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Weekly Encourager – 20 February 2011

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

GOD CAN FREE YOU OF SCHIZOPHRENIA AND RESTORE ALL YOUR LOST YEARS

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 5: The Healing at the Pool – Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie – the blind, the lame, the paralysed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him: "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no-one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, "Pick up your mat and walk." So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

If you have struggled with schizophrenia long enough and during that time have kept faith in Jesus Christ, you deserve the greatest encouragement of all.

Consider this – you are among the people referred to by a well-known counsellor and deliverance minister who said: "I greatly admire schizophrenics who fight through to victory. I admire these victories above all other deliverances."

The perseverance you are now showing has got to be anchored in the hope which Jesus himself provides. It is unique and living hope springing from the precious relationship you have found in the Saviour of the world.

May I offer you something extra from God's word concerning His ability not only to free you of schizophrenia but then to restore the years "the locusts have eaten" during your bondage in a mental prison. (See John 4: 13; Joel 2 25-27; 2 Corinthians 5: 17).

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is such a wonder-working God that all the years lost through mental imprisonment CAN BE RESTORED!! I myself have proved that. Twenty-one years ago in May, Jesus set me free. Since then, He has been restoring my life totally.

Right now your concern is to break free of the bondage through the delivering and healing power of Jesus Christ, but a spur to fight on is also to believe that Jesus can impart restoration once freedom has been achieved.

You find it hard to envisage right now just what real freedom in Jesus will mean once He has set you free and what full restoration of life will be like. It's hard to know that while struggling in a mental prison – but YOU CAN fight manfully on in the strength of Jesus Christ to obtain all He has prepared for you knowing that His freedom coming to your life will be glorious.

Your road to freedom in Jesus involves a daily slog of battling through in faith and prayer, and, because life is so hard, discouragement can appear. At such times, you must not give in on any count. If you have people praying for you – even ministering to you – then always keep hold of that wonderful support. Enlist all the prayer help you can from Christians who have a heart to see you free.

Shortly after coming out of 26 years of schizophrenia, a Christian friend prophesied over me that God was going to restore the long years suffered in mental incarceration.

My first thought, I must admit, contained some unbelief. I reasoned: "Twenty-six years is a lot out of a person's life, how are you going to do that LORD?"

Then I found myself answering my own question: "Jim", I told myself, "you are thinking as a human. God's ways are higher than your ways and He can do whatever He says. With Him a day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as a day, and He can so fill your remaining days and years by just doing what He says. Without a doubt, I shall know He has restored the years of suffering." (see Schizophrenia Defeated, Chapter 15: "Why Did It Take So Long?").

Today, there is a full song in my heart praising God for His power to restore life. Joy sings from the top most bough of faith at what the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ CAN ACHIEVE. You, too, must remember what Jesus is capable of achieving. His power through the victory on the Cross of Calvary can turn your life around and change it dramatically for your permanent good, have no doubt about that.

Because you have found Jesus to be real, keep on seeking His grace day by day. Memorise the Scriptures so that the Word of God RESIDES in your heart. If intruding voices from the kingdom of darkness seek to be heard, RESIST them with the powerful Word of God. Plead the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ over your life and declare that you no longer belong to Satan and his kingdom. Remind him he lost the fight for ownership of your life at Calvary where Jesus defeated him. Be bold in declaring that you have no truck with evil voices – STRONGLY RESIST AND EXPEL THEM FROM YOUR LIFE. Become your own deliverance minister!!

I have purposed in my heart never to lose sight of the wonderful rescue and restoration which Jesus has performed for me. I endeavour to remind myself continually of His never-failing love. May I encourage you to battle on to gain your freedom and restoration in Jesus too. Never ever give in!!

Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Ephesians 6: 13

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 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.

Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light." John 12: 35-36

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his might power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Ephesians 6: 10-12

(Jesus said): "But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you." John 16: 13-15.

The Weekly Encourager

27 February: Never Minimise The Prayers Of Others Helping You Defeat Schizophrenia

6 March: Pleading the Blood of Jesus Christ Hastens the Defeat of 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-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