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Weekly Encourager – 28 March 2010

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

EARNESTLY DESIRING THE GRACE OF GOD STRENGTHENS YOU TO DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 1:
Key Verses: 1-18 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying. "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' From the fullness of his grace we have all received one blessing after another. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No-one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

We are in the celebration of Easter week with Majestic Love in action as the death and resurrection of Jesus is remembered!! Every day is a life spent in the knowledge of such a remarkable sacrifice and event, but what about those of you who believe in the Son of God and love him dearly for whom it would seem more of his life has got to invade and set you free!!

The whole of the 26 years I spent in a schizophrenic prison were not days of real freedom – though I did continue believing in Jesus all that time. And no doubt it's just like that for you suffering with the same psychotic disorder. The potential of spiritual freedom and delight in you is so boundless that you must not allow to stay like you are at present – for God has in store for you a freedom so precious.

Let's join together and sound out this Eastertime that Jesus Christ did indeed die for our sins to bring us back to God – and can still defeat every evil power of darkness (from which schizophrenia proceeds) seeking to have the mastery in a human life. When Jesus said: "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed," he really meant it. Consider, what power is it that Jesus possesses in order to set free? In a word, his grace. Grace has been described as God's Riches at Christ's Expense. Grace is the free, unmerited favour for undeserving sinners. It flowed at Calvary when Jesus, the holy and righteous Son of God, died and purchased for each one of us the gift of eternal life.

Grace marks out the difference between the person who calls themselves a Christian and the one who knows they are because the grace of God has touched them. I have found it necessary when trying to help schizophrenics to ask if they are, first of all, rightly related to Jesus Christ. In other words, have they been touched by the wonderful grace of Jesus Christ and thereby know him.

In order to defeat schizophrenia it will take two main ingredients. 1. Knowing Jesus and 2. Knowing his grace. You may ask, "Aren't they the same?" Indeed they are, but I wanted to underscore the importance of knowing Jesus day by day, hour by hour, as his abiding grace fills your heart and mind. Grace is something that touches your heart, stirs a song within, launches out into prayer, and praises

God for his goodness. You can have as much grace (or as much of God) as you want, but to have more you have got to use up what God is already offering you.

The Apostle Paul was possessed with what someone has called “the divine obsession” – that of knowing Christ and “of being found in him”. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ alone helped him achieve his goal. He said to the Corinthian church: “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.” You can press through into the freedom of Jesus because all the grace you need is at your disposal. When God sees you pressing in so as to know him, he cannot but answer your cries.

I want to magnify the wonderful grace of the Lord Jesus Christ in putting me into “Christ’s perseverance” or into the reception of his grace. Make up your mind that you cannot live another hour longer without knowing the grace of God, and ask him to fill you. In faith, bind the grace of God to your heart and never lose sight of an ever-flowing fountain of grace and life which can become an artesian well of living water welling up from within you. Fill you lamp with fresh oil. Arise and shine for your light has come. Be strong and be of a good courage!!

Let us pray together: “Dear Loving Heavenly Father, as we draw near to the celebration of the death and resurrection of your dear Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ will you come to me and make his sacrifice so real to me. Wipe away, once for all, my sins that you died to atone for on the Cross of Calvary in order that I might not have to die eternally. Thank you, Jesus, for taking my sins and my sorrows and for making them your very own. By the power of your shed blood, I am set free and I am now opened up to all the resources of your grace and power which enables me to live for you. I am looking forward to the day – why not today, O Lord? – when the bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is no more. Yes, all the darkness driven away by the light of your Resurrection Presence. And your same power and strength will be there for me day in and day out as I get my life back together, too. Thank you too for wisdom found in your grace to both deliver and keep me. There are no words to describe how thankful I am that you the Holy and Righteous Son of God should leave the courts of heaven to come to earth to set me free. I accept your sacrifice. Thank you for going to the Cross for me. I see the devastating darkness of sin and my need for repentance and forgiveness, and I am only too willing to fall at your feet as my Lord and my God. My life is truly yours and belongs to no other. Yours by creation and redemption. Receive me, dear Lord as I desire to bring pleasure to you by loving you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength – free of any form of bondage and demonic stronghold near me. In the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. 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 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.

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, (Christ) made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Colossians: 2:15

I will not talk with you much more, for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on Me – he has nothing in common with Me, there is nothing in Me that belongs to him, he has no power over Me. John 14:30

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. Isaiah 53: 12

THE WEEKLY ENCOURAGER OVER THE EASTER PERIOD: Easter Sunday 4th April and 11th April: HE’S ALIVE, HE’S ALIVE, HE IS RISEN

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-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 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" as 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
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals

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

