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Weekly Encourager - 29 April 2012

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 22nd year of freedom from the bondage and free of all medication for 24 years - thanks to Jesus

JESUS CHRIST GIVES THE REST OF FAITH AS YOU FIGHT TO OVERCOME SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS HEBREWS CHAPTER 4

A Sabbath-rest for the People of God: Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it. For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, - "So I declared on oath in my anger, They shall never enter my rest."



And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world. For somewhere he has spoken about the seventh day in these words: "And on the seventh day God rested from all his work." And again in the passage above he says, "They shall never enter my rest."

It still remains that some will enter that rest, and those who formerly had the gospel preached to them did not go in, because of their disobedience. Therefore God again set a certain day, calling it Today, when a long time later he spoke through David, as was said before: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from his. Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no-one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Jesus, the Great High Priest: Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

The moment schizophrenia dawns or breaks in the life of a Christian signals the mysterious invasion of an evil spirit of torment.

Whatever pleasant delight of peace you enjoyed in the Holy Spirit hitherto is now most seriously challenged.

You may know what I am speaking about as your experience of the assault of evil on your mind went on to register total mayhem in every area of your life.

Alongside the take-over of your mind is a confusion of thoughts that takes some handling – little wonder you are able to be vocal about what has happened in your life.

How can you obtain a semblance of rest in your life when hit by such a demonic power? Will the enjoyment of God and His peace in both mind and heart ever return? Can Jesus Christ triumph in your life by providing the power and authority to drive out the intruder(s) robbing you of your precious freedom in God?

The answer to such questions is that through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ you are able to defeat what may seem to be such a formidable foe. Think again of the great victory He secured in order that you might know His freedom every single day of your life.

Let this good news refresh you today that the power that raised Jesus from the dead lives in you if you have confessed with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believed in your heart that God raised him from the dead. You are therefore saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

May I pass on the encouragement I found in Jesus when in the early part of suffering schizophrenia, I, too, was at a loss not knowing what to do? It was through reaching out to Him with a very small amount of trust that He helped me through. Even during the times when faith was absent, God was faithful in keeping me. He will do the same for you, too.

After my first long spell in an old-fashioned Victorian sanatorium in 1965 during which I received electric shock treatment and numbing medication, I was in no fit state to return to my job as a journalist, but it was the only work I knew. My editor could see that I was by no means fully recovered and my demeanour had changed. Through his kindness, he allowed me to restart work again.

But life was a struggle. No-one had a real understanding of what had happened to me and how hard it was trying to cope with life. It was difficult obtaining news stories while at the same time I was aware of the need of receiving comfort and strength to go on from the Holy Spirit. How I longed for deep rest in my heart while crying out for the peace of God to return to my mind.

Back-tracking over those days in the mid-sixties makes me aware of how much victory the Lord Jesus has secured in my life. Though I battled on through many unpleasant experiences and proved the keeping and delivering power of Jesus in it all, I was grateful for the measure of rest emanating from my spirit that influenced a mind in bondage.

Though it was a long battle spanning 26 years in which Jesus proved His faithfulness over and over again, I was grateful for the times that through trusting in the Word of God, He would pour rest and hope into my spirit centred on the precious promises I was reading.

For many years while working as a postman, a Post Office counter clerk and then in an office job in various roles, my mind was heavy and tired through taking medication. Little appreciation is placed on the damage so-called palliative drugs have on your mind over a long period of time. One consultant psychiatrist told me that I would be on drugs for the rest of my life, while his successor fed me a totally opposite opinion that I needn't remain on medication. I decided to ask God about the dilemma and concluded I would come off all medication when He guided me.

The experience of more heart-rest from the Lord and a sense of growing freedom in my life occurred when I was about to take my son on holiday. I was on fortnightly injections of modecate at the time. I began to stretch out the visits to the hospital to four weeks knowing that I needed to be awake and fresh in order to enjoy the holiday. Such a strategy worked wonders – I was amazed that I felt a new enjoyment of life dawning through having greater mental strength.

