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Weekly Encourager – 20 June 2010

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

PERSEVERING IN FAITH, PRAYER AND GOD'S WORD DRIVES OUT THE DEMON OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS LUKE CHAPTER 4: Key verses 31-37: Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit: Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

If I were allowed one word of encouragement to pass on to every Christian schizophrenic seeking total freedom in Jesus Christ it would be the word PERSEVERE. Jesus, who holds the keys and power to your freedom, spurs you on more than anyone else in persevering commitment and persevering faith. He told his disciples a parable to show that they should always pray and not to give up.

To stand alongside a Christian schizophrenic with words of encouragement that they go on "asking, seeking and knocking" at heaven's door is an essential ministry. For if ever there is a person in need of an incentive to carry on in faith to prevail in prayer it is the one struggling with this most entrenched, demonic mental bondage.

That is why it is so important to hear loud and clear from God's own Son, Jesus Christ, the certainty of the words that to everyone "who asks RECEIVES, to him who seeks FINDS and to him who knocks it will be OPENED". (Matthew 7:8-9). When the words of Jesus are fastened through faith to your innermost spirit you can go on to prevail and receive the answer being prayed for.

While many Christian schizophrenics rightly trace the harassment of hearing voices to a demonic presence, not everyone is taking a militant stance against the opposition posed by those voices. You need to resist the devil: all his pressures, his attacks, his deceptions, every instrument or agent he would seek to use against you. Do not submit. Resist him, drive him from you and exclude him from you in the Name of Jesus. Wake up to the fact that you are in a fight and your freedom will only be won through winning the battle with the help of Jesus.

I received this week an encouraging letter about a Christian who described the kind of resistance being summoned up to conquer these demonic voices in her fight to want to be free. "I am seeking some aid to help in my deliverance from these vicious demons. I have already prepared the ground. I recently purchased the book, "Pigs in the Parlor". I am believing God for an immediate change because the Lord knows I am ready for it. I believe His word and know that we are more than capable of blasting out demons," she writes.

She is only just beginning to face up to the presence of voices in her life even though she has been hearing them for years. Writing to her pastor, she goes on: "... God is setting me up for "the big one". He is about to deliver me. I am not talking about "help me get a job" or "secure a home". I am talking about - God is about to supernaturally set me free. He is about to blast these demonic influences out of my life once and for all and prepare me for ministry, so that I can live life to the fullest and be the woman that God has called me to be."

It is more than interesting to note that she has been shown her bondage “by the Holy Spirit”. She adds: “What is even more perplexing is that I have been to a few therapists and each seem to share the common ground. They don’t see me as mentally ill. None of them grasp a diagnosis. They have told me: “You’re not mentally ill. You just suffer from extreme depression and low self-esteem. People that are mentally ill are not as cognizant as you are.”

“They tell me how introspective I am to seek change. They have reported that this rules me out of the categories of such illnesses like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and the like. Nevertheless, the Holy Spirit has shown me my illness. If I could put a name to it, it would be schizophrenia because it involves hearing voices.”

When a Christian is taught a truth by the Holy Spirit, it is always necessary to persevere in holding to that truth. When it involves truth about the kingdom of darkness, that truth must be firmly held and never surrendered because it could be crucial to your very existence. I am so glad that the Holy Spirit led me “into all truth”, as Jesus said he would, concerning the spiritual darkness behind my mental bondage and also the truth of the freedom I could have through him. How vital it is to depend on the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit for the acquisition and receiving of truth in our walk with God.

If right now you are battling to keep the truth you know the Holy Spirit has already imparted into your life then keep on PERSEVERING in faith, remembering that faith is the only means whereby you can obtain freedom and blessings. As C. H. Spurgeon, the well-known preacher, put it: “Prayer cannot draw down answers from God’s throne except it be the earnest prayer of the man who believes... Faith is the telegraphic wire which links earth to Heaven, on which God’s messages of love fly so fast that before we call He answers, and while we are yet speaking He hears us. But if that telegraphic wire of faith be snapped, how can we obtain the promise?”

“Am I in trouble? I can obtain help for trouble by faith. Am I beaten about by the enemy? My soul on her dear Refuge leans by faith. But take faith away, then in vain I call to God. There is no other road betwixt my soul and Heaven. Blockade the road, and how can I communicate with the Great King?”

“Faith links me with Divinity. Faith clothes me with the power of Jehovah. Faith insures every attribute of God in my defence. It helps me to defy the hosts of hell. It makes me march triumphant over the necks of my enemies. But without faith how can I receive anything from the Lord?”

Oh, then, Christian, watch well thy faith. “If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes.” (Mark 9:23).

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

“Lord 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 sin that separates me from you and acknowledge your death on the Cross to redeem me. 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 enable me to know your power as I believe that my mind too can also be completely set free. I pray this in your wonderful Name. Amen.

We are continuing to insert at the bottom of the Weekly Encourager, some powerful Scriptures for you to learn and commit to memory and USE in your prayer battle against 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 to know the deliverance and freedom of Jesus.

(Jesus said): “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.” Luke 8:15

(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." John 15:13

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession, - to the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

The Weekly Encourager:

27th June: Keeping hold of God in the difficult times

4th July: After deliverance from schizophrenia, what next?

You maybe reading the Weekly Encourager for the first time as you've stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia. Or maybe, you've been looking at W.E. every week for encouragement and help to overcome this "monster" of mental illnesses and have been given REAL HOPE that the Lord Jesus is the 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 in your life and mine, the same victorious life that brought him back from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit, to everyone accepting his sacrifice. 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!!

James Stacey

Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals

"I will proclaim your mighty acts,
O sovereign Lord" Psalm 71: 16

