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Weekly Encourager – 27 March 2011

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

DWELLING IN GOD'S LIGHT WILL REVEAL THE DARKNESS OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN CHAPTER 8: Selected verses 27-38: They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be, and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him. Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him. To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves to anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is as a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it for ever. So if the Son sets you free you will be free indeed. I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have no room for my word. I am telling you what I have seen in the Father's presence, and you do what you have heard from your father." Verse 44-47: "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he speaks, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Yet because I tell you the truth, you do not believe me! Can any of you prove me guilty of sin? I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe me? He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

If you want to know what the defeat of 26 years of schizophrenia meant, I would say it was the power of Jesus Christ overcoming evil spirits of darkness and setting me totally free.

When that evil first erupted from inside my life way back in 1964, there was an immediate clash between the life of Jesus in me and the assertive spiritual powers now bent on my destruction.

As a believer in Jesus struggling to defeat schizophrenia, you too will be aware of a similar battle. Be encouraged you are on the road to freedom knowing of this conflict.

The light of the life of Jesus in you is being stirred to oppose demonic presences with personalities of their own determined to take over your life and disintegrate and destroy your own personality.

Through active, living, and conscious faith in Jesus, you will win the contest and reach full freedom because Jesus in you is stronger than the power now manifesting itself in your life. Jesus is committed to you in a far greater way than you will ever realise and will always remain entirely faithful to you.

The Scriptures say, "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." (1 John 4:4). When he that is in the world has arrived on the doorstep of your life and moved in, such a bible verse takes on a more personal and deeper meaning.

If Christians without schizophrenia need prayer ministry, counselling and help to go on to live in victory in Jesus, how much more do those mental sufferers with a greater need to know the light of Jesus reigning within.

The reality of having schizophrenia, you will have found, is that for the most part you are struggling alone to make sense of life amidst all the demonic confusion let loose in your life, and it's become patently obvious how much leaning you have to do on the Holy Spirit.

Take heart that as you abide in the indwelling life of Jesus, and He draws near to you, there will be provided all the light you need to discern and expel the demon of schizophrenia and any subsequent nest of spirits he works tirelessly to bring into your life.

It is a most powerful Scripture in **John 1 verse 5**: “This is the message we heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.**” The way to know all about the darkness of schizophrenia is not to delve into the area of spiritual darkness but to dwell in the light of God who exposes it all.

On one occasion, Jesus said: “...**If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!**” (**Matthew 6:23**) As a believer in Jesus who has set out his stall to defeat schizophrenia, be on your guard against being content in living a spiritually substandard life. Many Christians who don't have schizophrenia to battle against are happy with “a well of water” when they can have the “rivers of living water.” John 7: 38/39. You will need the “rivers” in order to defeat schizophrenia.

The Spirit-filled believer who has schizophrenia will fight with all the energy of the Holy Spirit. Satan is not so much interested in those in whom there is now a spirit of passivity, indifference and lethargy – and who may regard the voices of the evil spirits as their friend instead of opposing them – but when he sees you convinced of the truth about Christ, then he has something to fear. The heat of the battle in your life will become intense at this stage but take heart, you are on the victory side with Jesus.

What does it mean to be a Spirit-filled Christian with schizophrenia? It means that in the difficult life you now find yourself in, the only defeat of this spiritual darkness is going to come as you abide in the strong power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has got to be allowed to keep on possessing your life if you are to remain strong in the fight and go on to win.

Don't think it unusual when the Word of God is quickened to your spirit and your reliance on it becomes more sharpened. It's common to find yourself being stirred to get out of bed in the morning to meet God in readiness for the day. “A day begun well is a day going swell”, became my motto. The Holy Spirit will teach and guide you into all truth on the issue of being equipped to meet whatever the day may bring – standing fast in God's truth will become the issue of the day.

Whatever the Lord teaches you through the indwelling Holy Spirit that enables you to hold on to Him, then carry it out. He will direct you into abiding in the power of the Holy Spirit and this valuable teaching will equip you to stand fast and firm. What matters at the end of the day, is that you have not lost out in your continued fight to defeat the schizophrenia spirit. The kingdom of darkness is gradually getting defeated through your opposition and the strong belief you hold that Jesus died for you and nothing less than his freedom will do!!

As more of the light of the Holy Spirit dwells in you, the more determined you will become that this darkness has got to be driven out. Resting in the authority of God you have, it is time to bind the darkness in your own life, or to inactivate it. You are commanding it to leave as you assert your authority in the Name of Jesus. There is something rising up inside of you that displays the victory of Jesus on the Cross and is totally opposed to accepting that the powers of darkness can ever think they have a right to your life created by God and for Himself. When that fire burns inside you, it will be the start and sign of something that puts you on the highway to healing and deliverance.

PRAYER: Dear Heavenly Father, I thank you that it is only through living in the light of Your Presence that I know about the powers of spiritual darkness. As I focus on being indwelt by Your life, help me to fiercely oppose through the power of the Holy Spirit of truth any form of darkness including schizophrenia which may seek to overpower me and prevent my life from being totally free. Continue to strengthen me as I move forward to drive out in the Name of Jesus, all spirits of darkness. I ask this for Your glory alone. Amen.

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 in the name of Jesus through the power of his blood over the intruding force. I assert your ownership of my life and resist any legal right that the devil seeks to hold over my life and bind up and expel any evil presence. I believe that my mind, too, can also be completely set free and my whole life enjoy the total freedom of Jesus. 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 in the Weekly Encourager some powerful Scriptures to learn and commit to memory for 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 for freedom to know the deliverance and healing of Jesus.

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. Psalm 18: 32-35

When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” Matthew 8: 16-17

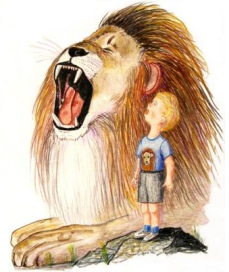
Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. James 1:12

The Weekly Encourager

3 April: Plead The Prayer Support Of Others To Hasten Deliverance from Schizophrenia

10 April: How To Resist Satan In The Name Of The Lord

You may be 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 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