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Weekly Encourager – 17 January 2010

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

JESUS IS WAITING TO HEAR YOUR CRY FOR HELP; HIS RESPONSE WILL BE TO DELIVER

"In the day of my trouble I will call to you, for you will answer me." Psalm 86: 7

"I will never forget you ... I have carved you upon the palms of my hands" Isaiah 49: 15-16

Never lose sight of the wonderful reality that the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is only a prayer away. How many lives have been changed and delivered when a cry for help has moved the compassionate heart of our glorious God and brought his intervention so swift and always with a perfect answer. Yes, He is still the only loving God who specializes in things thought impossible; He can still do what no other can do in your life today and any day.

Never lose sight, too, of the glorious truth that when you commit your life to the Lord Jesus – something we recommend doing before seeking to be delivered of schizophrenia by him - you are from that moment protected and cared for by the Almighty God himself who holds you in the hollow of his hand. (see Isaiah text above). Jesus said: **"I give them eternal life; and they shall never perish, no-one can snatch them out of my hand" (John 10 verse 28).**

It is the most comforting thing of all to be able to pray to a living God with whom you have established a relationship. When abnormal events or circumstances hit you, it is re-assuring to be able to turn to God in prayer and hold on with his strength and grace – but even more so when something like the advent of schizophrenia clouds your life and you see the need to fly to the Lord Jesus you already know for refuge and help.

TAKE HOLD TODAY AND DURING THE COMING WEEK, THE TRUTH THAT GOD ANSWERS YOUR PRAYER. Fix the thought into your heart and mind that although you maybe struggling with schizophrenia at the moment and can't see the way out of the bondage, you have faith to believe in the one and only true God who loves you, is committed to you, watches over you, fights against the devil for you, and his power has overcome all the power of the evil one who is contending in your life.

We assert, as in last week's W.E., the need to move on to the attack and not to be on the defensive when demonic forces assail you. If you know Jesus then you have received his Holy Spirit into your life and it is His voice you love to hear, want to hear, and can hear with power so that every other evil voice has to be defeated.

Whenever you pass through those difficult times as your mind becomes a battlefield for Satan and you know it is a time when evil thoughts are being imposed into your mind that disturb youthen plead the power of the blood of Jesus Christ on your behalf to protect you, quote the word of God and the words of Jesus as your ammunition to fight back and dispel the poisonous intrusion into your thoughts. Stand your ground in the faith of Jesus, and you will be able having done all, to stand. (see Ephesians 6. verses 10-18)

This month marks the 22nd anniversary of the time when I came off all medication for good. I want to magnify the keeping power of the Lord Jesus Christ since January 1988 when he guided me to stop taking every form of tablet and injection and to trust him to keep me well. This was in fact two years and four months before the power of Jesus Christ set me completely free through a mighty act of deliverance from the demons of schizophrenia, religious spirit and suicide, followed by significant healing.

The issue of whether to come off or stay on medication is one which concerns every schizophrenic at some time. But many come off medication before it is time to do so and suffer a bad reaction. While the prolonged taking of medication can and does harm the mind and produces an unwanted passivity for the schizophrenic, it is always best to take the step of ending medication when guided by the Spirit of God to do so. (Obviously, this can only happen after a person has committed himself/herself to the Lord Jesus Christ and received his presence into their life - such a step enables a right decision to be made even though the mind is often assaulted and disturbed).

Here is some helpful guidance about discontinuing medication taken from my book, Schizophrenia Defeated, Chapter 5: "Crawling on my belly in the Principal's study."

"I often wondered if it was the right time to stop having my fortnightly injections. The longing to be free was often associated in my mind with ending all treatment, but I thought I ought not to make a rash decision. A psychiatrist had confused me by saying that it would not be necessary to keep having treatment throughout my lifetime. Perhaps I should chat to someone who would guide me. I proposed to do so when I went on a church trip to Lincoln to hear Rev Trevor Dearing.

"Trevor, who was a former of Cliff College like myself, had written a book called "God and Healing of the Mind", detailing his personal testimony of how God had changed his life. Doctors described his condition when a teenager as "chronic depression," "hysteria" and a "severe anxiety state" and he also suffered from an intense depression, which shrouded his mind like a heavy, black curtain. God had wonderfully brought deliverance and healing to his life, which I was hoping He would do for me. If anyone could advise me about ending my treatment, he was the man.

I was inspired with hope as I heard Trevor preach and saw him at the close of the service ministering Divine healing and praying with many people desiring personal help with their problems. It was not possible for me to approach him because of this involvement with others. As there was very little time before our bus left, I decided to talk with his wife, Anne, at the bookstall. I briefly explained my condition of needing injections following numerous visits to psychiatric hospitals. Her answer was brief but reassuring:

"Never come off your treatment until God tells you to."

And with that the internal struggle over the issue was settled.

PRAYER TO RECEIVE JESUS CHRIST AS SAVIOUR:

Lord Jesus Christ, I now acknowledge that you are the only Son of God who left heaven for earth to die on a Cross for me to take my sins away and forgive me. I confess that I am a sinner in need of your forgiveness and now receive you into my life. Come in and wash away all my sins, impart your life-giving Holy Spirit into my life and help me from this day to walk in the power of your victory on the Cross of Calvary and so glorify you with my life. I ask this in your Name. Amen

You may be reading this Weekly Encourager for the very first time; perhaps you've stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia which has just dawned on your life; or maybe you've been looking at W.E. every week for encouragement to help you deal with this "monster" of mental illnesses and have already gained HOPE that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One to open the prison door of your life once and for all.

We encourage you to keep logging into the site as often as you can for scriptural advice and help as we continue to point to the One who is well-versed and tested in the area of setting captives free from a bondage that no one else can conquer. The website, www.schizophreniadeffeated.com seeks to magnify the dear Son of God who left the courts of heaven to come to our world to die for you and me on the Cross at a place called Calvary just outside Jerusalem 2,000 years. In that great sacrifice, He paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine by dying for us and on the third day rose from the dead as "The Resurrection and the Life". He released the power of the Holy Spirit into the life of every believer accepting his sacrifice.

James Stacey
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals

"I will proclaim your mighty acts,
O sovereign Lord" Psalm 71: 16

