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Weekly Encourager – 30 October 2011

Scriptural advice, help and insight on how to defeat schizophrenia from James Stacey now in his 22<sup>nd</sup> year of freedom from the bondage - thanks to Jesus Christ

## FAITH IN JESUS RELEASING HIS LIFE, AUTHORITY AND POWER TO SET YOU FREE

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN CHAPTER 11: Key Verses 17–27: (Jesus Raises Lazarus From The Dead) -

On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha answered, "I know he

will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord," she told him. "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." Verses 38-44: Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days." Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them. "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."



In facing up to life blitzed by schizophrenia, sufferers need hope to endure more than exhortation to become free.

I have asked myself how much of the 26 years of battling schizophrenia contained a serious pursuit of faith aimed at wanting to reach total freedom from the bondage.

For over 22 years, the only priority that seemed to grip me was the need to survive through desperately holding onto Jesus. I can well understand if you, too, struggle to keep your head above water each day.

When loved ones came alongside me with direct words of encouragement and hope, I did not always fully understand their well-meaning support.

So complex is the mind of even a Christian schizophrenic that normal thought patterns are often subject to distortion and confusion bringing misunderstanding of the good expressions of others.

But what if there had been exhortations to engage in spiritual warfare aimed at setting myself free from the entrenched prison-house of schizophrenia? What good would it have done?

Most likely, in a moment of inspiration, I would have cried out: "I STRUGGLE TO EXIST FROM DAY TO DAY NEVER MIND ABOUT PUTTING UP A FIGHT TO BE FREE. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU ARE SAYING!!".

This statement may just reflect something of your position today. While deep down in your heart you just long to get back to normal life, your focus is surviving each day through placing hope in Jesus rather than engaging in a spiritual fight to become free.

Many people – even Christian loved ones and friends – will find it hard to “get inside your life” as it really is. But those intent on trying to understand you will be given insight as the Holy Spirit shines truth into their hearts about your condition.

Would you allow me to speak a word of encouragement into your life today by simply saying: “Keep hope alive by trusting in Jesus.” It is a word of truth I do believe Jesus wants you to hear. Let it sink down into your heart and reach your mind.

Coming to every fresh new day and facing its challenges can often overwhelm you. Whether today you are in a Mental Health Hospital Unit receiving ongoing treatment or live in a care home having stabilised your condition, even the simple routine of life can be too much for you at times.

Deep down in your heart are memories of better days and you just wish for that quality of life to return. Perhaps the memories are found so far away in the dim and distant past that you now have doubts if you will ever be able to return to life as you knew it. Keep hope alive by putting your faith in Jesus for He can make it happen!!

It may be difficult to recapture at present the former days when you were unaffected by schizophrenia. You feel that the condition has brought a bondage which has robbed and stolen so much from your life. I used to feel just as you feel today, but hope in Jesus was kept alive helped most of all by the Spirit of Jesus – and one day He broke the demonic hold of schizophrenia over my life, set me completely free and restored me with more than I had before. I trust He does the same for you as well, sooner or later.

I have revisited in my memory from time to time the unpleasant days spent in a Mental Institution and have thanked God that such difficult times will never return. Then, though my head did not feel part of me due to being on regular medication, I sought to repeat the precious promises found in the Bible. It was through having faith in these words which were “spirit and life” that kept hope alive. The Holy Spirit living in my heart kept those promises living and active.

As a young Methodist who received Jesus at the age of 14, I had decided to trust the Word of God as necessary food for my spiritual life. One of the six cards or so I was told to memorise on the night I accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, was found in Psalm 119 verses 9 and 11 which read: “How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”

My faith in Jesus grew through continuing to believe the Scriptures during my teenage years and then into the time spent at Bible College. When the demonic onslaught of schizophrenia sent me reeling in 1964, it was to JESUS I turned in prayer. He was the anchor of my faith founded in the Word of God – and He proved totally sufficient. As the sentiment in the old Methodist hymn puts it (my paraphrase): – “I have an anchor to keep my soul, steadfast and sure while the mental billows roll. It is fastened to the Rock which cannot move and grounded firm and deep in my Saviour’s love.”

Do believe today that Jesus is well able to sustain you as you battle with schizophrenia. Your hopes will not be dashed because they are founded in One who is The Way, The Truth and The Life. Knowing His love and life, He will not leave you or forsake you but will provide all your needs from day to day. There will be strength to go on in days of seeming hopelessness. Jesus will impart hope where there seems to be none. His faithful love will be with you.

Sometimes you may delay to turn to the Word of God or even read the Bible notes you have. However difficult it is to get into the discipline of regularly reading the Scriptures, remember that every time you do it, truth is imparted into your life. A visit to read the Word of God is like taking necessary daily food. It can do nothing but good to your soul, and brings benefit every time. Truth stored up in one's life is powerful in breaking the stronghold of darkness of schizophrenia – though it maybe early days for you to know this confidence in a strong degree.

For more than than 22 years I kept down a job as a colliery clerk, Betterwear salesman, bookshop manager, postman, postal officer, and investigation branch support clerk – at the same time seeking to keep faithful to Jesus. Then, suddenly, my natural strength began to return at a time I obeyed the Lord to come off all medication – a decision I delayed and delayed until the Lord told me to implement. My own prayer life got stronger aided by the prayers of others and THE DESIRE TO BE FREE GRIPPED MY LIFE AS A POSSIBILITY AND SOMETHING I ARDENTLY WANTED.

It had taken a long time to realise that abiding in Christ through faith held the key to releasing spiritual power into my life sufficient to drive out the demon of schizophrenia. A growing expectancy that I could be free of this stronghold around my mind was growing into a fixed daily pursuit.

