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Weekly Encourager – 25 April 2010

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

TO FIGHT AND DEFEAT THE SATANIC BONDAGE OF SCHIZOPHRENIA IN YOUR MIND YOU WILL NEED THE MIGHTY POWER OF THE LIVING PRESENCE OF JESUS IN YOUR HEART

“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”. Romans Chapter 8, verses 26-27

In preparing a person for deliverance, it is important first to make sure that they are living in a right relationship with God having accepted His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, as their own personal Lord and Saviour.

I am so thankful that before the hell of schizophrenia hit my life at the age of 24 and robbed me of 26 years, I had been living and growing in the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ and was thereby better equipped to face the devastating struggle ahead.

The times as a schoolboy when I used to slip into the toilets at morning breaktime to read my Daily Bible notes, growing up and mixing with fellow "young" Christians in the youth club, finding God in a new way at Bible College at the age of 20 all these poured God's wonderful grace into my spirit where He lived and reigned.

When the mental bondage erupted in my life - as a blanket of demonic power engulfed my mind - I was reeling much more than having received a boxer's powerful knock-out punch. I could only hang on to God and His Word in sheer utter confusion, helplessness and weakness.

I've often thought - but what about those who are hit by schizophrenia and never have the fortunate blessing of knowing Jesus before the bondage dawns on their lives. To suddenly find oneself "taken over" by a demonic force that turns your life upside down and inside out is a total blow indeed.

My testimony bears record to the fact that while I struggled over and over again - having at times to ward off demons of suicide who had joined the nest with the main demon of schizophrenia - my refuge was securely found in God's grace and his Word (the Bible). So how much more do others struggle who are not in a living relationship with Jesus Christ to see them through? In a word, it's difficult.

How for example does a schizophrenic cope when the powerful voices he keeps on hearing have a field day and are pressing with suggestions that he goes and jumps in front of an oncoming train or into a river "to end it all". You need the stronger voice of the Holy Spirit in your life to contend with such demonic intrusions into your thought life and keep sanity intact. **Jesus said: "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."** John 10 verses 27-30.

I'm sometimes asked: "What was it like suffering with schizophrenia?" My reply usually follows in this way: "Schizophrenia is total isolation and confusion. You are struggling to survive. In my confusion of mind, I am so thankful I knew God through his indwelling Holy Spirit who kept shedding the light of truth through His Word the Bible into my life. I could not have coped without the ministry of Holy Spirit. I was unable to see myself as others saw me and unaware of their deep concern for me. I found it needful to lean hard on God himself at times through periods of long confusion. When I came through to full freedom in Jesus nearly 20 years ago, I had a greater appreciation of the wonderful refuge I had found in God and the sufficiency of his ever lasting arms. (see Deuteronomy 33 verse 27).

So here's the main thrust of what I want to say. If you are a schizophrenic and at present do not know Jesus Christ as your living Saviour and Lord, then why not TODAY become rightly related to him. You do that simply by recognising He died for you on the cross of Calvary over 2000 ago to give you eternal life (see John 6 verse 54). The sins that separated you from God were placed on Jesus. He took your penalty and paid the price you should have paid by dying in your place. And through his love and mercy He extends to you right now His wonderful offer of reconciliation. Repenting of your sin and inviting Christ into your life brings his living presence into your life through the power of the Holy Spirit. That act equips you better to fight and defeat schizophrenia.

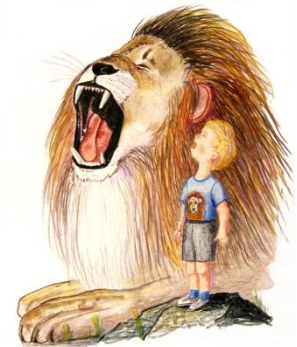
IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: "Lord Jesus Christ, I know I have sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done. There are so many sinful things I have done. I am sorry for my sins and turn from everything I know to be wrong. You gave your life upon the cross for me. Gratefully I give my life back to you. Now I ask you to come into my life. Come in as my Saviour to 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 and so come right through into your glorious freedom. 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 defeating the demon of schizophrenia. By so doing your confidence in the Lord Jesus will grow because the words will impart "spirit and life" into your spirit, and so equip you in your pursuit to the freedom of Jesus.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6 verse 4
God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1: 20-23
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" John 11: 25-26

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 maybe you've been looking at 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-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 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" and has now 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