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Weekly Encourager - 8 July 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 over 24 years - thanks to Jesus

## “JESUS – LOOK TO YOUR FAITHFULNESS AND SET ME FREE!!”

### THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING: MARK CHAPTER 10

#### Blind Bartimaeus Receives His Sight: (Verses 46-52)

Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging. When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”



Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

Jesus stopped and said, “Call him.”

So they called to the blind man, “Cheer up! On your feet! He’s calling you.” Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.

“What do you want me to do for you?” Jesus asked him.

The blind man said, “Rabbi, I want to see.”

“Go,” said Jesus, “your faith has healed you.” Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

Whenever true spiritual understanding is revealed by the Holy Spirit that our loving Heavenly Father wants to make known His Word through Jesus Christ in us, heaven’s treasure drops into our lives!!

Take, for example, the following statement by Jesus and consider what power receiving it has to impact our lives: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.” (John 15:9-10)

Such words are so marvellous and beyond our human comprehension – but sufficient enough to convey to us the worth that God Himself places on our lives and the measure of His love for us.

Again, allow your heart to be drawn out in worship to God as you read: “I will never forget you. I have carved you upon the palms of my hands.” Isaiah 49:15-16

These words convey how much God in Jesus was willing to go through when He died for us on the cross at Calvary and in so doing manifested the full heart of His love for us. What He has

accomplished loses us “in wonder, love and praise” as we contemplate being loved with “an everlasting love.”

When you are touched by the great ocean of God’s love flowing into your heart, it is a total transformation affecting your whole life.

Would that every schizophrenic when experiencing the dawning of the spiritual bondage in their life, was already in a vital relationship of love with Jesus Christ before it happened – but, sad to say, this is too often not the case.

I had eight years growing in discipleship with Jesus before schizophrenia erupted. Getting to know God’s strong love became the greatest obsession of my heart and life when all was well. When the spiritual darkness of schizophrenia came it was necessary to hold on to God who had revealed His love to me and taught me the truths of His Word.

Difficult though it is to continue following Jesus when schizophrenia takes hold, it is of the greatest benefit if there is that foundational knowledge of being loved by Jesus; the lies sown into your mind some days by evil spirits behind the condition may suggest that Jesus no longer loves you but your faith in Jesus asserts otherwise.

You maybe grappling with all the complexities that occur when schizophrenia is present – asking God about it, with something like: “Why has this sudden “thing” hit me and completely turned my world upside down.” But the biggest question you may struggle with is: “Does God still love me in this? I do not now feel his love as I used to. I am by no means as sure of His love today as I once was.”

It is here that the battle of facing and overcoming schizophrenia is fought. For the battle must be won out of your sure knowledge and revelation that God does exist and love you, something you are never prepared to deny. You can faithfully hold on to God during the hell of schizophrenia by praying and steeping yourself in the promises of God that include declarations of who you are in Christ. It is sure evidence to the powers of spiritual darkness that you know who owns your life and mean to assert His ownership.

During the times of difficulty keep on quoting the word of God to yourself as a shield of defence against the spiritual forces coming against you. Allow every faithful promise of the Word of God to rise in your heart, which, of course, must have been memorised and treasured. “I have loved you with an everlasting love” found in Jeremiah 31:3 is the kind of promise which can pour strength into your life, causing you to endure and fight on to victory in the strength of God’s love until the evil presence of schizophrenia is driven out.

#### *GOD PROMISES TO LOVE YOU AS MUCH AS HE LOVES HIS ONE AND ONLY SON:*

This is such a majestic truth to ponder. Because it is beyond the grasp of our mere mortal minds and hearts, we always finish up saying something like: “Lord, I know your love for me is wonderful. I have felt your love and will continue to believe that you will always love me no matter whatever happens to me.”

To be able to trust the love of God each day when you are harassed with schizophrenia affecting your life, shows how much you believe in the faithfulness of God. For more than 26 years I was robbed of what I would regard as the sensations of near intimacy with Christ because spirits of rejection, rebellion and suicide swept into my life. Until they were finally “driven out” by the power of prayer as I became strongly opposed to their presence through asserting how much God loved me, my freedom in Christ was restricted.

