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Weekly Encourager - 4 October 2015

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey NOW IN HIS 26TH YEAR OF FREEDOM FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA AND OVER 27 YEARS OFF ALL PSYCHOTIC MEDICATION - THANKS TO JESUS CHRIST.

Triumphant Faith

by the late Pastor W. T. H. Richards of Slough Gospel Tabernacle, England

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS LUKE CHAPTER 4: Key verses 31-37: Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit:

Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.



The Christian life cannot be experienced or maintained apart from faith. Yet we often lose sight of its importance and remain in ignorance of its tremendous potential. To catch a fleeting glimpse of its nature will bring the soul into a new spiritual dimension. To possess a small seed from this fruit enables a child of God to start a spiritual revolution. Heaven is delighted and Hell demented when we operate on the faith principle.

Bible faith is different from the so-called faith we may have in a bus driver to get us to our destination, or in the word of a man who arranges the route we should take. This has nothing at all to do with faith that is born of the Spirit because in both instances failure and disappointment may ensue. The bus may not get there; the directions given may be entirely misleading; but faith which is the gift of God does not and cannot fail, mislead or disappoint. If we study the subject in a negative manner we shall see how mighty and unique it is.

Faith cannot give up in despair

Faith can never lead a child of God to weep in abject defeat. This does not mean that the Christian is never broken and melted, or that he does not experience times of failure. Some of the greatest saints have wept in despair. But it is not so with faith. It never sits down before problems or a crisis and cries. It stands up and laughs! Faith never moans in defeat, it sings triumphantly in prison cells and sinking ships because the purpose of God is being worked out.

It is when we lose sight of this, gloom fills the soul, but when faith comes in we are as transformed men, elated, strengthened, authoritative. Faith can look into an empty barrel of meal and see a year's supply! It can touch a desert rock and bring forth fresh, sparkling water to quench the thirst of weary pilgrims. Faith is more than a match for any situation.

Dr. A. C. Dixon on one occasion stated that when he was pastor in a church in Boston they needed two thousand dollars to square up the year's accounts. He and his officers resolved to ask God to send the money. They met for prayer, and one of the deacons rose from his knees and said:

“Brethren, God has answered our prayers. He will send the money in next Sunday’s collections.” When Sunday morning came it was the worst Sunday for rain Dr. Dixon had ever known. Half of the congregation would never venture out. It was suggested that they should postpone the collection. “No,” replied the praying deacon, “I did not trust the weather; I trusted God.” The collection was taken and amounted to twenty-six hundred dollars. Faith does not and cannot despair.

Faith cannot give room to fear

It knows nothing of tension or strain. It is relaxed. It cannot worry or panic. Someone has said that faith is divorced from fear. That is not strictly true. They were never married! The past heroes of faith sat calmly in a den of lions; walked confidently towards giants and slept soundly the night before the day of execution, “Though an host should camp against me, my heart shall not fear”. Faith rests happily on the promise, “All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

D. L. Moody once told the story of a little child whose father and mother died, and she was taken into another family. The first night she asked if she could pray as she used to do. “Oh yes,” said they. So she knelt down and prayed as her mother taught her, and when that was ended she added a little prayer of her own: “O God, make these people as kind to me as father and mother were.” Then she paused, and looked up, as if expecting her answer, and then added, “Of course you will.” Faith banishes fear from the soul.

Faith cannot submit to human reasoning

Someone wrote, “Faith is not **sense**, nor **sight**, nor **reason**, it is taking God at His word”. Absolutely right! At the Red Sea human reason said, “Stand still”. Faith replied, “Go forward!” Human reason says you must always be sensible”. Faith answers, “No, sometimes you must act in a way that appears to be stupid.” Naaman would tell you that and so would Gideon. Human reason would tell Gideon, “You haven’t enough soldiers”. Faith cried, “You have too many!” Then he went into battle with 300 men, all of them with a trumpet in one hand and a pitcher in the other, and conquered! Peter would also agree with this sentiment, particularly after he was ordered to fish for money to pay his Income Tax contribution. When the crowd of hungry people who sat listening to Jesus became faint through hunger, human reason said, “Send them home”.

Faith answered, “No, make them sit down to eat.” Human reason says, “We know how the world began”. But the Bible states that it is only “by faith we understand the worlds were framed”. Obviously there is a place for reason. It is true also that God uses men of keen intellect. But faith is of a higher order. It imparts the mind of the Spirit. We must always remember that to depend on human reasoning alone is to walk the pathway to spiritual failure.

Faith cannot operate in normal circumstances

Of course, the whole of the Christian experience is a “life of faith”, but we will never achieve exploits through faith if we remain “fair-weather” Christians and rely on human resources. We cannot exercise faith when we have a large Church bank account or when circumstances are calm and the enemy is silent. Faith comes in operation when the storms of life hit us. If we desire faith and to see its works of wonder, then we have to have a wilderness experience occasionally.

