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Weekly Encourager – 10 October 2010

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

HIDE YOURSELF AWAY WITH GOD AND RECEIVE STRENGTH TO DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS 1st BOOK OF KINGS 19: Key Verses 3-6: Elijah was afraid and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his servant there, while he himself went a day's journey into the desert. He came to a broom tree, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. "I have had enough LORD," he said. "Take my life, I am no better than my ancestors." Then he lay down under the tree and fell asleep. All at once an angel touched him and said, "Get up and eat." He looked around, and there by his head was a cake of bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again. 11-13: The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD; for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing her Elijah?"

It's not an easy thing for a born-again schizophrenic to learn the discipline of stealing away and having time with the LORD. Your much-needed fellowship with Jesus will be easier to succeed in performing if you had already been schooled by the Holy Spirit before the advent of mental bondage on your life.

If you came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour after the assault came on your mind, it will be more difficult to cultivate fellowship with him. That is because the double activity of beginning a new life in Christ at the same time as coping with the deepest of psychotic illnesses is a tough situation to face.

How do you become acquainted with hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit now you have received Christ while, at the same time, contending against the presence of evil voices of schizophrenia bombarding your mind? It's not so straightforward because there is a spiritual battle in force for your mind.

It's a big enough task – as I found out as a believer for about eight years – having to ward off and resist Satanic voices calling on the help of the Holy Spirit. What deep confusion the mind is thrown into when you are an unbeliever and have no hidden resources in God to draw on and employ!

Ideally, every schizophrenic who comes to know Jesus needs immediate and constant support from other Christians to help them grow in meaningful fellowship with their new-found Saviour. But, too often, it is lacking. The awareness of the situation described above is just not realised by the majority of Christians, and, therefore, there is often no corresponding support and care.

A church fellowship or individual Christian may readily respond to the need to be there to nurture a new Christian, but many will not have a clue about helping you - a schizophrenic who has turned to Jesus. The internal struggle going on in your life will demand a lot of discernment and understanding, as well as love and patience.

It is at this point that you need to seek out understanding help from Christians who know what you are passing through. Every schizophrenic who received Jesus before, or came to know him after, the demonic bondage emerged, needs constant help in one form or another in being supported to pursue and find Christ's deliverance and freedom.

To hear God's voice in your spirit is to know God (see John 10 verses 14-15). No other voice, demonic or otherwise should be allowed to have the mastery in your life. Hearing the voice of the Holy Spirit in your spirit enables you to mount aggressive resistance on each and every devilish assault on your mind.

How do I cultivate hearing God's voice, you ask? Begin by asking your Christian friend for help on this. The condition of schizophrenia is one which causes you to withdraw into yourself because of the internal struggles ensuing. To withdraw on your own for the purpose of prayer and meditation can sometimes be a time of confusion. You need to confide in your friend about the mixture of voices being heard in your life – and how to discern what is of God and what is not.

Never minimise the importance of receiving help from a Christian friend or a church who are there to really care for you. Commit yourself to asking for their help. You need to be linked to Christians you can trust and who know of the problems that are current in your life relating to being able to hear the voice of God. Seek guidance from them at all times.

CONCLUSION: If you knew Jesus before schizophrenia dawned on your life, you should have grown in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ and of hearing his voice. You will therefore know the preciousness of discerning his voice and the strength that gives you in battling schizophrenia. Make sure you continue to take time out to seek God. Hearing his voice will enable the truth of the Holy Spirit to guide you as you pursue your freedom.

To those of you who have just received Jesus as Lord and have suffered with schizophrenia for some time, do consider the advice above concerning seeking help and support from those Christians and churches who understand you need help to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit. Do not be slow to find such help, it is most important at this early stage of knowing Christ – and then as you continue in your desire to be completely free.

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: "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 for you to learn and commit to memory and 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.

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8: 31-32

My soul is weary with sorrow; strengthen me according to your word. Keep me from deceitful ways; be gracious to me through your law. I have chosen the way of truth; I have set my heart on your laws. I hold fast to your statutes, O LORD; do not let me be put to shame. I run in the path of your commands, for you have set my heart free. Psalm 119: 28-32

(Jesus said): "When the Counsellor comes whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning. John 15: 26-27

The Weekly Encourager:

17 October: The Power of God Will Help You Keep Your Sanity and Break Free of Schizophrenia

24 October: How to Pray Effectively for the Protection and Freeing of Your Mind

You maybe 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