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Weekly Encourager – 29 August 2010

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

GETTING TO KNOW THE GOD OF THE BIBLE PERSONALLY

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS HEBREWS CHAPTER 11: Key verses 1-2: BY FAITH: Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible. (verses 32-39) And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again. Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawn in two, they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and ill-treated – the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.

It is most important at the time of receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour to understand that you have come to know the God of the Bible. To be encouraged to read the Scriptures, and pray each day, is more than a good idea - it is the life and soul of every new born-again child of God who must hold this wise direction for life. Among the half-a-dozen Bible memory verses I treasured being given on the night I received Jesus at a Saturday rally, was one which pressed home to me the importance of reading and knowing the unique Word of God: "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word . . . Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee," said the golden texts taken from Psalm 119 verses 9-11 (King James Version).

Among other advice recommended to me on that life-changing occasion was that I should continue attending church. This I was assured would be a means of growing in my new-found faith and getting to know Jesus better. Hearing the word of God preached and having fellowship became part of my life. At the age of 14, I was soon adopting a regular daily reading of the Scriptures, supported by Discovering the Bible Notes, which provided inner encouragement, inspiration and necessary spiritual food. Your introduction to Jesus may have followed a similar pattern. As I look back on nearly 54 years of following Jesus, I always value how privileged I was to start on the journey of Christian faith in a God-inspired and God-commended way.

May I ask those of you who are born-again Christians struggling with schizophrenia if you have really discovered that the Jesus you profess is the God of the Bible. It is the only book which contains the unique revelation of God on the stage of human history, and as such stands apart. Because it is divinely inspired, it has the ability to speak to you as you live out your Christian life, empower you in your desire to walk with God and be a continual source of inspiration throughout life itself. It connects you to God's power and CAN overcome evil forces in your life.

When the words of Scripture become your prayer weapon, they have the power to deliver you from invading hordes of spiritual darkness and can fuel the faith that can drive out the demon spirit of schizophrenia. Your mind may feel at times that it is being taken over, but your spirit can be supported by the power of words from Jesus and from other parts of the Bible which anchor you in a refuge of safety from where you can fight for your freedom.

Do not be misled into thinking that the Bible is just like any other book and that as a Christian you can afford to dismiss its powerful influence in your life. When schizophrenia first dawned on my life, I

remember every working day seeing the need to meet God and search the Scriptures for a “nugget of truth” from the Bible. Once found, that special word received into my spirit had the ability to inspire faith and keep me close to God for the whole of the day.

If you are ever to know the joy of being free from schizophrenia, may I suggest that you will have to prove two important discoveries in your life – they were found in the Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, you ought as a believer to see their importance for you. In the gospel records of the life of Jesus, we see the regular habit of meeting in prayer with God his Father and the unique reliance he placed on knowing and keeping the Old Testament scriptures. Make it a pursuit to have these two discoveries in your life for their impact has the power to defeat schizophrenia once and for all. It was at a time of being tempted by Satan that Jesus declared: “Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.” Matthew 4 verse 4. Hence you see the value Jesus put on quoting the word of God to Satan – always an effective strategy to drive away the author of the powers of spiritual darkness.

The late Bill Bright, founder of the worldwide Campus Crusade for Christ, brought out a book called: “*Discover the Book God Wrote*”. In the months before his death, he said: “I would rather have the Bible than any other book because it contains the message of God. It is a love letter to me and to all other human beings. Reading the Bible has not only transformed my life through the enabling of the Holy Spirit, but I have also seen it change the lives of multitudes of people around the world.”

These are comforting words indeed for anyone like yourself struggling to break free of schizophrenia. Turmoil and distress of mind sends you in a thousand and one directions seeking an anchor of rest in both your spirit and mind. Words that are “spirit and life” found in the Bible have the power to release such rest. I can testify that memorising, quoting, and declaring the Word of God in times of extreme anxiety and bondage did produce in me that measure of sanity without which life would not have continued. I cannot commend too much the life-imparting strength found in the Word of God to those of you who seek a permanent resting-place in God. Let his Word be the vehicle to take you there!! Prove the power TODAY of abiding in God's Word – and His Presence – and see your quest to become TOTALLY FREE in Jesus move ahead in leaps and bounds.

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 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 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 said) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples. John 15: 5-8

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 of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is 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. John 8: 31-36

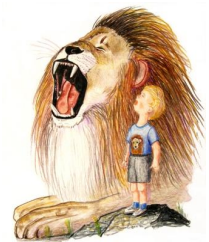
Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3: 5-6

The Weekly Encourager:

5 September: The Power of God's Love Setting a Schizophrenic Totally Free

12 September: Away with the stigma of talking about having 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 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-versed 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