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Weekly Encourager – 10 April 2011

(from James Stacey: scriptural advice and insight on how to be set free from schizophrenia)

HOW TO RESIST SATAN IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MATTHEW'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 4: The Temptation of Jesus: Key Verses 1-11 - Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. After fasting for forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' " Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. **"If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.' "** Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.' " Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. *(This incident is also recorded in Mark's Gospel 1:12-13 and Luke's Gospel 4:1-13)*

What unique instruction is afforded all Christians through the Gospel record of witnessing how Jesus effectively dealt with temptation - a pattern of resistance always to be followed.

As a born-again Christian battling with schizophrenia, this incident provides you with the God-given strategy of resisting Satan through using the authority and power of the Word of God. Apply it, and you will find victory so liberating that it can inspire you to break free of the bondage.

Jesus Christ is our example in everything. When we follow what He did during His time on earth we will come through victorious. If we want to know how to succeed in prayer, let's look at the prayer life of Jesus. If we want to live whole-heartedly for God, let's consider how Jesus sought only to bring pleasure to the heart of His Father.

In the realm of defeating temptation and every attack of Satan, let's ask God to pour into our hearts the lessons to be gained from this true happening in the life of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness after 40 days of fasting.

Every born-again Christian focused on defeating schizophrenia has a lot to contend with when it comes to overcoming temptation.

Once committed to driving out a demonic darkness from your life, it will require a total reliance on the Word of God that will bring you through – the same strategy used by Jesus against Satan when he tried to undermine and scupper the divine mission of Jesus dying on the Cross for the sins of the world.

You soon notice in the gospel recording, how adept Satan was in using Scripture in order to get Jesus to do what he wanted. He hasn't changed his tactics against you or me today. Even though he is the father of lies, with no vestige of truth in him, he quotes scripture when it suits him, in order to bring about our downfall.

Notice that Jesus countered every temptation in which Satan quoted scripture with an appropriate true passage of the Word of God which demolished Satan's crafty and subtle approach aimed at getting Jesus to give in.

You too will need to know how to answer Satan when he steals into your mind with voices and suggestions tempting you to forfeit the security you have in Jesus Christ. Resistance found in the Word of God will drive him away!! You need to declare your resistance each and every time "in the Name of Jesus." Stating that you belong to Jesus Christ and he owns your life through the power of His shed blood on Calvary has immense effect in seeing Satan and demons back off.

I can testify how during 26 years of battling with the bondage of schizophrenia, this was my number one battle. The suggestive voices which were robbing me of intimate and real fellowship with God had one purpose in mind – that of destroying my life. Satan's aim is to get us all in hell with him – but having got us there he couldn't care less about us.

Can you imagine, as I am sure you can, the psychological and emotional turmoil present every day? But here is the good news. In it all, God gave the sustaining power and protection of His Word into my spirit which warded off incessant attacks. And he can do the same for you, too. Do believe that He can!!

Mind you, it was no easy fight. Jesus himself can attest to that. He was the one providing all I needed. Through His faithfulness came the will to endure. He sits at the Father's right hand for you and me, and for all who suffer schizophrenia, interceding in His heavenly ministry and role with the Father to support, strengthen and provide all the spiritual resources needed to bring your ultimate freedom. Deliverance and healing of schizophrenia, God is well able to do!!

It was the Word of God living in my heart that finally defeated schizophrenia. So what I am trying to exhort you to do is to trust God and to trust his Holy Word to bring you through as well!!

Discover the power of God's Word!! I asked God in the early days of living with schizophrenia for a closer walk with Him. I seriously wanted to know what it meant to abide in Him, to live in Him. God led me to John Chapter 15 where Jesus talks about "abiding in him" and receiving what is asked for.

I thought: "If I can but get the Word of God inside me that will be the key to abiding in Jesus." In John's gospel chapter 6 verse 63, Jesus also said: "The words that I speak unto you are spirit and life", - another scripture coming as a powerful revelation and supplemental to what I had read in John 15.

So I set to read, memorise and meditate on the Word of God. The result was monumental BRINGING AT THE SAME TIME THE LIVING PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT INTO MY LIFE because the words of Jesus are spirit and life.

During every difficult time when Satan's voice sought to suggest something of a destructive order, I would seek to reply with the true Word of God which shed light into my spirit and kept my darkened mind sane.

As you trust in the LORD, you, too, will prove His faithfulness to you through His Word. Take heart that God has defeated the schizophrenia spirit and will bring you into His freedom.

Only listen to the truth of God. When you do, you realise that every evil spirit is subject to you. It is then possible to live in the place of triumph and freedom and "reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ." (Romans 5:17).

For further help from the Bible visit the Weekly Encourager for 16 and 23 January, 2011

PRAYER - Dear loving Heavenly Father, you know how much I desire to be set free of schizophrenia and enter the full freedom which your Son Jesus obtained for me when He died on the Cross of Calvary. I ask you to help me grow in the knowledge and truth of the Word of God so that the power and authority of your Word may take me forward to be delivered and healed of schizophrenia. In the Name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

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 learn and commit to memory 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): “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

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5 8-9

(Jesus said): “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” Matthew 7: 13-14

The Weekly Encourager

17 April: The Defeat of Schizophrenia Was Achieved When Jesus Died at Calvary

24 April: How Powerful Is The Discipline of Meditation in Defeating Schizophrenia

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-versed 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