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Weekly Encourager – 18 December 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

LOOK BEYOND CHRISTMAS TO THE TRIUMPH OF JESUS ON THE CROSS

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN CHAPTER 6: Key Verses 32-71 JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE: Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, it is not Moses who has given you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."



"Sir," they said, "from now on give us this bread." Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe.

"All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." They said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I came down from heaven?'" Stop grumbling among yourselves," Jesus answered. "No-one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

"It is written in the Prophets: 'They will all be taught by God. Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. No-one has seen the Father except the one who is from God, only he has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, he who believes has everlasting life. I am the bread of life. Your forefathers ate the manna in the desert, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Then the Jews began to argue sharply among themselves, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you can eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I live because of the Father, so the one who feeds on me will live because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna

and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live for ever.” He said this while teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” Aware that his disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, “Does this offend you? What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before! The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe.”

For Jesus had known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, “This is why I told you that no-one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him.” From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him. “You do not want to leave too, do you?” Jesus asked the Twelve.

Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” Then Jesus replied, “Have I not chosen you, the Twelve? Yet one of you is a devil!” (He meant Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, who, though one of the Twelve, was later to betray him.)

How rewarding it is to keep focused this Christmastime on the precious plan of salvation for humanity that moved the heart of God to send His Only Son, Jesus Christ into our world.

For millions throughout the world, this present season will dissipate into nothingness. But for countless others celebrating the dawning of world redemption, their hearts will continue to “rejoice greatly” in Immanuel’s coming.

When the shops clear away the surplus Christmas cards and sell off their cheap wrapping paper to quickly parade Valentine cards, the enduring, good news at the heart of Christmas lives on ... and on.

As one Christian preacher said: “You can’t compress into the short season of Christmas a celebration which affects every day of the year for those who have welcomed Christ into their hearts!!”

To summarise the miraculous birth of Jesus, the apostle Paul stated: “... God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.” (2 Cor. 5:19) If this isn’t true it doesn’t matter, but if it is true – as indeed it is – then nothing else matters.

It is deep joy itself to have an opportunity over Christmas to think about the Great Creator becoming our Saviour. What a stupendous event that God was “contracted to a span, incomprehensibly made man”. And all for us – to be brought into a saving knowledge of Himself and receive the gift of eternal life.

What better news is on offer to you and our world today!! Even for those of you with schizophrenia who are reading this and have been in prison with the condition for far too long. Knowing the revelation of the love of Jesus Christ for YOU, helps immensely your struggle for freedom.

Because God became man and lived on earth, He knows all you are passing through and every ache in the human heart. He “took upon Him human flesh” and can understand all human emotions. He is also divine and can relate to all you have to face in life. Through Jesus, God can empathise with us – a great comfort indeed at every turn of life. But there’s much more to grasp in understanding the great benefits to us of God becoming a man in lifting up our lives to regain the divine purpose He ordained for us even before the beginning of creation.

I came across a wonderful Christmas meditation by the well-known preacher, Charles Haddon Spurgeon dealing with this point as he focused on the Christ who “for your sakes he became poor.” 2 Corinthians 8: verse 9.

“The Lord Jesus Christ was eternally *rich*, glorious, and exalted; but “though *He was rich*, yet for your sakes He became poor.” As the rich saint cannot be true in his communion with his poor brethren unless of his substance he ministers to their necessities, so (the same rule holding with the head as between the members), it is impossible that our Divine Lord could have had fellowship with us unless He had imparted to us of His own abounding wealth, and had become poor to make us rich.

Had He remained upon His throne of glory, and had we continued in the ruins of the fall without receiving His salvation, communion would have been impossible on both sides. Our position by the fall, apart from the covenant of grace, made it as impossible for fallen man to communicate with God as it is for Belial to be in concord with Christ. In order, therefore, that communion might be compassed, it was necessary that the rich kinsman should bestow his estate upon his poor relatives, that the righteous Saviour should give to His sinning brethren of His own perfection, and that we, the poor and guilty, should receive of his fullness grace for grace; that thus in giving and receiving, the one might descend from the heights, and the other ascend from the depths, and so be able to embrace each other in true and hearty fellowship.

Poverty must be enriched by Him in whom are infinite treasures before it can venture to commune; and guilt must lose itself in imputed and imparted righteousness ere the soul can walk in fellowship with purity. Jesus must clothe His people in His own garments, or He cannot admit them into His palace of glory; and He must wash them in His own blood, or else they will be too defiled for the embrace of His fellowship.

O believer, here is love! For *your sake* the Lord Jesus “became poor” that He might lift you up into communion with Himself.”

Surely, herein lies the secret for every Christian suffering with schizophrenia desirous of breaking free of the bondage – that of knowing communion with Christ. Through His coming, His death and resurrection, His glorious ascension and exaltation, Jesus Christ restored us back into fellowship with the Father. The great enjoyment of life is to have communion throughout each and every day with Christ.

But for many struggling in daily life with the mental bondage of schizophrenia, the real enjoyment of intimacy and communion is difficult. For fellowship to be restored at the deepest level, there needs to see happen the driving out of a presence which is downright demonic. The hearing of voices in your head are totally opposed to the life of God in you and must be defeated at all costs. Jesus will help you get the victory here.

There's plenty of helpful instruction in the Archive copies of the Weekly Encourager aimed at giving you scriptural support and encouragement in your warfare. Battling through into the freedom of Christ is one of the hardest struggles in life that anyone can face. Do all you can to get the help of other Christians to stand with you and pray for you. Don't be slow in coming forward for their help. The mighty power of prayer coming from Christians who know the engagement of the light of Jesus against the powers of darkness is most necessary.

As Christmas approaches, take fresh hope and strength that Jesus came into our world for you!! He came as the Light of the World so that you may not live in darkness but have the Light of Life. Through living faith in Him, His light and power is released into the human heart. Every trace of spiritual darkness has to be driven out by His mighty power to enforce the victory He came to bring into our world. May you know His Light and Resurrection Life giving you His total freedom this Christmastime and into 2012!!

FOR FURTHER READING - See Archive File:

2011 21 August: Meeting God Early Will Keep Advancing Your Fight To Become Free

2010 25 April: Defeat Schizophrenia In Your Mind Through The Mighty Power Of Jesus In Your Heart

A PRAYER OF HOPE FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA: "Lord God Almighty, will you hear my prayer and make the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ 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. I believe that Jesus took all my sins and my sorrows and made them His very own and after three days He rose again from the dead and now makes intercession for me. By the power of His shed blood, I believe I am now set free and opened up to all the resources of His grace and power. I am looking forward to the day – why not today – when the evil bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is totally defeated. I ask You, Heavenly Father, to help me drive out the dark, spiritual presence by the light of your conquering Resurrection Presence. I want to know the reality of your promise that whoever follows you shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life. Make it happen for me I pray in the Mighty Name of Jesus, 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.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life” ... But he (Jesus) continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.”
John 8: 12 & 23-24

A voice of one calling: “In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.” Isaiah 40: 3-5

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death – even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2: 5-11

The Weekly Encourager

25 December & 1 January 2012: JESUS ONLY - AND HIS WONDROUS LOVE - IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

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-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