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Weekly Encourager - 29 September 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 from the bondage and free of all medication for over 25 years - thanks to Jesus.

THE FAITH BY WHICH YOU SEE CHRIST INSPIRES HOPE TO CONQUER AND LOVE TO ENDURE

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3: Key Verses 7-14:

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus. Verses 20-21: But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.



It is worth recalling that a person finds Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour through an act of believing faith involving the whole of one's personality. From then on, right throughout life, it is important to take good care of your faith.

Possessing faith in Jesus is most infinitely precious. Jesus placed so much importance on faith that He once asked: "When the Son of Man returns will He find faith on the earth?"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon, the well-known preacher from generations ago, used to say: "... Recollect that faith is the only means whereby you can obtain blessings. Prayer cannot draw down answers from God's throne except it be the earnest prayer of the man who believes."

Learning faith, growing in faith and exercising faith are invaluable lessons to learn in knowing more of the Lordship of Christ in one's life. So too is the relationship of faith and prayer and that without the presence of faith, prayer does not prevail.

You may ask the question: "Is it possible to come through schizophrenia, defeat it and have life restored again?" I strongly believe it is – through living a faith-filled life in the power of the Holy Spirit able to drive out the demonic presence behind the bondage.

May I add confidently: " I KNOW IT IS - because God in His mercy was gracious enough to quicken faith in my life in various ways that enabled me in the power of God to overcome the stronghold."

It's not an easy process learning faith and living by it when your whole mind is below par through the taking of medication day in and day out. Medication may well be stabilising you and preventing you from going high, but it debilitates strength and shackles your mind thereby hindering you from taking full command of your life. It makes the dominance over your personality by evil spirits of darkness much easier.

There's one thing you can ill-afford to lose - and that is the power of quickened faith in your life. Emotions maybe dead, no spark of divine life may be bursting from within – but still hang on to God through His Word and place the anchor of your faith in Jesus.

Your see what is happening in the mind when schizophrenia is at work is this: your mind is duped into a state of inactivity so giving a free reign to a demonic spirit to run riot with plans to both control and take over your life.

Faith in Jesus and His Word HAS GOT TO BE PRESENT in your life or there is little chance that hope will stir, grow and proceed to conquer. This faith also takes hold of the love of Jesus and is determined to endure at all costs.

Jesus spoke in Luke 17: 5-6 about having faith only as big as a mustard seed – the smallest of all seeds – but founded in the word of God that faith can rise and grow to such immense proportions so as to astound you of what He is capable of achieving.

In a public meeting after five years of being set free, I was asked the question by a man, who has since become a close friend, but who suffers with schizophrenia: “How are you so certain that Jesus Christ can help you keep your freedom?”

My reply, containing confidence in the promises and faithfulness of God, was simply this: “The God who has set me free is well able to keep me free. He has both the resources and power to do both.”

We do well to remember the glorious victory which our Lord Jesus obtained for us on Calvary. There, He paid a sufficient price for our sin with His own life as He offered Himself freely for us. The Great Creator, who became our Saviour, defeated all the powers of the kingdom of darkness and rose triumphant out of the grave with a mighty shout of victory.

Once you see who you are in Christ, it will feed confidence into your spirit and that will affect your mind. Very likely, it will not happen overnight. But since God's word is a transforming word, the promises of God will begin to work miraculously for you, and a glorious change will begin.

LET US CONSIDER THE IMPORTANCE THAT JESUS CHRIST PLACED ON FAITH:

1. JESUS STRESSED THE NECESSITY OF HAVING FAITH: A real-life incident found in Mark 9 shows us what the power of active faith in Jesus can achieve. We notice, first of all, that the disciples were unable to drive out the demon present in the life of a boy whose father had earnestly sought them to free him. (What an opportunity there is for the Christian church today to be able to show the world at large the resurrection power of Jesus defeating the power of evil in people's lives).