Shortly after the holiday was over in the autumn of 1987, I met Tina who was later to become my wife. This was a divinely-arranged meeting, though coming about through a Christian Dating Agency. Within three months, I received a vision from the Lord in my bedroom of Tina in a bridal gown with her father at her side. God spoke a word into my life "Enough is enough". I interpreted the word to be related to stopping all medication. Since that night in January 1988, I have not taken a tablet of any kind. Praise God!! (Read about it in Chapter 6 of Schizophrenia Defeated – link on the Homepage).

The cessation of drug-taking after about 24 years was difficult to handle in that I went through a period of "cold turkey". It wasn't an easy period at work during this time. Once several months had passed, I was pleasantly surprised to find my will becoming stronger. How it had been suppressed over the years because of drugs. The enjoyment of falling in love with Tina was a delight in itself, plus the sense of the peace and rest of Jesus returning in greater measure in both my mind and heart.

I still knew I needed deliverance and healing but it was at this time that things began to change because many people were praying for me. Tina had been challenged by the Holy Spirit to believe that I could be set free and if enough people prayed for me for enough time then there was a good chance of it happening for sure. The impact of prayers – from herself, her father Maurice Winterburn, a retired church of England minister, and his wife, Esther, alongside those from people up and down the country, began to affect me for good. I was becoming more militant in resisting and facing up to the demonic presence still residing in my life.

On a day when I realised that if this evil presence was to be ousted for good from my life it would take a commitment of faith and discipline of prayer, I made a vow to the Lord. Sat on the toilet in my morning tea-break, I promised the Lord I would pray and fast and come to seek him in my tea-breaks and dinner-breaks until He had broken the power of the demonic presence. So I varied my visits to the toilets on the three floors in the Post Office building in order to wait on God.

With my worn-out Personal Workers New Testament, I stole away to meet Jesus at these trysting times. I just longed to hide myself away to seek the Lord, pray and devour His Word. The devil used to suggest to me quite often: "Everybody knows where you go in your break times. They think you are a bit queer." I silenced those jibes knowing that he was beginning to fear the outcome of my calling out to God. My freedom was drawing closer, and the confidence now coming from waiting on God brought into my life a rest which was deep and very special. Sometimes, God would meet me in those break times. I wanted to remain soaking in the presence of God instead of returning to my desk to resume work.

It was nothing less than the rest of faith being given by the Lord. What an enjoyment to know His rest and the communion which results from seeking God. As the Scripture plainly says: "There is a rest to the people of God." And again the promise of Jesus: **"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."** (Matthew 7:7-8)

Today, it maybe the cry of your heart to know the freedom of Jesus from schizophrenia and I can well understand your urgent longing for that. Don't get discouraged as you feel nobody is helping you and that you will never shake it off!! Jesus Christ is well able to bring you out and restore your life. I was once in a place where you find yourself today but through the intervention of Jesus He led me out. And he can do the same for you, too.

Take hold of the promises of God – read them, meditate on them, pray them out, make declaration of their truth; plead the blood of Jesus Christ which is still as powerful today for you against principalities and powers that have been defeated; hope in God who is mindful of you in all you are passing through and is on hand to help you into His freedom; the resources of heaven are at your disposal..... so remember - **"If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32"**

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

2012 15 January – The Mind Of The Spirit Overcoming The Schizophrenic Mind

2011 30 October – Faith In Jesus Releasing His Life, Authority and Power To Set You Free

2010 1 August – How to Find a Resting Place with God In Prayer As You Fight To Become 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 of your conquering Resurrection Presence. I want to know the reality of your promise that whoever follows you shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life. Make it happen for me I pray in the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.



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, too, can also be completely set free and my whole life enjoy the total freedom of Jesus. Amen.

PROCLAMATION FOR GOD'S PROTECTION

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): “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks the door will be opened.” Luke 11: 9-10

Teach me your way, O LORD, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name. I will praise you, O Lord my God, with all my heart; I will glorify your name for ever. For great is your love towards me; you have delivered me from the depths of the grave. Psalm 86: 11-13

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13

The Weekly Encourager:

6 May - Jesus Christ Gives Endurance and Encouragement In Your Fight To Be Free Of Schizophrenia

13 May - When To Pray by R. A. Torrey

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

