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Weekly Encourager – 21 August 2011

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year of freedom from the bondage - thanks to Jesus Christ

## MEETING GOD EARLY WILL KEEP ADVANCING YOUR FIGHT TO BECOME FREE

**THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MARK'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 1: Key Verses 21-28**

**Jesus Drives Out an Evil Spirit; They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, "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!"**

**said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching – and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee. 32-34 Jesus Heals Many: That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was. 35-39 Jesus Prays in a Solitary Place: Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so that I can preach there also. That is why I have come." So he travelled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons.**



The early encounter with God is a must for every Christian believer wanting to defeat the Satanic bondage of schizophrenia.

You are not the same without it!! Regular, early morning prayer and contact with God will empower your life with strong spiritual resolve to obtain freedom.

I want to challenge you to seek God and to seek Him early. If this Encourager is registered by the Holy Spirit into your heart and mind, and you begin to receive the benefits of meeting God early, it will have been well worth it.

Let's focus on Psalm 63:1-2 where David says: "O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary." (Authorized King James Version).

David had a real hunger, thirst and desire which moved him to seek God early. Despite his shortcomings, we readily admit that he was a man after God's own heart.

Because of his determination to seek God's face early in the day, this resolve advanced and strengthened his desire to seek God at other times. David really loved the Lord and was a man of prayer.

Scripture suggests that it was a pattern of David's devotional life to seek God early, and, as he kept up the discipline, he enjoyed numerous benefits, the greatest of which was that HE FOUND GOD.

In battling against schizophrenia for 26 years, it was the discipline of seeking God and finding Him that inspired endurance to keep fighting the demonic enemy. Consider how much your life would be filled with hope and strength if you could learn this glorious lesson of getting into the Presence of God first thing in the day. Taking the Word of God with you to build up faith, you would be equipped to defeat schizophrenia, without a doubt.

When David FOUND GOD through seeking him, he entered into real, vital fellowship which prepared him for whatever a day would present to him.

He got out of bed early for no other reason than to meet God Himself. He realized, as we need to, that every new day must have time to allow God to touch our lives – and so it was for an encounter with God that he often cut short his sleep.

He proved the reality of the many promises in the Word of God that those who seek God with their whole heart shall find Him. (see Jeremiah 29:13, Matthew 7: 7-8).

This blessing and importance of having an early morning encounter and quiet time with God is not in question. But how many Christians have established such a meeting place with God as a regular habit of their devotional life?

Is it asking too much of you battling with schizophrenia to make the effort to seek God early in the morning? You may say: "Remember, I am on medication and at present unable to work at even a part-time job. How can I muster the will to have a quiet time with God in the morning?"

If you are really serious in your desire to become free and get your life back, you MUST have an encounter with God. Without meeting Him, you do not possess the strength and power to defeat a Satanic bondage around your mind. But armed with the strength of Jesus you do!!

A Christian without schizophrenia may have no desire, sad to say, to live in the reality of knowing the love of Jesus. He has yet to discover the beauty and joy of being in the presence of God. Therefore, his life is less than half-hearted and passive in its surrender to Jesus.

But you are in a crisis situation where your life is held in bondage and you need to seek God at any cost. The passivity that is entrenched in your mind has got to be broken and overcome through the power of faith and the working of Holy Spirit living within you. Your life has got to have a strategy to get free – one of getting into the Presence of God and absorbing the knowledge of His Word to be used in taking command of your life.

It is one thing to agree that you would be better equipped to fight and defeat schizophrenia if you met the Lord each morning, but that thought should move you (and conquer your passive will) to seek God in reality.

For there is a world of a difference between the Christian suffering with schizophrenia who wants to get free and "rises and shines" to meet His Maker and he who crawls out of bed with no desire at all.

If we need a greater pattern of prayer than David, we see it in Jesus Himself. If there was anyone who could dispense with prayer first thing in the morning, it was our wonderful Saviour. But he

rated it of such importance that we find him regularly engaged in desiring communion with His Father.

