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Weekly Encourager – 26 September 2010

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

## **KNOW YOUR AUTHORITY IN JESUS BEFORE EXPELLING THE DEMON OF SCHIZOPHRENIA**

**THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS PSALM 18: Key Verses 28-36 & 46-50: You, O LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. For who is God besides the LORD? And who is the Rock except our God? It is God who arms me with strength and makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights. He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great. You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn over...The LORD lives! Praise be to my Rock! He is the God who avenges me, who subdues nations under me, who saves me from my enemies. You exalted me above my foes; from violent men you rescued me. Therefore I will praise you among the nations, O LORD; I will sing praises to your name. He gives his king great victories; he shows unfailing kindness to his anointed, to David and his descendants for ever.**

As a born-again Christian, your deliverance and healing from schizophrenia would march forward in leaps and bounds if you practised self-deliverance. While it is often essential to receive help from others in your pursuit of freedom, the learning and execution of how to deliver yourself would most certainly hasten you to your desired goal. But you must understand ... you need to know what you are doing!

Basically, there are two things you need to know before setting out on self-deliverance. The first IS HAVING a knowledge of possessing the authority of Jesus Christ in your life. He is the one with the power indwelling your life by faith that you must rely on to unseat and defeat a powerful, demonic, evil spirit. Secondly, you must be aware that the forces of darkness are stronger than you and your unaided strength, and as such you are no match to oppose them without Christ.

Once God has made these two issues plain to you and imparted spiritual enlightenment about them, you can proceed to assert your authority in Jesus and declare in faith the freedom and victory he won in his death for you at Calvary. To boldly declare that in his great sacrifice there he conquered sin and death, and all the powers of the kingdom of darkness, is a powerful statement that even a demon of schizophrenia has to take notice of. To insist that Jesus now owns your life through the precious blood he shed for you, is indeed a strong weapon to wield in breaking any legal right over your life that Satan insists on keeping.

Knowing the authority of Jesus in your life to be able to perform self-deliverance does not have to depend on how long you have been a Christian. Children young in the faith who are sure of Jesus are casting demons out of others. If you came to know Jesus as your Lord and Saviour before the dawning of schizophrenia in your life you should have grown strong in the word of the Lord and the grace of Jesus, sufficiently enough to know something of the authority of Jesus in you.

But if you came to know Jesus as Saviour after suffering with schizophrenia, the gaining of your authority in Jesus will be more difficult to realise. That is because your mind is not spiritually or naturally free to pursue your relationship with Christ because of a spiritual opposition. You are focused on two issues at once – developing a new relationship with Jesus while at the same time desiring to shake off and evict the presence of a spirit that stubbornly refuses to leave your life.

Before starting self-deliverance, make sure you have grown in the knowledge and love of Jesus Christ, and, therefore, his authority in your life. Because of the unpleasant, and at times hellish, bondage of schizophrenia on your mind, you may want to realise an experience of self-deliverance

just to get free of the captivity around your mind. I can well understand this. But you have got to be patient and become grounded in your trust in God before attempting this work. This is not to say that you must always hold back from launching out in faith to start evicting the demon(s), but be sure you know your authority in Jesus reigning in your heart at the commencement.

It is most unwise to try to do self-deliverance if you don't know what you are doing. Jesus once told his disciples: "You do not know what manner of spirit you are of." (Luke 9:55). Take from that the inference that the disciples were not aware which spirit was at work, or ruling, in their lives. If you are sure, for example, that the Holy Spirit is in control of your life (see Romans 8:1) you will also be aware of the authority of Jesus ruling in your life. Such knowledge is vital to have before even attempting self-deliverance. But real-life experience teaches that it is hard for a born-again schizophrenic to be in full control of his/her life because of the battle with hearing other voices hostile to the Spirit of God.

If you do not know the authority of Jesus Christ in your life you will not know what self-deliverance is all about and, therefore, you will not know what to expect - whether it is in respect of anticipating becoming free or suffering an attack from the spirits of darkness you are trying to evict. Read Acts 19:13-16 which will suffice to illustrate the point. (Explain it). In this incident, the sons of Sceva were misusing the Name of Jesus to cast out demons without knowing the power of Jesus in their lives. They got more than they bargained for!! The demons they were trying to evict set upon them stating that they didn't "know them" - meaning their lives did not count in evicting the demons because of not knowing Christ.

I believe that the spiritual power of self-deliverance is both essential and vital. It works in both setting you free and keeping you free. Once having expelled demons from your life – which means you simply take authority over them and tell them to leave - you are in a better position to know how to keep yourself free. The Holy Spirit is the teacher in all this activity.

In conducting self-deliverance remember the weapon of operations is PRAYER and the area for its focus is your mind and breaking the mental imprisonment there. Through the power of the Holy Spirit operating in your life, YOU may experience the defeat of spiritual darkness which holds you mind like gates of brass and bars or iron.

To start on the pathway of victory, firstly establish in your heart that you are praying in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ through the power of his shed blood. I underline - you need to understand the authority given you as a follower of Jesus Christ before embarking on self-deliverance ministry. Unless you have a clear knowledge of Christ's authority in your spirit you will not be able to operate effectively. It is the knowledge of the power of Christ harnessed by you that both expels the powers of darkness from your life. Not only would you be ineffective in driving out any demon of schizophrenia from your life if you operated in your own strength and not in the power of Jesus, but you would increase the spiritual bondage within.

As you continue to pray to reach your freedom in Christ, and at the same time engage others to join you in that quest, be filled with faith that God does hear and answer prayer and loves to shed his light on those who seek him. The Holy Spirit is the teacher who will guide you into all truth. He will perform his word in your life if you believe it and impart his truth on the great issue of becoming free from any spirit of darkness that has invaded your life.

Take hold of your authority in Jesus. Remember, there is power in his Name.

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*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 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 over the intruder and believe that my mind too can also be completely set free. 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 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 declared) "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and truth." John 4: 23-24

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death... The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. Romans 8: 1-2 & 6-9

Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. 2 Corinthians 4: 16-18

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#### **The Weekly Encourager:**

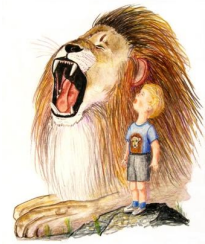
**3 October: Reach Out and Trust a Christian Friend to Pray for You to be Delivered**

**10 October: Hide Yourself Away With God and Receive Strength to Defeat Schizophrenia**

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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 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-tried 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*