I have many memories of the times spent when nothing seemed to be going on in my life. The so-called faith I attempted to exercise in the Lord was by no means a “full conscious, active faith” rather more like a slender life-line of hope hanging on to Christ. But the main thing was that Christ was holding me, watching over me, planning in love for me. Faith has to ascend a life of feelings when heavy medication and electric shock treatment cause a numbing of your emotions towards God.

So the way forward is simply to say, "I know that God loves me and I love Him but right now I have to say that I can't feel His love. I am determined to go on trusting Him until through the power of His love in prayer until the evil spirits hampering my life are driven out."

Schizophrenia causes such a miserable life that as much help as possible needs to be given to those who can be reached by Christians brimming over with the compassion of Jesus. I have found it a great joy just to contact someone in need for whom a brief word is the greatest encouragement. A single woman moving to middle-age wrote to us on Wednesday this week to say that she was feeling sad and upset because she felt that we had forsaken her. We had spent 1 hour and 15 minutes a few days earlier counselling and mainly praying for her after horrendous pre-birth abuse in the womb causing deep rejection. She still needs further deliverance and healing.

She needed to know the love of Jesus first and foremost coming from Christians who showed an interest in her life. It was necessary to contact her to say that contrary to what she felt, we had not forsaken her, and were continuing to pray for her. I can testify how comforting it is when someone shows an interest in you from the time when my wife Tina "stuck with me" in the first months of getting to know her because she "felt compassion for me". I did not allow her to walk out of my life the day she announced to me, as we walked to a restaurant from the car park: "This is our last meeting today, James. There is no point in our relationship any longer!!"

I was holding onto a vision received from the Lord a few months earlier in which I saw Tina in a bridal gown. It was this that caused me that day not to allow her to end the relationship and so I refused to let her go. But had I allowed her to walk out of my life – while still suffering with schizophrenia – I just do not know how I would have coped. People with schizophrenia need to see the love of Jesus Christ in human form – in the lives of believers who know Him and have confidence in the power of His love to set them free.

#### GOD PROMISES TO ALWAYS BE FAITHFUL IN HIS LOVE TO YOU:

Having left behind the prison house of schizophrenia where I was bound for 26 years, I now possess a wonderful appreciation of the faithfulness of God. Knowing that God was faithful through all the difficult circumstances of my life and in protecting through endless stressful times of spiritual contest, I can now say - "God is certainly faithful." I hope you too are proving the faithfulness of God today as you seek His help and strength through faith to enable you to conquer schizophrenia. When He defeats the bondage there will be a great appreciation of all He did for you in terms of being faithful.

It is a tremendously re-assuring fact that God will never let you down, never turn His back on you and His faithfulness guarantees that He will be always by your side. He is watching your every move and has an intimate detailed knowledge of all you passing through. He desires to pour His love into your heart and seeks to break the stronghold of schizophrenia over your life.

Nothing changes God's faithfulness to us. We may become unfaithful to Him but He forever remains the same. He never changes His promises, will always love us and His mercy is unending toward those who love him.

In the first book of Corinthians 1:9 it says: "God, who has called you into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful."

There is an inspiring verse in a hymn by Charles Wesley - regarded by many as the world's greatest hymn writer – in the Methodist Hymn Book which suggests that as Christians we can hold God to His faithfulness. The lines are to do with dealing with sin in our lives and claiming the power of God to deliver us from the power of sinning. We can also apply the idea of holding God to His faithfulness in times of needing His help too and cry out to Him to show Himself faithful to us. The verse goes as follows:-

The most impossible of all is, that I e'er from sin should cease; Yet shall it be, I know it shall; Jesus, look to Thy faithfulness! If nothing is too hard for Thee, All things are possible to me.

May our Loving Heavenly Father give you and me the love that never gives up, the faith that never fails and the hope that endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 12:7

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

**2012:** 26 February - Why Does The Church Trust The Psychiatrist More Than Jesus In Helping Mental Captives

**2011:** 9 October - "Lord, My Deliverer, I Cry Out To You Again And Again"

**2010:** 24 January – Never Ever, No Never, Be Convinced By Evil Voices It Is Time To Quit

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*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.*

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**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"

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*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.*

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## **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

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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): “Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.” Luke 22:31

We live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5: 7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6

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## **The Weekly Encourager:**

**15 JULY: “This One Thing I Know – Jesus’ Love Never Failed Me Yet”**

**22 JULY: Discover The Preciousness Of Faith In Your Pursuit Of Freedom**

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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](http://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*

