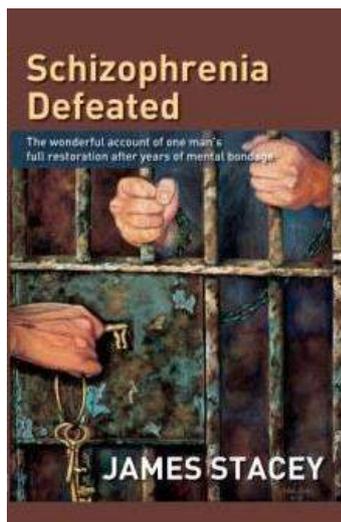
Little did I realise travelling down to Brighton for "The Battle Belongs to the Lord" conference in February, 1990, just how near I was to being set free. It was going to prove an important time, particularly for Tina in providing new teaching about deliverance and assuring her that my case was neither helpless nor hopeless.

About 3,000 people from various parts of Great Britain and other nations converged on the seaside resort to occupy the centre often used as the venue for the national conference of the Conservative Party. Being among so many Christians who were desirous of knowing more about healing and deliverance, was a tonic in itself.

Subjects listed in the programme such as Rebuilding the Shattered Life, Breaking Bondages, Liberty for the Captives (for those already Christians), How to Prepare a Person for Healing and Deliverance, suggested that this was going to be a different kind of conference, as it indeed it proved to be.

The main speakers were evangelist Bill Subritzky, for many years a senior partner in a large law firm and governing director of one of New Zealand's largest home-building companies; Peter Horrobin of Ellel Ministries, the conference organisers, and Graham Powell, engaged in evangelistic and pastoral ministry in New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

It was a conference I shall never forget, though I failed to absorb most of the teaching because of my condition. But God was ministering to me during the whole of the meetings, and advances towards freedom were being established.



Sunday, 11th February, marked an unforgettable day for Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, who was released from 27 years' confinement on Robben Island. Unable to venture out because of a gale hitting the resort, we watched his release on television with immense interest in our upstairs flat at Saltdean, just outside Brighton. Great anticipation was created before we saw him emerging as a free man.

On hearing of the length of his confinement, I thought, "That's about the length of time I've been in my mental prison." Seeing him obviously rejoicing that his long spell in prison was now over, a tremendous surge of emotion and excitement gripped my spirit. I was getting fortified in my struggle to move forward with greater determination to seize my freedom. I envied him in his breakthrough, though I myself only had to wait a matter of weeks to break an imprisonment far more serious and entrenched.

In the early stages of the Conference, it was made more than plain that Christians could be affected by demonic forces, even though they possessed genuine experiences of knowing Christ. Believing in Christ and receiving His new life at conversion did not necessarily mean that everything in the soul life had been dealt with too. I said a hearty Amen to all that.

Graham Powell made this point so clear in dynamic testimony. As he unfolded how from his earliest days the powers that gripped his mother influenced and gripped him, I was impressed how his story was very much like my own. His mother, just like my mother, was plagued by fear all her life. In his book, *Fear Free*, he writes: "She was so anxious, so full of worry, so swayed by a variety of fears. If only she had met Jesus as Deliverer, my childhood would have been so different. But can't we all say this? Rarely do parents, even Christian parents, understand the extent of the subversive activities of Satan. Because of our ignorance we offer no resistance, and evil spirits continue their works of destruction."

Hearing him describe the tremendous problems that came into his life and how great a struggle he faced in breaking their hold through the power of faith, drew a sympathetic response from me. I thought: "He's really been through it, just like me. But now he's free. Do it for me, Lord, too."

Despite the numerous mentions in the meetings of Christians being affected by demonic forces, it never really occurred to me that they were the problem in my life. Even when Bill Subritzky related how he came into the deliverance ministry through a demon entering his nine-year-old son and remaining for nine years, nothing spoke deeply enough into my life to suggest that my battle was with the spirits of darkness.

People interrupted the proceedings as demonic forces left their lives and I rejoiced with those who were being freed. During ministry time, a woman near to where I was sitting was being

troubled by a spirit of hate towards her mother. I wanted to join the group gathered around her to add my contribution in leading her into freedom. I was new to commanding spirits to leave people and really didn't know what I was doing, but I could sense the woman was not in control of her life as her eyes seemed ablaze with another power which called out to her mother: "I hate you!"

In addition to meetings in the main Conference Centre, other workshops were held on freeing those affected by Sexual Abuse and How to Minister Evangelism. We never missed an opportunity to attend every session possible, though Tina was constantly aware how I looked detached during the meetings.

She was to tell me later: "I never thought anything was registering in you and wondered if the meetings themselves were providing any kind of help or breakthrough. You seemed to be in a world of your own, unable to pick up what was being said. I was a bit frustrated since you seemed to be immune to everything that was happening. Even in the worship time I noticed you were detached."