Sometimes it will seem as if we are in a fiery furnace, as the three Hebrew children, or walking in the dark, like Job. Faith is for adverse times and the “hopeless” situation; when we may feel like Paul in a ship drifting towards quicksands “and being exceedingly tossed” with neither sun nor stars to help. But it was then faith enabled the apostle to shout triumphantly “Be of good cheer, I believe God, it shall be even as it was told me.” How often Christians become faithless in such circumstances. Years ago the “Christian Herald” told of an incident in Cardinal Manning’s life. “At a time when was experiencing great depression of soul and a darkening of his faith he had to go into the shop of a well-known book-selling firm for a copy of one of his own books, entitled ‘Faith in God.’ As he waited for the book to be sent up from the storeroom he heard a man’s voice call up from the lift, ‘Manning’s “Faith in God” all gone.’ The cardinal, we are told, took the lesson to his own heart.” Take heart, weary Christian, if your circumstances are abnormal, if yours is a stormy night experience at the present time, faith is ready to come to you aid.

Faith cannot retire

It is too energetic! Its power is unlimited. It is always looking for spiritual gains and for new worlds to conquer. Faith keeps an old man young in spirit, like Caleb, who at 85 could say, "Give me this mountain" and was eager to drive the enemy from the land. Faith quickens the spirit and fires the imagination. As long as we live it will accompany us. As long as we have need, faith is ready to operate. Faith is never bankrupt. It never goes out of business! It is unbiased and knows no class distinction. It is no respecter of persons or places. We shall never be spiritually poverty stricken as long as we have faith.

J. G. Mantle put it like this. Let us grasp the programme of God, here it is, clearly revealed in the Word of God. But, oh, how many of us stop short. We stop him short. It is just as if we went to a wealthy man for a contribution to some piece of work that commended itself to his judgment. We see him take out his cheque book and he puts down "1" with an "0" against it. We say "Thank you very much." He says, "What are you thanking me for? I am going to two more '0's to it. You are thanking me for ten pounds, when I meant to give you a thousand pounds." We thank our Father for ten pounds, when he wants to give us a thousand pounds; and he wants to make us spiritual millionaires; and he will do so, if we will only enter into his wonderful programme of blessing."

Faith cannot perform to satisfy the carnally minded

Faith does not show off. It is not an exhibitionist. It never acts in an irresponsible manner. That is why Jesus would not perform a miracle for the Devil, who said, "Command that these stones be made bread" and while on the pinnacle of the temple, Satan said, "Cast thyself down, for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee", but Jesus refused to indulge in this folly. We read in Luke 23:8 that Herod "hoped to have seen some miracle done by Him". The scripture says of Christ, "He answered him nothing". Faith does not perform to satisfy the whims of men. The main purpose of faith is to strengthen the believer in God and His Word, so that we bring honour to His name.

Faith cannot die

It will never be blighted by disease or wither away, unless we believe God can die. "Now abides faith, hope, charity", 1 Corinthians 13. It is an eternal principle. Tongues, prophecy, knowledge, human relations, will all pass away, but this virtue abides. As faith here brings us into a new spiritual realm, so faith in Emmanuel's Land will enable us to rise to new heights of understanding in the knowledge of God and to see the glory of the Lord. But it will operate on a different basis. There we will experience no storms, no darkness, disease or death. It will be subject to new laws, system and procedure. If it is so wonderfully strengthening, assuring and exciting here in the old order, how wonderful must it be in the new!

How do we receive this faith? Well, it does not come to us through "positive thinking", saying to oneself "You can make it if you want to". It is good, of course, to have a certain confidence in oneself, but that is different from having faith to do the impossible, to do what man cannot do and to please God at the same time. This faith is deposited in the heart by the Spirit. It comes as we devour His Word, as we are still before God, as we yield to His dealings with us. Faith is granted to us according to the measure of our need and as Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones has said in his book on Romans, "Don't give up because you don't have Abraham's faith. This is faith at its best, as it ought to be." Yet we have failed to understand and appreciate the amazing statement of Jesus in Matthew 17:20, "If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." Far from moving mountains the Church is having great difficulty brushing aside molehills. How we all need to earnestly pray, "**LORD, INCREASE OUR FAITH.**"

FOR FURTHER READING – See Archive File

2012 - 21 October: Allow No Place Where Satan Can Say He Was Too Much For You

2011 - 20 February: God Can Free You Of Schizophrenia And Restore All Your Lost Years

2010 - 29 August: Getting To Know The God Of The Bible Personally

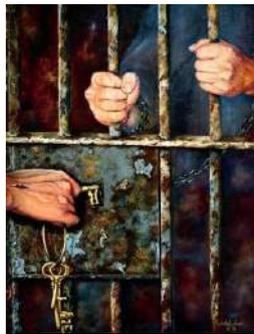
A PRAYER OF HOPE FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: "Lord God Almighty, will you hear my prayer and make the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ real to me. Wipe away my sins that were atoned for on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus in order that I might not have to die eternally. I believe that Jesus 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): "But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." Luke 8:15

(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." John 15:13

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, - to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

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