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Weekly Encourager – 25 July 2010

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

SHOULD I COME OFF ALL MY MEDICATION, OR NOT?

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS ISAIAH CHAPTER 53: Key Verses 3-5: He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. 10-12: Yet it was the LORD'S will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied, by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many and he will bear their iniquities. Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

The living hope of every Christian schizophrenic should be to possess real freedom from Jesus Christ defeating such a demonic bondage and to come to an end of taking all related medication. Is such a thing possible, you ask? Most certainly!! Thanks to the power of Jesus Christ, I have now been free of this worst of psychotic illnesses since 1990 and off all medication for over 22 years. In response to desperate and unceasing prayer, I knew his was going to be a permanent freedom restoring to me everything I had lost during my incarceration. The same Jesus can also set you free!!

It is quite common for a Christian schizophrenic to be in a quandary over the issue of continuing or ceasing medication. If you have been on drugs for any length of time, you will be aware that your mental health, and often physical well-being, is being adversely affected in some way. It is usually hard for you to handle everyday life suffering with schizophrenia. When medication adds to your load the question arises at frequent intervals: "Can I do without all this?"

Your thinking power is reduced quite dramatically by drug medication bringing a passivity which may "find you" a complete contrast to the person you once knew yourself to be. But you are normally left with enough understanding to realise that your mental freedom is gradually being eroded, restricted and lost. Drugs can do that to you!! It's another kind of bondage creeping up and intensifying in your head - offered in the guise of treatment supposed to deal with and subdue your mental illness.

It is always sound advice you stay on your medication until guided by the Holy Spirit to finish. Even though you may agree with this conviction, you can still find it hard to discern a clear word from Jesus because your mind is often confused and assailed. When into your confused train of thought is thrown the conflicting views of psychiatrists on the issue of continuing medications or not (as happened in my own treatment when one said that it would be necessary to remain on the drugs for the remainder of my life; while another contradicted that view and said "not necessarily so") your decision is made more difficult.

It is at this point that you need the counsel, prayer and support of born-again friends around you to confirm any action being made. Don't be slow to confide in Christians who you know have a compassion to help. During a struggle on what to do with medication, I was guided to ask a mature counsellor. Back came the reply: "*Do not come off your medication until the Lord tells you to.*" On hearing such wise counsel, the issue was settled. But even before I received specific guidance from the Lord in January 1988, I thought it right to gradually reduce the intake of medication three months earlier. My mind was too sluggish and tired, so I made the prayerful decision of stretching out my

fortnightly injections to three and four weeks. It was an innovation carefully taken and monitored, resulting in enjoying greater mental strength.

Two years and four months after coming off all medication, the Lord Jesus both delivered and healed me in a matter of minutes. During the interim span there was a gradual build-up of faith and prayer made possible, I do believe, by possessing a greater resolve to seek freedom from schizophrenia as natural energy and vitality returned to my life. I was pleasantly surprised how the improvement in my physical and mental being allowed me to take on a militant stance of prayer and spiritual warfare directed to becoming free.

Though you acknowledge living in such a mental morass, stir yourself - it's time to pray. Before any more shreds of sanity are stolen from you mind call out to God for help. Yes, it is as desperate a situation as that. For the devil, the enemy of men's souls is aware just how weak and deluded you are becoming. It's high time to develop a fighting spirit of prayer using the Word of God as ammunition to oppose the powers of darkness. Be prepared for an intense struggle, but take heart that knowing Jesus and his living presence in your life, YOU CAN PRAY with his help, gain and keep your ground and go on to be set free by driving the evil intruders from your life.

Constantly draw strength from God's word, the Bible, and remember: "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, 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 8: 26-27.

For further helpful reading: *How Taking Palliative Drugs Inflicted Passivity on My Mind* – SEE BELOW*

HOW TAKING PALLIATIVE DRUGS INFLICTED PASSIVITY ON MY MIND

It was not until the literal power of God's Holy Spirit had blasted wide open the prison door of bondage around my mind that I began to fully appreciate how devastating was the damage drugs had inflicted on my mind over the course of 26 long and difficult years.

Though the suffering incurred during this short eternity is something I shall never have to endure again, I am thankful God took me through the pain of it all in order to understand what every schizophrenic endures when his/her mind is bombarded with medication.

Psychiatrists and mental health advisors do not have a clue of the unending struggle a schizophrenic faces from the moment so-called palliative drugs are prescribed to the sufferer. Unable to slip inside the skin of a patient, they stand a million miles away from the toxic dump unleashed into the life of the one they are supposedly seeking to help.

When my moment of glorious freedom dawned a flood of revelation and insight of truth from Jesus filled my life regarding the bondage I had just left behind. Walking out of my prison cell I understood more about the strong bars of iron and gates of brass that had wrapped themselves around my mind for so long.

