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Weekly Encourager - 24 May 2020

SCRIPTURAL ADVICE, HELP AND INSIGHT ON HOW TO TRUST THE LORD JESUS CHRIST TO DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA FROM JAMES STACEY NOW CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF FREEDOM FROM THE DEMONIC BONDAGE AND OVER 32 YEARS OFF ALL ANTI-PSYCHOTIC MEDICATION

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

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

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



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

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

Just think of it for a moment – God shut up the mouths of the lions when Daniel was in the den with them (Daniel 6); Jesus Christ healed "all that came to Him" (Luke 6: 17-19) - and He said

“all things are possible to him that believes” (Mark 9:23). Surely, that is enough to inspire confidence that there is way out of schizophrenia!

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

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

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

When emails come through from schizophrenics seeking a lifeline of hope for themselves, I can fully understand why that happens. Many times during 26 years of fighting the demonic bondage, I longed to meet or hear of someone who had been set free by the Lord Jesus Christ. It is understandable that someone with schizophrenia should approach me for support and hope, or anyone else, for that matter, who lives in the joy of having defeated the horrendous mental bondage by the victory and power of the Son of God. Schizophrenics are keen to receive any piece of comfort, guidance and prayer leading to complete freedom. They covet and earnestly seek to be on the same side of freedom, too! To be able to commend the Lord Jesus Christ as the only Deliverer and Healer gives me great joy and deep satisfaction! Perhaps the greatest encouragement I can pass on is that although the struggle and fight to become free is often long and without any seemingly clear signs of progress – the will to endure and persevere must be carried through.

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

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

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

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

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

I feel that the description from the Bible of strong gates of brass and bars of iron is a fitting one for someone suffering with schizophrenia. (Read Isaiah 45 verse 2). Many who write in to us

complain that their mind is no longer their own particularly since there are now strange voices in their head which were not present before. A vice-like bondage in the mind is now upon them.

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

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

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

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

FOR FURTHER READING: See Archive Files

2019 5 May – How To Find A Resting Place With God In Prayer As You Fight To Become Free Of Schizophrenia

2018 18 March – Jesus Our Chief Intercessor by guest writer Apostle Aloysius Kiiza

2017 13 August – Why Does It Take So Long For A Christian To Battle Through Schizophrenia On Their Own?

Celebrating the publishing of the Weekly Encourager over the past 10 years on our website, www.schizophreniadefeated.com I wish to record my grateful appreciation to website director, Stewart Hills (right) who has faithfully employed his skills and work over that period in promoting the good news about our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Stewart, who is self-employed in web site, computer work and project management, has also given tremendous support in carrying out the design of the website in all respects and fulfils his business motto of offering "Precise solutions creatively delivered."



"We have enjoyed good Christian fellowship over the years ever since we first got to know each other when Stewart worked in the office at the World Prayer Centre in Birmingham. It has been such a great encouragement over the years to have his expertise and support on hand in the ministry of reaching schizophrenics with the message that the Lord Jesus Christ is the way out of this mental stronghold," says James.

WEEKLY ENCOURAGER 31 MAY 2020:

WHY DOES THE CHURCH TRUST THE PSYCHIATRIST MORE THAN THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IN HELPING MENTAL CAPTIVES?

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 5

The Healing at the Pool: Verses 1-15 Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of

disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralysed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, “Do you want to get well?”

“Sir,” the invalid replied, “I have no-one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.”

Then Jesus said to him, “Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.” At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.

The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat.”

But he replied, “The man who made me well said to me, ‘Pick up your mat and walk.’”

So they asked him, “Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?”

The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him. “See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.” The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

There’s something totally inspiring and God-glorifying when an individual believer or a group of Christians rise up in faith to prove the power of God in a given situation.

The Spirit of God within them stirs the abiding conviction that there is an answer to a devastating bondage, sickness or problem calling for the intervention of God.

Let’s suppose that a Christian teenager from a godly family, who has known the Lord for some years, is suddenly diagnosed with schizophrenia and a bewildering change has come over his/her life causing great concern. What should the church do?

Generally speaking, entire trust is placed in the medical and psychiatric world who are summoned to respond to the crisis. But no-one is saying: “Surely, we ought to be seeking God for an answer.”

The trend of conversation at such a time is: “The psychiatrist is the expert – let’s leave everything to him. He’s had the training to handle the problem. We are out of our depth with something like this”.

We need to ask one question. What is the truth about mental illness and of schizophrenia in particular? Our Lord Jesus has the answer. Speaking about the time when the Holy Spirit would be given, Jesus said: “But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” John 16:13-14.

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 JESUS CHRIST 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 CHRIST.

Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth. I am the gate for the sheep. All who ever came before me were thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10: 7-10

This is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance (and for this we labour and strive), that we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, and especially of those who believe. 1 Timothy 4: 9-10

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing it and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. Isaiah 9: 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*