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Weekly Encourager – 17 & 24 October 2010

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

THE POWER OF GOD WILL HELP KEEP YOUR SANITY AND BREAK FREE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 15: Key Verses 1-8: (Jesus said) I am the true vine and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he trims clean so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that your bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. Verse 26: 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; but you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

It is a sure proof of the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ that the condition of insanity of mind can be overcome. Watching a graphic, new DVD depicting the deliverance and healing of mad Legion, the demon-possessed man, emphasised the victory Jesus won over every Satanic power.

Because he is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8), the experience of freedom from the insane existence of schizophrenia is gloriously possible today. You can reach freedom no matter how difficult your life is at the present moment. Take hold of hope in Jesus.

The path to freedom is through knowing the power of God through believing the word of God. When the words of Jesus inspire you to a faith-filled life, you will encounter the reality of what Jesus promised bursting forth from the Saviour of the world into your own life.

I well remember times when Satan seriously threatened to destroy my life. Words spoken by Jesus such as: "Because I live you shall live also," "I will never leave you or forsake you" and "I am the Good Shepherd and know my sheep" were spirit and life ammunition proceeding from my heart to combat each and every spiritual dark thought being pressed into my mind.

How do I obtain the kind of faith which results in knowing the power of God in my life, you may ask? The Bible teaches that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10 verse 17). As a born-again Christian suffering with schizophrenia, may I encourage you to believe that God's word in your heart has the power not only to sustain you in your fight against the condition, but also to defeat it.

A small proportion of the many letters we receive from various parts of the world are from born-again schizophrenics like yourself. It is the close family or friends of someone suffering in spiritual darkness who make contact and enlist help for those about whom they are concerned.

But some born-again schizophrenics who have the persistent resolve to want to be free, do go to the trouble of writing us and sharing their need. If you never get round to writing, do seek out the help of other Christians who have the heart of Jesus to advance your desire for freedom.

The path you tread as a schizophrenic is a lonely one. How encouraging it could be for you to enlist the help of at least one Christian who is genuinely concerned to see you set free. You must also allow the Holy Spirit to equip you by asking God for more of himself and his power to defeat the darkness surrounding your life. God's power in you can triumph, make no mistake.

This week, the whole world has been stirred by the outcome of the 33 Chilean miners trapped underground for 60 days. After such isolation in their underground home for so long, we all watched them returning to the surface amid scenes of wild jubilation.

The most ebullient of the miners was Mario Sepulveda, who spoke to a Chilean television camera. He said: "They gave us back our lives, it's incredible that they recovered us. I was with God, and I was with the devil, but God won."

He asked the media not to treat him as a celebrity. "I would like you to treat me as what I am – a miner," he said proudly. "We are so happy. I never had a doubt. I always believed in the professionals. I always had faith in God."

What a classic story of coming out of underground darkness back into the light and freedom of life on the surface of the earth!! I, too, can tell you of a similar joy I experienced nearly 21 years ago when the spiritual darkness that had engulfed my life for so long was evicted by the power of the risen Lord Jesus.

There was no crowd to welcome me back to life and sanity as there was in the Chilean rescue from 2,000 feet beneath the earth's surface. I could not understand why very few rejoiced with me, but, dear friends, it was the breakthrough of God's power I had been seeking and desiring.

Freedom in Jesus seemed to be so long in coming. Then suddenly – with the vials in heaven filled with the prayers of the saints – there was amassed enough power to get the job done and God gave the command to the angel to release the answer to earth.

In a moment of time – just like the breakthrough the rescuers had been searching for in their desire to find life in the San Jose mine in Chile's Atacama desert – the Holy Spirit penetrated my spiritual darkness and shone eternal light so strong that the darkness had to obey the command to leave.

I so long for you, too, to experience the dawning of the light of Jesus in your life that will shatter the darkness of schizophrenia for ever. Jesus came from heaven on a rescue mission to bring every sinful person suffering bondage to evil spirits his momentous and glorious freedom.

Do persevere in pressing forward to obtain that freedom. Jesus will give you the power both to keep you sanity and also to break free of schizophrenia.

It is the same power that raised him from the dead. If he really lives in you he will quicken your mortal body and lead you into his wonderful freedom.

May the Lord Jesus draw near to you more and more in your quest for freedom.

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.

On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified. John 7: 37-39

Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace, because the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. Romans 8: 5-8

Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For whoever finds me finds life and receives favour from the LORD. Proverbs 8:34-35

The Weekly Encourager:

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

7 November: Every Schizophrenic Needs to Know The Transforming Love of God

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-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