Here was the revelation!! The demonic forces that had for so long fancied their chances of finishing me off on many occasions had been given unlimited help and assistance through the paralysed hold on my mind that palliative drugs had caused. Hellish evil spirits seeing the passive state I was lulled into every time heavy, confusing drugs were unloaded into my mind, watched for my moment of weakness and their hour of opportunity to move in and overpower me.

This is not being "over the top" or "an exaggeration", but understand this inescapable fact ...every day schizophrenics the world over face this persistent dilemma of how to keep alive as drugs enslave and inactivate their wills and minds as they become a prey for invading spirits intent on destruction.

It's an uphill battle schizophrenics are fully aware of as they are progressively lulled into a fixed state of passivity through drug-taking aimed at containing their confusion and insanity.

Of course, the psychiatric world are trying to help in the only way they know - without the guidance of the greatest Healer of all, the Lord Jesus Christ - but let it be understood every time they write the prescriptions for the schizophrenic he/she is sent through a door at the other side of which demonic forces are waiting. To those professionals in mental health without knowledge of the demonic spirit-world, such mentions will be viewed as off-centre and even ludicrous, but the truth must come out and things told as they really are.

Schizophrenics are losing out every day because strong voices of invading spirits are controlling lives so powerfully since no resistance can be summoned from wills drugged up to the eyeballs as Satan and his cohorts spread spiritual darkness and death into precious lives.

Many were the times in my own life that demonic forces fancied their chances of completing their plans of destruction over me. But for the greater forces of heaven itself standing and fighting with me as the Holy Spirit became my Standby and Weapon, I would have been at the bottom of a river or met some other suicidal end through accepting the endless suggestions pressed unrelentingly into my mind to "end it all as it would soon be over."

With Jesus, I fought many battles and unpleasant contests before He swept His freedom into my life. The issue I faced over many years was about "Should I come off my drugs?" The decision was made more difficult when two psychiatrists I came under on separate occasions contradicted each other in the advice they gave me.

Had it not have been for the correct counsel of a mature Christian worker who advised me not to come off my drugs until the Lord told me to, no doubt I may have abandoned my strict regime of turning up for injections and medication.

Herein lies the dilemma for many Christian schizophrenics who come off their drugs before God REALLY tells them to. Because schizophrenia shows a confused mind, there is a problem in recognising the real voice of the Holy Spirit, and schizophrenics can abandoned their drugs ahead of God guiding them to do so.

But what a delicate balance to maintain!! Every schizophrenic has times when he/she would like to bin the drugs and be free of all the associated adverse affects, but how to conduct your affairs with all hell breaking lose in your mind each day is no small problem to face.

It's no picnic fighting the hell of schizophrenia. It's a demonic stronghold. And every sufferer needs help to come through. But the Devil's game is to wear you out bit by bit. He'll follow a relentless programme of delusion, passivity and entrenchment until he can perform his master stroke of DESTRUCTION.

It is high time for Christians armed with the compassion of Jesus to come alongside so many desperate lives who have a heart-cry to be free. I can think of no other group of people needing HELP so urgently. Mental bondage caused by the invasion of evil spirits is a condition where it can be plainly seen that "the enemy (the devil) seeks to steal, rob and destroy" on a scale unparalleled.

PUSH exists to declare a VOICE to be the world that Jesus only is the answer who can provide the only, real HOPE out of such a confused maze of insanity into a freedom which restores a normal and balanced life.

Praise God for the victory of Jesus on the Cross of Calvary!! Every demon in hell, and Satan himself was dealt a death-blow there and the power of Jesus's triumph is something every schizophrenic the world over needs to know about and embrace to set them free!!

It's high time the church woke up to this unrelenting campaign of evil that demonic forces are engaged in every day. We need to ask God for forgiveness that in one breath we have claimed that Jesus can deal with every condition known to man, yet at the same time have bypassed this big issue of setting mental captives free.

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER: “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 most of all for the sin that separates me from you and acknowledge the death of Jesus on the Cross to redeem me. 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 enable me to know your power as I believe that my mind too can also be completely set free. 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 at the bottom of the Weekly Encourager, some powerful Scriptures for you to learn and commit to memory and 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 to know the deliverance and freedom of Jesus.

(Jesus said) “But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” John 14: 26-27

But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. And I was delivered from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen 2 Timothy 4: 17-18

(Jesus said) “But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.” Matthew 6:6-8

The Weekly Encourager:

1st August: How to find a resting place with God in prayer as you fight to become free

8th August: Overcoming fear in the Church about Schizophrenia

You maybe 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 the W.E. for encouragement and help to overcome this “monster” of mental illnesses and receive REAL HOPE in knowing that the Lord Jesus is the only One who can 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 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 in your life and mine, the same victorious life that brought him back from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit, to everyone accepting his sacrifice. 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!!



James Stacey
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals

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