THE FATHER WHO WANTED HIS SON HEALED WAS HELPLESS: It is music in the ears of God that we are in such great need of His help. Because our God is Saviour, Helper, Healer, Intercessor, Deliverer etc., etc., He is well able to send out delivering help to the helpless. When you are in a desperate situation, you will try every opening to get free. Even possibilities which others suggest you should not pursue, you will try them!! (Many are closed to the deliverance ministry of schizophrenia and yet their loved one is getting worse and more shackled in the bondage. Why not allow God to give you an open heart and mind and move forward?) When the father cried out to Jesus: “But if you can do anything for us, help us,” Jesus replied: “If you can believe, all things are possible!!” You see faith knows no limitations. When faith in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is present, you know that God can do anything and you expect Him to work; how He does it is not your concern but work He

will, make no mistake!! Don't allow what many Christians have settled into – limiting God for one reason only... they have ceased to have a living faith in Jesus and therefore expect nothing to happen. Have faith in God's word!! "If God says it, then that's good enough for me, and I believe it," should be our motto.

We do well to follow the example of Paul recorded in our reading for this week, namely that he placed his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. You do not have faith in faith. Say with Paul, "I have faith in God." (Acts 27.25) The Bible makes it clear it is through faith that we are to come to God if we are to please Him – the kind of faith that sweetly works by love. We believe that God rewards those who diligently seek Him. Hold on to the promises Jesus has made and let them become your inspiration to continue claiming their fulfilment. Rest not in your spirit until you see the breakthrough of the promise God has laid on your heart.

2. JESUS EXPLAINED THE POSSIBILITIES OF FAITH: Jesus showed first of all that the requirement necessary for the father was to believe but in the same statement He said where faith is present ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE. Do you believe that? Can you believe for that? God can so enlarge your faith and make it so dynamic that there will be an inner assurance in your heart to expect the fulfilment of promises in the Bible and of answers to your own prayers.

THE FATHER WHO WANTED HIS SON HEALED WAS HONEST. He declared to Jesus that there was some faith in his heart but in his estimation it probably didn't account for much. That's why he said: "I do believe, help my unbelief." And Jesus did!! There was some faith there that Jesus could use. In your life, too, be honest in recognising that although you may not have faith big enough to move mountains right now, there is at least some faith present. God can use the amount of faith existing in your life and go on to enlarge it. You will be amazed what God can do in terms of stretching your faith to expect great things from God. The motto of William Carey, the cobbler who went to serve God in India, was: "Attempt great things for God, expect great things of God." He proved it on both counts.

3. JESUS DECLARED THE REWARD OF FAITH: In response to the father's cry, Jesus brings healing to the boy by driving out a deaf and mute spirit. Faith in Jesus always sees its reward. Because you are totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit as a believer in Jesus, you have faith to believe that the answer will come in God's time. If you allow God through His Word to quicken faith in you to believe for the defeat of schizophrenia and live every day with that goal in mind, it will come to pass. "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see," says Hebrews 11 verse 1. Faith sees the answer coming. You know in your heart that "though it tarry, it shall surely come." Up to the present time, you may have thought that the defeat of schizophrenia is impossible, but once you are willing to believe and prevail for God's answer in such a situation and declare "it is possible" a change will be forever made in the enlargement of your faith.

THE FATHER WHO WANTED HIS SON HEALED WAS HUMBLE: Faith is a gift of God. In Ephesians 2:8-9 it says: "For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no-one can boast." The father who wanted to see his son healed had a proper estimate of himself – and so should we. If you recognise that everything you have – even including the gift of faith – is coming from the hands of your loving Heavenly Father it will keep you with a humble heart. We always come to God with an open hand, realising that everything we have and are spring from His goodness, love and mercy. The fact that He puts within us the desire to love Him with all of our heart, mind, soul and strength is a remarkable revelation and blessing indeed.

FINAL THOUGHT: One well-known London preacher in the 1950s used to exhort his hearers to seek by faith the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. He emphasized: "You can have all the grace you want, but to be able to have more you must use up the present proffered grace before you can use the grace that succeeds it." **BE DETERMINED TO ALWAYS HAVE A HEART FULL OF CHRIST-INSPIRED FAITH – SUCH FAITH WILL CERTAINLY ENABLE YOU TO SEE CHRIST AND INSPIRE HOPE TO DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA!!**

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

2011 16 October - The Faith By Which You See Christ Inspires Hope To Conquer And Love To Endure

2010 5 September - The Power Of God's Love Setting A Schizophrenic Totally Free

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.

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” Matthew 8:16-17

And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Hebrews 11:32-34

Your ways, O God, are holy. What god is so great as our God? You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples. With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. Psalm 77: 13-15

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

