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Weekly Encourager – 24 January 2010

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

NEVER EVER, NO NEVER, BE CONVINCED BY VOICES IT IS TIME TO QUIT!!

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS ST. JOHN'S GOSPEL, CHAPTER 10

Key verses: Jesus said: "But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognise a stranger's voice (v5) ..."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 (v27-28).

It is strikingly obvious to observers of a person who has become schizophrenic how much of a personality-change has occurred. While the terms of suffering from a split-personality or dual- personality are not regarded as best descriptions by some in the medical world, it has to be accepted that a schizophrenic has almost lost his own personality as there has been an intrusion of "another" into his life, even making the former sometimes unrecognisable.

Turn to Mark Chapter 5 in The Bible and you will see what I am talking about. The man known as the Gadarene demoniac, who raced to meet Jesus by the sea-shore as demonic possession propelled him as 'they' feared their time was up, only showed his true self and personality after Jesus had delivered and healed him. The plain conclusion is that his former behaviour was due to an intrusive invasion of demons with personalities of their own who had usurped the man's own true personality.

The central and oft-repeated message of our ministry is that Jesus Christ can and does defeat schizophrenia and IS THE ONLY HEALER. If you want to be free of the shackles of darkness wrapped around your mind look no further. With boldness and absolute certainty, we declare that it is Jesus, the Master Physician, who is the One you need to get desperate before and ask to burst forth into your life and restore your unique life which demonic forces have been stealing from you.

It is a common reference in the regular and numerous cries for help we receive from various parts of the world to pray for schizophrenics that relatives speak about the abnormal change in their loved ones. Problems hearing voices is invariably the disturbing area of concern. Behind the voices are evil spirits or demons. Drive out the demons and their personalities and the voices attached to the personalities will also leave. The understanding of schizophrenia we present may seem to contradict the conventional wisdom of the medical profession and all talk of the presence of evil spirits may sound positively medieval and does not fit into the modern paradigm. We are not trying to win an argument but to commend a true and certain path through Jesus out of this hell of a bondage!!

You may be among the large number of schizophrenics who know Jesus as personal Lord and Saviour and are in no doubt whatsoever that the bondage you suffer, is demonic. "I always knew it was – for the voices I keep on hearing are so destructive and negative. Pray for me to resist them in the power of the Holy Spirit as I seek to defeat them. I am prepared to fight for my freedom," sums up the general attitude to what is being suffered.

Deliverance and healing from schizophrenia through Jesus Christ often comes in one of two ways – by yourself trusting in Christ's power and authority to set you free OR through co-operating with a born-again Christian ministering to you –usually for some time but not necessarily – the delivering power of Christ. But because God is God and works sovereignly and can't be confined into working in prescribed methods, the schizophrenic shackles can be snapped in a powerful worship atmosphere where his power descends and liberates or when there is the power of the Holy Spirit "on" the word of God being preached. But whatever way God manifests His glory, it results in the eviction of demon forces and their whole panoply of destructive voices.

If you have a son or daughter, a relation or friend who is suffering with schizophrenia and you grieve over the plight of their present life compared to what you knew them to be in the past, give God a chance to shed his knowledge and revelation to your life about the bondage. You may be a Christian who does not accept that believers in Christ can be "demonised" with an evil spirit of schizophrenia, and you are a closed shop to such a truth. Tell me what other explanation do you have when someone you love starts behaving in a strange,

sometimes bizarre, way other than by believing that an evil personality has invaded their lives and destructive voices are operating?

Had it not been for the divine intervention of Jesus in my life in 1990, I would today have lost more and more of my "ever-disintegrating" personality, and can't begin to think of how much more bondage would have spread into my life. But Jesus did what no psychiatric help or treatment could ever do when he SET ME FREE, PERMANENTLY FREE. I thank God today that after committing myself to Christ at 14 years, I received forgiveness of sins and the power of the living presence of Jesus into my Life. Yes, as we read in our selected scripture passage for this week, I was able to hear his voice. Into my late teens I began to discern the voice of the Holy Spirit more through spending time in God's presence. The Bible, the living word of the true God, was read, meditated on, remembered and it renewed both my mind and heart. Oh, how precious to know the personal ministry of the Holy Spirit in one's life in a fight to regain lost freedom!!

You too can know the help and strength that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as your personal 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 Christ grows there will come inner and silent 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 that you died on the Cross in my place that I might be brought back to God the Father and know forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. I now ask you to come into my life and cancel out the sin that separates from you. Come in and cleanse me through the power of you blood. Come in as my Lord to control me. Come with the strength of your grace and the power of your Holy Spirit to defeat the evil of schizophrenia which troubles me and bring me right through into the glorious freedom of your kingdom. I ask this, giving you thanks, in your Name. Amen

You may be reading the Weekly Encourager for the very first time; perhaps you've stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia which has just dawned on your life; or maybe you've been looking at W.E. every week for encouragement to help you deal with this "monster" of mental illnesses and have already gained HOPE that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One to open the prison door of 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 the One who is well-tried and tested in the area of setting captives free from a bondage that no one else can conquer. The website, 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. In that great sacrifice, He paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine by dying for us and on the third day rose from the dead as "The Resurrection and the Life". 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 (celebrating this month 22 years off all medication, Praise God!!)
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals

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