Before the day's activities were at the door and needy souls were enlisting His help, he could be found in communion with His Heavenly Father.

If Jesus needed fresh contact with His Father each morning, how much more such powerless creatures as we are, we who call ourselves His disciples!!

Who knows the preciousness of those times Jesus had with His Father? When you have contact with God and allow Him to draw near, you are moving to owning the victory He obtained on the Cross for you.

If early morning contact and communion with His Father strengthened and equipped Jesus in the eternal purpose of going to the Cross and finishing the work of salvation for you and me – then a glorious encounter with God each day will enable you to fight the good fight and go on to defeat the bondage of schizophrenia in your life for good.

FINAL WORDS: Quotes from two great Christian men who discovered the power of life-changing, early morning prayer: First, E. M. Bounds, whose books on prayer still stir believing-Christians: "A desire for God which cannot break the chains of sleep is a weak thing and will do but little good for God after it has indulged itself fully. The desire for God that keeps so far behind the devil and the world at the beginning of the day will never catch up. It is not simply the getting up that puts men to the front and makes them captain generals in God's hosts, but it is the ardent desire which stirs and breaks all self-indulgent chains."

Robert Murray McCheyne, of Scotland, knew he ought to be early at prayer. "I ought to pray before seeing anyone. Often when I sleep long or meet with others early, it is eleven or 12 o'clock before I begin secret prayer. This is a wretched system. It is UNSCRIPTURAL. Christ arose before day and went into a solitary place. David says: "Early will I seek thee." "Thou shalt early hear my voice." I can do no good to those who come to seek from me. The conscience feels guilty, the soul unfed, the lamp not trimmed. Then, when in secret prayer the soul is often out of tune. I feel it is far better to begin with God – to see His face first, to get my soul near Him before it is near another." (But after he rectified the matter he writes) "Rose early to seek God, and found Him whom my soul loveth. Who would not rise early to meet such company?"

#### FOR FURTHER READING:

See Archive Files:

#### **2011**

13 February: *Praising God And Declaring His Victory Will Conquer The Demon of Schizophrenia*

#### **2010**

10 October: *Hide Yourself Away With God And Receive Strength To Defeat Schizophrenia*

7 February: *Arise And Pray Yourself Out of Schizophrenia*

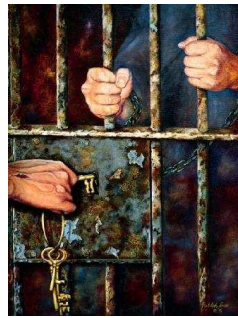
A PRAYER OF HOPE: "Dear Loving Heavenly Father, as I continue to remember the celebration of the death and resurrection of your dear Son, my Saviour, Jesus Christ will you come and make His sacrifice so real to me. Wipe away my sins that were atoned for on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus in order that I might not have to die eternally. Thank you, Jesus, for taking my sins and my sorrows and for making them your very own. By the power of your shed blood, I am set free and I am now opened up to all the resources of your grace and power which enables me to live for you. I am looking forward to the day – why not today, O Lord? – when the bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is totally defeated. Yes, all the darkness driven away by the light of your Resurrection Presence. In the Mighty Name of Jesus, I pray, Amen.

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**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"

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*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.

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**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

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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.

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

(Jesus said): "Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail." Luke 22:31-32

Be submissive then to God. Stand up to the devil and he will turn and run. James 4:7 (New English Bible)

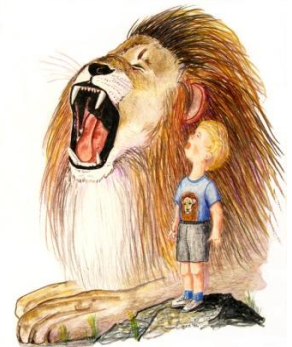
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### The Weekly Encourager

**28 August: Taking On The Light Yoke Of Jesus Helps Defeat The Burden of Schizophrenia**  
**4 September: Assert The Ownership Of Your Life To Every Demonic Voice**

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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](http://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*