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Weekly Encourager – 20 November 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

PRAISING GOD IS A MIGHTY WEAPON IN DRIVING OUT SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS ACTS CHAPTER 16: Key Verses 22-34: Paul and Silas in Prison: The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptised. The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God – he and his whole family.



When schizophrenia strikes it normally heralds the start of the disintegration of personality coupled with an imprisoned life-style. The good news is that Jesus can rescue from both.

He is the only HOPE of a way out of a powerful mental bondage which suddenly throws all and sundry into a survival mode of living. It is entirely baffling to know just what to do or where to turn.

If you were a believer in Jesus Christ – as I was – when the spiritually dark thunderbolt arrived, the only recourse was to lean hard on our precious Saviour. Little or no understanding of how much He was watching over us was clouded by the condition.

Can I tell you of the faithfulness of God in both keeping and strengthening me through the demonic maze of schizophrenia – finally to grant His power to set me free? I hope telling my story will inspire and enlarge your faith and eventually lead you to complete freedom!!

My testimony is all about JESUS. Without His grace and power I would never have survived 26 years of mental hell. To JESUS belongs ALL the glory, ALL the honour, ALL the power and ALL the praise. He is worthy to receive unceasing worship and adoration.

I came through not by might nor by power but by God's Spirit (see Zechariah 4:6). When I often reached the end of my stores of human endurance, "my Father's full giving had only begun." The truth and comfort I can pass on to you today is that Jesus is the Great Liberator of schizophrenia. Real freedom with the prison doors blasted wide open is found only in Him. What He has done for me, He can do for you.

I am so grateful to God that He allowed me to pass through deep troubled waters in order to be a source of comfort and inspiration to others. I would never have known the reality of this precious verse written by the apostle Paul and found in 2 Corinthians, Chapter 1 had I not experienced living with “schizophrenia on the inside” and being set free by Jesus:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.”

I am often amazed how many people from many nations of the world write into our website asking for understanding and help. I feel quite inadequate at times in responding to such immense need. The Lord often puts me in remembrance that He brought me out to shine around the world beacons of hope concerning deliverance and healing from schizophrenia. I realise this must be done in the absence of a clear and strong light shining from His universal church. When the chorus is being sung in church for the glory of Jesus: “Shine your light, let the whole world see,” I say a hearty “Amen” to that. Shining the true light of hope out to a world where at least one in every hundred people in every country are in schizophrenia bondage, is a privilege indeed!! Each person needs the power of Jesus to drive it out!!

I once prayed: “Lord, I don’t care what it costs, I want to follow you.” I really meant it, having little understanding what anguish would follow such a prayer. The human ordeal and suffering were beyond words – but Jesus would not allow the dark pressure to consume me over many, many years. He knew I was fighting for His freedom in my life, and He helped me keep trust in Him to bring me through. **HE CARRIED ME THROUGH AND HE WILL CARRY YOU THROUGH, TOO.** My story **IS ALL ABOUT HIM AND WHAT HE AS GOD CAN DO!!** What greater joy can any human being have than that of commending such a personal God who is Saviour and a Mighty Deliverer so full of love and power?

Today, you maybe right in the centre of struggling with schizophrenia and, to put it plainly, you have just had enough. I know what you mean. I have been there. At this moment you can’t see any HOPE in sight and doubt if life will ever change. NOW is the time to trust in “the God of hope who can fill you with joy and PEACE as you trust in Him, so that you may OVERFLOW WITH HOPE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (see Romans 15:13). The hope that Jesus gives is REAL HOPE. Fasten your hope on Jesus!! He is a strong anchor who will “keep your soul” in your fight to become free.

Remember in your dealings with the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ - nothing is impossible. But you may say: “My life has drastically changed and I have been like this for so long, that I can’t see things ever getting better.” Jesus holds the key to bring you out of the prison-house. Can you believe that? “But my situation is so desperate”, you may say, “that it could not get any worse than it is”. Jesus knows today where you are at, the loneliness and the challenges you face, the difficulties and disappointments you carry alone, and the defeat present in your thoughts. He knows all about your sorrows... – and He cares more than you will ever know. **HE CAN END THAT DEMONIC SYNDROME IN YOU LIFE!!**

How do you begin to experience a change in what you think is possible? Well, last week we dealt with the important aspect of faith – not so much for those suffering with schizophrenia but for those seeking to help people with schizophrenia. The focus was that Christians can help people like yourself to become free because they themselves as carers and helpers believe that Jesus is the answer to schizophrenia and freedom for you **IS gloriously possible** with their help.

The need to believe in Jesus for deliverance and healing is vitally important, of course, to every Christian suffering with schizophrenia. No condition is guaranteed to test faith and try to squeeze it out of existence than the strength of a demonic spirit sowing, among things, a load of lies and enticements into your mind through harassing voices. Faith is one commodity for conquering schizophrenia that you must not lose. Regard it, like the Bible says, as being “precious” (2 Peter 1:1).

