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Weekly Encourager - 4 and 11 September 2016

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to trust Jesus Christ to defeat schizophrenia from James STACEY NOW IN HIS 27TH YEAR OF FREEDOM - OVER 28 YEARS OFF ALL PSYCHOTIC MEDICATION - THANKS TO JESUS CHRIST.

PRAYING THOUGHTS OF FREEDOM FROM YOUR HEART TO RELEASE YOUR MIND

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS ST. MATTHEW'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 13:1-23

The Parable of the Sower: That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear."



The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?"

He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables. Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

"In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.'

"But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. What was sown on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. What was sown among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. But what was sown on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

There are several excellent books available equipping born-again Christians WITHOUT schizophrenia to win the battle of the mind, though the kind offering spiritual instruction on how to defeat the real demonic bondage you battle with are less rare.

Gladly receive every bit of spiritual truth and light from publications to arm you for the fight, but make it your supreme desire to turn to God himself and the Bible for sufficient resources to break through into freedom.

Once schizophrenia dawns, your spiritual intuition makes you immediately aware that something in your life has changed. It is a strange experience to face, the greatest realisation being that fellowship with Jesus Christ is being assaulted.

I knew Jesus as my Lord and Saviour for eight years before the onslaught of schizophrenia. My mind had been used to submitting to the Spirit's rule but now it seemed as though a new discipline was required to lead me into spiritual reality so that my spirit was able to enlighten my mind.

This "battle of the mind" was much more of a struggle than what a Christian faces with doubts, fears and insecurity. Its nature lay in a constant pressure on the mind caused by a demonic or evil sense of darkness taking up residence in my life. You may well understand what I am referring to if you hear voices.

The common practice of dealing with a person suffering with schizophrenia is to follow the well-established pattern of getting psychiatric help and giving medication to subdue any strange behaviour or experience. What happens from then on is that your understanding of the darkness coming into your life is less sharp because the mind dulled, making a spiritual fight to survive much harder.

To explain it further – when you receive Jesus into your life as Lord and Saviour and are forgiven of the sin that separates you from God, you KNOW His gift of eternal life has come to you. Everything has changed!! As a disciple of Jesus, you seek to live in fellowship with Him day by day through growing in His grace and being obedient to God's Word revealed in the Bible.

Before knowing Christ, the function of your Spirit (because it was dead in trespasses and sins) was not operating. But now you have been quickened to new life in Jesus. You possess spiritual discernment – which is well able to sense that the birth of schizophrenia has suddenly brought darkness into your life and is now harassing your freedom and joy in Jesus.

My first main treatment in hospital of schizophrenia was so devastating and life-shattering that when I came out to recover following electric-shock treatment and heavy medication, there was little in the way of proper function in my spirit to fully discern what had been going on.

A passivity had crept into my life which brought a heaviness in thinking. I went back to work as a newspaper reporter but everyone knew something had changed in me. I was to them a different person. I hadn't got the usual energy and my output of stories and activity was well below par.

But most of all, there was a dullness of mind present throughout every day. How do you recover the loss of such a precious experience of the peace and joy of God in the Holy Spirit? It becomes more and more difficult when you are in the habit of taking more and more medication every day.

It is at such a point that many Christian schizophrenics give up attending for work as the discipline to keep down a job seems impossible. I am sure there are loved ones and relatives you know who are observing that your life is not what it used to be and they are saddened, along with yourself, that you are missing out on life at its best. But do not give up hope of regaining your life and freedom in Jesus!!

When I recall those days, I see there was a need to move up a gear or two with the jobs I was trying to do but it was extremely hard to find the strength of will to succeed. It's no good being told to pull "your socks up" - and many who trot out those words have no idea the nature of the bondage upon you.

But here is where the word of God comes in. It has a quickening ability when taken hold of by faith. God's word is the lifeline of hope to every schizophrenic, including yourself, no matter how hard it is to lean on it, see it, hope in it, and keep it alive in your heart. Remember, "the hearing ear, the knowing heart both come from Thee O Lord. O may I never depart from the hearing of Thy Word."

Without a lifeline of hope produced by faith in Jesus, your struggle will be much harder. You can only pray as the word of God energises and stirs you. You may read such words as: "The Lord is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1-2) and are inspired to take hold of that word in faith, believe it, speak it out. Something happens when we believe and declare the word of God!!

In a moment of inspiration you may say to God: "Lord God, I am still your child who has received your salvation through Jesus, Your Son. I do not understand this mess of schizophrenia that has come into my life but I thank you that you know all that I am passing through. With your help, I am believing that You will not only help me to endure but also to conquer it through Your power and strength. I plead the blood of Jesus over my life, and in His Name bind up the power of the enemy who is seeking to mess up my life more and more. Protect me Lord for I am in great need. I pray in the Name of Jesus. Amen".

May I encourage you to discover the power of the Word of God and use it in your life. The most significant time in the early days of suffering schizophrenia was when I came to the Lord and said: "Lord, I want to know how to live in You, how to abide in You." He led me to John Chapter 15 verses 1-8 and the words: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. IF YOU REMAIN IN ME AND MY WORDS REMAIN IN YOU, ASK WHATEVER YOU WISH, AND IT WILL BE GIVEN YOU. This is to my Father's glory that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples." (*capitals inserted*).

The passion for Jesus that had come into my life at Bible College as a student of 20 years-old was still there. I had no desire to live my life without Jesus. I wanted to know the power of the Lord and His resurrection at any cost – even though battling schizophrenia.

Had it not have been for the Lord Jesus Christ enabling me through the power of the Holy Spirit to "live in the Word of God", the task of remaining sane would surely have been lost. When your mind is a battlefield into which the devil is throwing all his lies and deceptions, the importance of holding your ground is essential. Never allow your mind to become so passive that the devil can mount an offensive against you.

SO "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything to stand.

"Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled round your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

"Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Ephesians 6: 10-18

FOR FURTHER READING – See Archive File

2012 - 14 October: How To Prevent Schizophrenia Disintegrating Your Personality

2011 - 28 August: The Bible Inspires Faith To Keep Hope Alive To Defeat Schizophrenia

2010 - 20 June: Persevering In Faith, Prayer And God's Word Drives Out The Demon Of Schizophrenia

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.

On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity."

Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Luke 13: 10-13

For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. Romans 8: 24-25

Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall. Psalm 55:22

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