I agreed with her, but I do believe that since my inner ear was always striving to be hearing from God some light was penetrating, albeit in a small way. The problem a schizophrenic has is that his life in thought and action centres around himself in a most strange and too-absorbing way, unable to relate to normal life, never mind being able to grasp seeing himself as others see him.

Tina didn't receive much help on the subject of schizophrenia during the conference but received faith to believe that I could be freed of this psychotic condition. She was encouraged to hear how God dealt with a wide variety of strongholds in people.

"I believed that you had a demonic presence in you but didn't recognise what it was," she said. "There can be in certain cases wrong attitudes and a number of wrong habits formed in a person because a demonic presence has ridden in. Through self-will a spirit of rebellion can come in as well."

The last meeting of the Conference over, I thought it would be a great idea to buy a copy of every cassette from each meeting. I wondered about ringing my home church, Zion Pentecostal in Chesterfield, to get permission to spend a bit of cash to buy them all, thinking how beneficial and helpful it would be to many in my church. But having second thoughts, I decided to use my own money and make the purchase. Tina bought a couple of videos, and together I thought we were armed with deliverance dynamite.

Convinced now more than ever that I could be set free, Tina began to increase the prayer assault against the demonic forces in my life by calling on the support of so many friends. As usual, she continued to see the importance of challenging me about wrong thought patterns and any wrong behaviour. She had done this in the early stages of our relationship, reading chunks out of *The Spiritual Man* by Watchman Nee concerning the mind, the will and the emotions and in particular on the problem of passivity affecting my life. She believed that real progress towards freedom could not be made unless I first realised the extent to which I had surrendered my life to evil spirits.

But such confrontation, needful and effective though it was to prove, brought head-on friction in our relationship in a meeting at my home after the conference.

Tina suggested to me: "Your problem, James, is that your mind is full of delusions."

It brought a classic response from me which revealed the schizophrenic mind. I strongly disagreed as I replied:

"My mind is not deluded. Do you want me to be untrue to myself?"

Tina replied: "No, I want you to be true to yourself. Your mind is muddled. The filter process is not working properly in you and the delusions operating in you are aggravating a muddled mind."

By this time, Tina had had enough as she blurted out: "I'm going home. I've had my fill!"

I switched from being on the defensive as she began to pack her case, and followed her from the bathroom.

But she continued: "I've reached the limit of my help for you James, and there's nothing more I can do. I can't discuss things logically with you because you can't see things in a logical way. I will always be your friend, you can write to me or ring me and I will always try to help you, but I'm exhausted and have reached the end of things."

Tina was to tell me later: "I saw quite a sick mind and so I had to be careful what I said. You would often go off at a tangent, mentioning your visions and delusions and would take up a rebellious attitude to me. You were insisting that I accept you as you were, but I could not have contemplated marrying you in that condition, as life would have been too unbearable."

As Tina was all prepared to leave, the thought occurred to me that I might be losing her, so I suddenly changed my whole attitude. By the time she left for Halesowen, I secured the promise of a future meeting, though when she arrived home her father and Esther immediately sensed the struggle she had been encountering as she unburdened herself about what had gone on between us.

"James is unable to see his own condition and is not responding," she told them.

Later, she wrote:

"They could see I was shattered by my whole involvement with you. I had never before encountered such exhaustion in a relationship. Leading a team of workers in India which brought its problems never saw me anything like this. The weariness I was feeling was that I was challenging demonic strongholds in your life which kept sapping my energy. It was at this stage that Dad and Esther advised me to keep my distance from you if only for the sake of my own health."

It was during another visit to my home soon afterwards that the same problem of needing deliverance reared its head.

"I need to take you round to Jill's to get some help to pray this demonic force out of you," Tina said.

Jill Stone was a member of the Pentecostal church in Chesterfield and a personal friend.

I replied: "If there is something there as you say, then let's go round to her house right now and get it out. I'm willing."

I was giving her a challenge through agreeing with her, rather than offering my cooperation, as was seen when we arrived at Jill's house.

Sitting in a chair, I said to both of them: "Okay, if there's something there, get it out. I'm more than willing to see the back of this problem which you say I have."

I stayed there wanting them to start work, but by no means giving wholehearted cooperation.

"He's not with us in this," said Tina to Jill. "He's wanting us to do the work of calling out this demon but at the same time he's denying its presence in his life."

How important it was for me to receive more light and truth by the Spirit of God to reveal my true condition and deception. They couldn't continue because of my unbelief. As the weeks moved into Spring and beyond, a great offensive of prayer continued from many intercessors with the specific targeting of the need for me to see my own condition - a revelation that was soon to dawn on my darkened mind.

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.

“ ‘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 mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” Mark 9:23-25

But we have his treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 2 Corinthians 4:7-10

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. Psalm 103:7

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-tried 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