When faith lives in your heart it brings a confidence in God making prayer not only possible but effective. Prayer is a work of faith. When your prayers are faith-filled that is the time things begin to happen in your favour. One Scripture I memorised in the early days of having schizophrenia was: **“This is the victory which overcomes the world, even our faith”** (1 John 5:4). The truth of that verse gripped my spirit during times when I was totally baffled with life and could not make sense of my reasoning power. I felt a demonic presence and pressure in my mind that was always tormenting me with evil suggestions - and the only way was to resist and hold on to Jesus through keeping a Scriptural life-line.

But there was also another weapon God brought into my combative arsenal to resist and oppose the demonic spirits of schizophrenia, religious spirit and suicide – that of praising God. This weapon is available to you, too, and it is so powerful. I used to take great comfort in the promise of Jesus that no-one was able to take away the joy He would put in my heart through knowing the power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:22). Every time I praised God seemed to bring forth both freedom and increased confidence in the Saviour I loved. When praising God you are focusing on Him alone and among the outcome resulting is you are drawn closer to God, His freedom touches your life and you catch something of the greatness of God. You will find this to be true if you start praising God!! Your spirit will become enlarged as you magnify God. Sing hymns of praise to God and allow strong and mighty truths found in declarations to God in the Bible to sound forth from your mouth and heart. They will bolster up your confidence in the greatness of the God you are trusting to bring you out of schizophrenia.

Praise imparts a sense of victory into your spirit even though you have to prevail until it comes. Believing such a promise as: “If God is for us, who can be against us” (Romans 8:31) lifts you above the battles to the perspective of God’s throne. Even in the midst of the heaviness and discouragement of schizophrenia, it is still possible to know the conviction in your spirit that praise still works even when prayer seems as though it is not getting through.

I well remember discovering the power of praise in the early years of suffering with schizophrenia when I could not overcome depressing spirits tormenting and pounding my mind with suggestions of suicide. I quote from my book, *Schizophrenia Defeated* Chapter 4 of an incident when God came to my aid in a time of sheer desperation.

“I went straight upstairs into the bedroom in our home and began seeking God for help in every conceivable way I could think of, in an attempt to get free. I thumbed through the Scriptures anxious for inspiration to pray. I called out to God for help to get rid of this foe within which seemed unshakeable. It must have been a struggle lasting two hours, during which time I heard the demon suicide clearly whisper:

“Why don’t you go and throw yourself in the Dearne? It’ll soon be over!”

The River Dearne was a small distance away and I had a picture in my mind of a certain spot as the demon spoke. I fought on, mustering all the spiritual strength and opposition I could from God’s word by repeating Scriptures rapidly as the battle intensified to take my mind. Then, suddenly it occurred to me to begin speaking in tongues and fight the evil spirits with this unknown strategy demons are unable to understand and cope with...

What a provision from God it was going to prove! I began speaking very quietly in tongues, conscious all the time of the battle against the suicidal spirit raging in my mind. It was only after 15 minutes or so when the strength of my voice increased that I was aware of the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit beginning to get the mastery. I got off my knees, walked the length and breadth of the bedroom speaking as loudly as I could. The joy of impending victory began to touch my life as I realised that my precious Jesus had moved in to fight the battle.

When I was assured that God had given me the upper hand and the satanic attack had retreated I began to praise God in tongues for giving the victory. The demon of suicide was not cast out that

day, however, and reappeared in strength years later. God alone knew the sheer desperation of that day; mere words are unable to convey the internal struggle that ensued.”

Praise is the Spirit's weapon that often sets a person free. Prayer and fasting can do a lot to prepare the way to bring deliverance but praise has the ability to take the initiative out of Satan's hands. The Bible says that God inhabits the praises of His people. We certainly need the power of His Presence to see Satan resisted and caused to flee. Satan can't stand God being praised - you know that don't you?

Praise is an effective weapon in securing your deliverance and healing. So begin using it – to glorify the God whose Name is worth praising, and in whose hands is the power to accomplish great deliverances and healings through receiving and using His authority and power for His glory. The power released by God to drive out every demonic presence - including the nest associated with schizophrenia – was all part of the triumph of Jesus Christ on the Cross when He defeated death, Satan and the kingdom of darkness for you!! He made sure through His great sacrifice that your life WAS NOW YOUR'S TO LIVE – TO HIS PRAISE AND GLORY!!

FOR FURTHER READING: - See Archive File:

2011 13 February – Praising God Declaring His Glory Will Conquer The Demon Of Schizophrenia
2010 10 October – Hide Yourself Away With God And Receive Strength To Defeat Schizophrenia

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 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.

When Jesus rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdelene, out of whom he had driven seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him and who were mourning and weeping. When they heard that Jesus was alive and that she had seen him, they did not believe it. Mark 16: 9-11

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ... In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. Ephesians 1: 3 and 7

The LORD is righteous in all his ways and loving towards all he has made. The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. He fulfils the desires of those who fear him; he hears

their cry and saves them. The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy. My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145: 17-21

The Weekly Encourager

27 November: Prayer Power Breaking Through Schizophrenia's "Gates of Brass And Bars Of Iron"

4 December: Declaring Jesus Has Defeated Schizophrenia Is Good News Worth Sending Around The World

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-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