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Weekly Encourager – 17 July 2011

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 22nd year of freedom from the bondage - thanks to Jesus Christ

ALLOW NO PLACE WHERE SATAN CAN SAY HE WAS TOO MUCH FOR YOU

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MATTHEW CHAPTER 4: Key Verses 1-11: The Temptation of Jesus - 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.



Even though you came to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour before the dawning of schizophrenia, you may have had little awareness what spiritual warfare was all about!!

But make no mistake – when the bondage descends or erupts upon you and strange new voices of darkness hit your life, you know only too well the reality of being landed in a real, spiritual battle.

Others who seem to dismiss the real presence of the demonic in schizophrenia are a million miles away from what you know as a plain, living reality being faced every day.

When schizophrenia first hit me way back in 1964, I was only 18 months out of a Methodist Bible College. Immensely grateful for my time there, little mention was made about facing a spiritual war in one's own personal life. Making sure students were prepared to ward off the "fiery darts of the enemy" ought to have featured more in the year's training received.

But overwhelmed by an invading force of dark spiritual power a year later, I knew beyond doubt that something - or rather someone - had come to occupy my life and was contesting ownership of my life. Asserting my will against the evil presence became a momentary fight.

Final healing through deliverance was obtained on May Day, 1990 after more than a third of a lifetime had gone by. For the whole of that long time, I knew that my problem was demonic, and, unless the force was cast out, I would never have reached living in full spiritual freedom again.

I am only too aware that there are throughout the whole world, a host of Christians suffering inside a schizophrenic prison. Each and every one needs the delivering and healing power of Jesus Christ to

lead them out. It is vitally important to know that the intrusion of disturbing, controlling voices into the mind is sure evidence of the presence of evil spirits.

Without a spiritual awareness being present in your life, you may not regard the dawning of voices in your mind as something to be alarmed about. But my experience was that the day the oppression invaded, the Holy Spirit in my life alerted me to the opposition. The Holy Spirit's "WARNING LIGHT" revealed and penetrated the darkness, and an immediate war between the competing voices began.

Satan was seeking to get an advantage over me and prove too much of a foe. Had it not been for the faithfulness of Jesus fighting alongside me, I would have lost the fight. He inspired me with words which were spirit and life (see John 6:63) memorised from the Bible and from the lips of Jesus Himself which became the mainstay of keeping my sanity.

Having such knowledge or awareness of what is happening in your life is vital if you are to defeat schizophrenia. You may be at a place where you listen to the voices that have entered your life. Many regard the voices as "their friends". This is a grave mistake. Get it clear in your mind that these voices should not be there, were never intended to be there by God, and should not be tolerated for one minute.

But if you are still not fully aware who it is that has entered your life - namely a demon itself with a personality of its own... thoughts, feelings, emotions and a voice - you need to take stock and pray for revelation and knowledge from the Lord with understanding.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal every source of opposition and go on to resist, rebuke in the Name of Jesus, and evict it from your life. Don't deny what you know to be true in your life. Seek out help from a Christian friend or group and "let them in" to the battle you are facing in your mind.

Increasing bondage can happen to a Christian who has not learned to attribute voices in his mind as coming from a demon spirit. Remember, these voices have a strategy to destroy you. That is always the desired goal of both Satan and demons. Jesus put it plainly:

"When he (the shepherd of the sheep) has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice." (John 10: 4-5).

FIRSTLY, BEWARE OF BEING LULLED INTO PASSIVITY BY THIS STRANGE VOICE: The presence of evil spirits affecting a Christian's life with schizophrenia seeks to lead him/her into passivity. Never let go of your will. It must never be yielded to anything but the will of God. Soak yourself in Scripture and use it as ammunition to unseat and drive out the voice that seeks to lead you astray and control. The battle in the mind of the schizophrenic centres around the issue of passivity. Triumph here in the grace of God and you will move on to gaining your total freedom in Jesus.

EXERCISE FAITH IN GOD'S WORD AND KEEP BATTLING FORWARD TO WIN THE FIGHT: When the Word of God begins to be felt inside your spirit and you know that Christ is for you, you will refuse to give in. You will not do as some in thinking that it does not matter if you entertain the voices and even regard them as your friends. The Word of God will help you discern that the voices are from demon spirits who have no legal right to be in your life. As such, they were defeated on the Cross when Jesus died for you. Rise up in faith to drive them out and get the Word to expose them for what they are - intruders and liars.

BACK UP EVERYTHING WITH A PRAYING SPIRIT - You are a mighty force to be feared whenever the Word of God is coming out of your praying life. Paul says: "pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests." (Ephesians 6:18) Remember that your Saviour Jesus is at the Father's right hand praying for you - strengthening your prayers, holding up your arms in prayer, praying the will of God and enforcing the victory Jesus obtained for you on Calvary. Your mighty prayers have power with God to lead you into the freedom He dearly purchased for you. When you decide you are going to have all that Jesus did for you when he died and rose again, such a confidence fires you up to the hilt. You press in to obtain.

FINAL WORDS: Consider for a moment the changed life that Jesus has in store for you – one in which you are hearing ALONE the preciousness of His Words. Remember, “the hearing ear and the knowing heart both come from You, O Lord. O may I near depart from the hearing of Your Word.” As God’s very own possession both by creation and redemption, endeavour to get to that place where you hear God speaking to you. It is an entire world of new delights and blessings that makes life so worthwhile!!

FOR FURTHER READING: - See Archive File: 2011 – 13 February: *Praising God And Declaring His Glory Will Conquer The Demon Of Schizophrenia*; 2010 – 27th June: *Keeping Hold of God In The Difficult Times*

A PRAYER OF HOPE: “Dear Loving Heavenly Father, as I continue to remember the celebration of the death and resurrection of your dear Son, my Saviour, Jesus Christ will you come and make His sacrifice so 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. Thank you, Jesus, for taking my sins and my sorrows and for making them your very own. By the power of your shed blood, I am set free and I am now opened up to all the resources of your grace and power which enables me to live for you. I am looking forward to the day – why not today, O Lord? – when the bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is totally defeated. Yes, all the darkness driven away by the light of your Resurrection Presence. In the Mighty Name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.



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, 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 replied: “I tell you the truth; if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done. If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer.” Matthew 21: 21-22

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for... And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him. Hebrews 11: verses 1 and 6

Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them from their distress. He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for men. Psalm 107: 19-21

The Weekly Encourager

24 & 31 July: When Enough People Pray Enough Time Your Deliverance From Schizophrenia Is Near

7 August: Keeping Hope Alive To Defeat 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-tried 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

