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Weekly Encourager – 21 March 2010

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

## HOW TO RESIST AND DEFEAT THE DESTRUCTIVE VOICES OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

### THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 10

**Key Verses: 1-5** “I tell you the truth, the man who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The man who enters by the gate is the shepherd of his sheep. The watchman opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice: 25-30 Jesus answered, “I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. My father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

Before discussing how to resist and defeat the evil voices a Christian schizophrenic hears, let's establish in truth the source of these voices. They are not the voice of self, most definitely not the voice of the Holy Spirit but are voices of invading evil spirits intent on achieving destruction. Face up to the reality that there are demons in our world –spirit beings without bodies. They desire to make their home in a human body to have mastery and control and so carry out their own desires and use that body for their purposes.

I must admit that the day I “was hit” by the demonic intrusion, the act of my resisting was ineffective. And this was because the experience totally confused and left me floundering. I knew “another presence” had suddenly appeared in my life. I longed to get rid of it but there was no progress on that front. The most depressing thing was that I felt unable to share with anyone what was happening. The spiritual bondage was so real and disabling.

Using the name of Jesus Christ and the power of his blood shed on your behalf enables a Christian to resist the Devil and he will flee, but if you are suddenly bowled over by the emergence of this demonic schizophrenic bondage, or later hooked into passivity caused by taking medication, the mustering of personal forces to do this becomes more difficult.

How wonderful is the hearing of the voice of the Holy Spirit. A Christian's relationship with Christ through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is deepened and richer when you “breakthrough” into knowing His voice. I don't know how I would have coped over the years apart from the inner knowledge taught by the Spirit of God that tuning in to God was so important. (see Psalm 63)

You see, as a believer you are meant to “know his voice”. It was the voice of a stranger that descended into my life way back in 1964; the same voice that has been the problem in your life with the schizophrenic illness you suffer. It takes a tough stance to resist this insidious, evil, intruding voice but it's one you must take otherwise life itself can be in jeopardy. Schizophrenics are often feared for their unpredictable behaviour – for no other reason than the evil voice and presence takes over their lives and bombards with suggestions of going in a thousand directions.

When something is going on in your life that has the potential of destroying you, the only thing to do is to fight back. When that opposition is known to be from the camp of the kingdom of darkness where Satan is the ruler-in-chief, it's comforting to know that your Commander-in-Chief, the Lord Jesus once battled him at a place called Calvary to give you the mastery over all his powers of darkness arrayed against you. The day and moment I discerned what was on the mind of Satan in terms of strategising

for my destruction, I rose up in faith and asked God for all the armoury of heaven at my disposal. I moved into spiritual warfare aided by my mighty conquering Deliverer.

It says in the Book of Romans, Chapter 8 verse 26-27: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will." That means... the Holy Spirit in your life – now you have accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord – helps you in the warfare of prayer. Not only helps you but strengthens you and empowers you to such a degree that in his strength you are more than a match for the demon(s) who are harassing you.

And later on in Romans 8, (verses 37-39) there's further mention of this victorious love that Jesus showed on Calvary for each one of us – and the power of it. Let me quote it in full: "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present, nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The Church has often taught in the past the need to hear God's voice and have our hearts and minds renewed, but has not done enough to come to the aid of those needing the same Holy Spirit voice to equip them in their fight to overcome mental bondage. The warrior-mentality has been missing!! So-called soldiers of the cross have not been seen to be real soldiers engaged in a real fight.

It was a real fight that Jesus was willing to enter to defeat the powers of darkness and so set us free. We'll soon be celebrating his mighty victory at Eastertime.

Take on all his resources to become a soldier of his and you will break through the darkness of schizophrenia with his light shining in your life - and doing the real fighting for you.

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We are continuing to choose powerful Scriptures from the Bible for you to learn and commit to memory in your prayer battle against the demon of schizophrenia. By so doing, your confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ will grow because the words will impart spirit and life into your spirit, and so equip you in your pursuit of the freedom of Jesus.

You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised. Hebrews 10:36

And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:7

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13

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## **THE WEEKLY ENCOURAGER**

**28<sup>th</sup> March – Earnestly desiring the grace of God strengthens you to defeat schizophrenia.**

**4<sup>th</sup> April EASTER SUNDAY – HE'S ALIVE, HE'S ALIVE, HE IS RISEN!!**

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You too can know the help and strength that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. If you have already received him, then keep in touch with him every day through regular prayer and Bible Study. By so doing, you will begin to discern his voice a lot clearer and, as sharing your life with Jesus Christ grows, there will come inner, powerful strength to overcome every other voice that may trouble you.

If you have never received Jesus Christ into your life, then why not do it RIGHT NOW, as we guide you in a prayer. "Lord Jesus Christ, I approach you knowing I am separated from you by sin. I know I

have also sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done and there are so many sinful things I have done. I believe and accept that you died on the Cross in my place that I might be brought back to God the Father and know forgiveness from sin and the gift of eternal life. I now ask you to come into my life and cancel out the sin that separates me from you. Come in and cleanse me through the power of your blood. Come in as my Lord and control me. Come with the strength of your grace and the power of the Holy Spirit to defeat the evil of schizophrenia which troubles me and bring me right through into the freedom of your kingdom. I ask this, giving you thanks in your Name. Amen.

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You maybe reading the Weekly Encourager for the very first time or perhaps you've stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia which has just dawned on your life. Or you could visit W.E. every week for encouragement to help you overcome this "monster" of mental illnesses and have already gained HOPE that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One to open the prison door to freedom in your life once and for all.

We encourage you to keep logging into the site as often as you can for scriptural advice and help 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 to die for you and me on the Cross at a place called Calvary just outside Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. In that sacrifice, He paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine by dying for us and on the third day rose again as "The Resurrection and the Life" as he released the power of the Holy Spirit into the life of every believer accepting his sacrifice. A life-transforming experience that you too can know!!

**James Stacey**  
**Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals**

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

