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Weekly Encourager – 18 September 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

KEEP ON EXERCISING FAITH WHEN YOU DO NOT FEEL THE PRESENCE OF GOD

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS EXODUS CHAPTER 33: Key Verses 12-23: Moses and the Glory of the LORD: Moses said to the LORD: "You have been telling me, 'Lead these people,' but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. You have said, 'I know you by name and you have found favour with me. If you are pleased with me, teach me yours ways so I may know you and continue to find favour with you. Remember that this nation is your people.'" The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." Then Moses said to him, "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from



here. How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all other people on the face of the earth?" And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Then Moses said, "Now show me your glory." And the LORD said, "I will cause all my goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim my name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no-one may see me and live." Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back, but my face must not be seen."

The spiritual bondage of schizophrenia in the life of a born-again Christian constantly thwarts the enjoyment of the presence of God.

Since the dawning of the psychotic disturbance, you will have been aware of an interference affecting the quality of your communion with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I speak from experience and can accurately detail the dilemma. Because "another presence", namely a demonic one, has surfaced in your life, your whole fellowship with God is now being challenged.

Before the evil spirit "appeared", you were enjoying the wonderful freedom bought by Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world, on the cross for you. Now, that same quality of fellowship feels permanently lost at times as "another presence" hinders your enjoyment.

The urgent issue on hand now is to defeat this uninvited opposing presence by challenging its legal right in your life and taking steps to drive it permanently from you.

Until it is exorcised, the precious full enjoyment of the presence of God and the total spiritual freedom of your entire life, will not be complete.

Because you love God, you must have His Presence. His Presence “makes your paradise and where you are ‘tis heaven.” You cannot live without His Presence. It is more than life itself.

Some of you reading this Encourager can identify with a sense of having been robbed of the enjoyment of the Presence of God. You know your life has changed and you are not the same person you were before schizophrenia dawned.

How are you to continue living when you neither sense the Presence of God or the joy of His Presence? Drugged up to the eyeballs with medication, steered into a cul-de-sac of passivity, you long for the enjoyment of the Presence of God to deliver you from what seems a mere existence!!

It may bring you little comfort but all you can do during the times you don't feel the presence of God is to hang on to Christ in faith. He is holding on to you more than you realise. I have been at the place many times of feeling no emotion - and instead battling with a heaviness in my head. To persevere and quietly lean solely on the Lord in faith and prayer – in however a feeble way you do it – is all you can do, but do it you must.

Medication may stabilise and calm you, but it absolutely kills your mind and affects your spiritual life. It minimises the enjoyment of the Presence of God. If you were a Christian walking with Christ before schizophrenia dawned, you may have faced the question of whether you live by “faith or by feelings.”

Feelings, remember, are located in the emotions whereas faith involves an act of the will and the whole weight of your personality. It was during my time inside the “schizophrenic prison” that God began to teach me the truth of being properly related to him. I missed feeling His Presence. But Christ was still my Saviour no matter what I felt like – and that was fact. Bowed down with medication, shut up in a mental hospital, unable to be granted week-end leave and all alone, this was not sufficient to destroy what I knew was true about Jesus no matter what kind of feelings were present.

Coming to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour introduced you to the Divine Presence of God. Your whole life changed when such a life-changing encounter of the power and Presence of God became real for you. You realised Jesus Christ died on the cross for you and rose from the dead. How dare any demonic spirit seek to rob you of life's most precious enjoyment and mess with the sanctity of your God-created life?

Your whole being must engaged in spiritual warfare and regain spiritual freedom and the presence of God, and drive out the intruder. Notice, in the gospels, this is what is recorded of the action Jesus took in people's lives – he drove out demonic intruders. They were around in his day, and they are still around today (even though parts of the church do not want to talk about them!!)

If your experience of the “dawning of schizophrenia” was anything like mine, in a given moment your whole mind was “taken over” and everything hitherto enjoyed went out of sight. (The only thing uppermost in my mind was a strange feeling, or presence in my head, which brought wrong thinking and disrupted the entire course of life.)

For those born-again Christians reading this who are going through a similar experience, you will need a life-line to hold onto in your confusion. The entrance of God's words in your heart will shed light on your pathway. Turn to it and feed on God through His word.

You may not feel the Presence of God like before, but you have to continue fighting and addressing this strange foe with a personality of its own which has descended on your life uninvited. Like someone who walks into your lounge, you can't ignore them. This presence – aptly referred by an author as “pigs in the parlour” – has got to be shown the door.

Yes, that is what schizophrenia is. It is another presence, a demonic one, living in your life with intentions of taking you over the limit. THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS

DEFEATED the DARK PRESENCE AND HE IS ALWAYS OFFERING HIMSELF TO YOU TO STRENGTHEN YOU TO FIGHT ON AND WIN THROUGH.

FINAL WORDS: A quote from Watchman Nee: "We should inquire once again as to what the life of faith is. It is one lived by believing God under any circumstance: "If he slay me," says Job, "yet would I trust in Him" (13:15 Darby translation). That is faith. Because I once believed, loved and trusted God I shall believe, love and trust Him wherever He may put me and however my heart and body may suffer." *The Spiritual Man page 245*

FOR FURTHER READING: See Archive File:

2011 5 June - *Faith in Jesus Releases Power Strong Enough to Deliver and Heal*

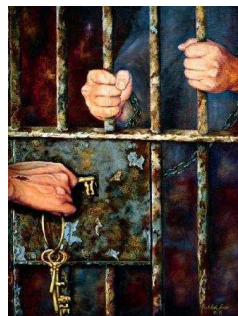
2010 29 August - *Getting to Know the God of the Bible Personally*

A PRAYER OF HOPE: "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 that 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.

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, (Christ) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians 2:15

(Jesus said) For the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour and moment what (you) ought to say. Luke 12:12 (The Amplified Bible)

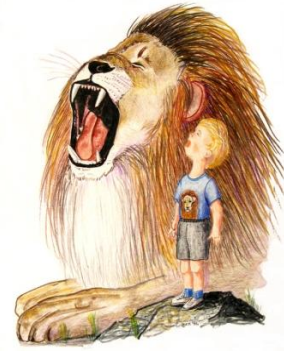
For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies – the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world, and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world. Ephesians 6:12 (The Living Bible)

The Weekly Encourager

25 September: God's Guiding Hand Is Mighty As You Fight Schizophrenia's Untried Way
2 October: Put On The Helmet of Salvation For Protection

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