If the power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead LIVED IN ME, and I believed He did, then His great freedom purchased on the Cross through his self-sacrificing life was mine to know and enjoy. I began to live with one desire, that of becoming free. Every day was started with a meaningful encounter with Jesus. I always left my home for work with the strength of the Holy Spirit in possession. I determined I would return home 10 hours later having “stood fast in the faith” with everything intact and another day of victory recorded. All of this was only possible through the grace and power of Jesus quickening His life in my spirit. Praise His Name!!

When you really want something from God, you will pay the price to get it. I felt that way. I knew the voices that hindered my thinking and life were of a Satanic origin. I didn't need anyone to debate that with me, agree with me or give me their opinion. The Holy Spirit led me into the truth of knowing that evil spirits were occupying my life. There was a usurper in my head, and in my life, that should not be there and I was determined to evict every evil presence at all cost.

One day, I walked into the toilets on the fourth floor of the Post Office building where I worked and said to the Lord: “I am going to come here in my tea breaks and dinner breaks until you overcome this evil power in my life.” Food didn't matter. I would conquer the temptation of being diverted into the restaurant for bacon and eggs as I came near the door on my way to the toilet to pray. Day after day, the meeting with God was held in a variety of toilets on one of the sets located on three floors. Prayers were ascending and God knew every detail of the fight I was pursuing. Reading and meditating on the Word of God empowered me. On some occasions, the Spirit of the Lord would come down allowing me to bathe in His Presence. I often wanted to stay worshipping the Lord and was in no hurry to get back to my desk but, of course, I kept strictly to my dinner-time allowance.

The kind of faith now in operation in my life had changed. No longer was I exercising faith in Jesus to survive but I was in fighting mood to claim and know the freedom and victory which He had obtained for me on the Cross of Calvary.

I WAS NO LONGER DESPERATELY CLINGING AND HOLDING ONTO CHRIST BUT NOW ATTACKING AND ADVANCING THE FIGHT TO BECOME FREE. DELIVERANCE AND HEALING DID EVENTUALLY COME (READ CHAPTER 9 OF “SCHIZOPHRENIA DEFEATED” ON THE WEBSITE).

Dear Christian friend – It is more than likely that you are living each day seeking to keep a glimmer of faith and hope alive in Jesus. You are to be encouraged for doing just that. Jesus Christ knows the place where you are and the struggles you have to keep faith and trust active in Him. As fellow

Christians love and pray for you by lifting you up to the throne of Grace, your amount of faith and hope to be able to endure will grow. As intercession continues for you, I trust the Spirit of God will go further and quicken more and more your faith in Christ bringing you to a definite place of confidence where you begin to pursue your own freedom. I know the journey can be both long and difficult, but put your heart and soul into being prepared to get there strengthened by all the power you will need from Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has already won the fight for you. (The pursuit of being delivered and healed of schizophrenia can be hastened as personal help is given in prayer counselling and support).

FOR FURTHER READING: See Archive Files:

**2011** 12 June – Let The Power Of Pentecost Fill You In Your Desire To Be Set Free

**2010** 27 February – Arise And Pray Yourself Out Of Schizophrenia

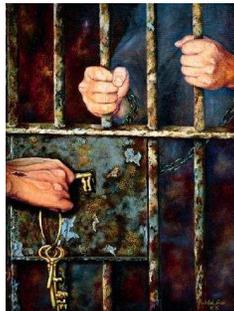
*A PRAYER OF HOPE: "Lord God Almighty, will you hear my prayer and make the sacrifice of your Son, Jesus Christ real to me. Wipe away my sins that were atoned for on the Cross of Calvary by Jesus in order that I might not have to die eternally. I believe that Jesus took all my sins and my sorrows and made them His very own and that after three days He rose again from the dead and now makes intercession for me. By the power of His shed blood, I believe I am now set free and opened up to all the resources of His grace and power. I am looking forward to the day – why not today – when the evil bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is totally defeated. I ask You, Heavenly Father, to help me drive out the dark, spiritual presence by the light of your conquering Resurrection Presence. I want to know the reality of your promise that whoever follows you shall not walk in darkness but shall have the Light of Life. Make it happen for me I pray in the Mighty Name of Jesus, Amen.*

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**BEFORE DELIVERANCE AND HEALING**

showing the "gates of brass and bars of iron" around my mind requiring the power of Jesus to shatter once and for all.



**THE GATES OF HELL SHALL NOT PREVAIL**

by Rebekah Laue of Pagosa Springs, Colorado, U.S.A.



**AFTER DELIVERANCE AND HEALING**

picture taken at 6.15 a.m. at Derby Railway Station five days after Jesus set me free, on my way to show Tina "her new man"

*IF YOU HAVE NEVER INVITED JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, AND WISH TO, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER WITH ALL YOUR HEART: "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.

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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 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.

For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. Colossians 1:13

Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:44-46

But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one. 2 Thessalonians 3:3

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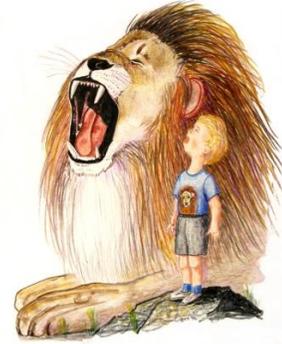
### **The Weekly Encourager**

**6 November: Jesus Imparts His Divine Truth And Light To Conquer Schizophrenia**  
**13 November: Personal Message To Those Helping Christian Schizophrenics Into Freedom**

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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](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*