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Weekly Encourager – 31 October 2010

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

HOW TO PRAY EFFECTIVELY FOR THE PROTECTION AND FREEING OF YOUR MIND

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS EPHESIANS CHAPTER 6 : Key Verses 10-18 The Armour of God - Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for the saints.

Every born-again Christian who suffers with schizophrenia must learn and know the huge importance of being able to pray and battle against spiritual forces of darkness attacking his life.

Never undervalue being able to pray in the power of the Holy Spirit using the Word of God. For me it was the number one priority during 26 years of contending against Satanic powers that schemed unrelentlessly to destroy my life.

Real demonic schizophrenia is like no other mental oppression. The voices running wild inside your head need to be confronted by the greater voice of Jesus's living presence, the Holy Spirit.

Your whole life needs to take on the path of prayer. The prayer I speak of is not just mouthing words but prayer united to Christ and performed in the power of the Holy Spirit **"who helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express."**

The next verse is full of revelation: **"And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."** Romans 8:26-28.

The day you really discover that the Lord Jesus Christ, your Saviour, who lives in you not only prays within you, but also makes intercession at the throne of God for you, will make you a transformed Christian.

To be aware that each and every day can evidence the ministry of prayer from Jesus both in your life and at God's throne can despatch a mighty note of victory to your life with the potential of breaking the power of schizophrenia.

It can inspire you with such faith as to aggressively resist in the Name of Jesus every advance to usurp control of your life by Satan's evil power. Armed with the confidence of your standing in God enables you to pray like at no other time, as if life itself depended on it.

Knowing that God is watching over you, protecting you and fighting with you builds up your inner strength. Taking hold of all the power he has at your disposal certainly builds your confidence in him. Your life has been redeemed – not with silver and gold but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ – so how dare spiritual forces scheme to harm you or seek to rob you of your freedom and destiny.

For far too long we have allowed the devil to walk over us. Have you made that mistake? Know who you are in Jesus. Take hold of his power. See yourself as the child of the King. Walk and talk with him each day. Don't give any ground whatsoever to the devil... instead resist him with all your might.

Many were the times during my bondage of schizophrenia when faith in Jesus was challenged. The devil sought to weaken my faith, as he does with us all. Feelings were always wanting to take over the activity of faith. But you know something? When you believe the Word of God and know it in your spirit as God's undisputed and unique Word, it is a sure and certain anchor.

When you pray with the Psalmist David: "Hear me, O God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy," (Psalm 64) you have faith to believe God hears your prayer. When the words of Jesus ring in your heart..."Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours," (Mark 11:24) you have faith to believe the promise. Not only in the difficulty of schizophrenia will Jesus protect you, but he has sufficient power to completely free you from the bondage!!

In your weakness the grace of God and the Word of God make you strong. When the power of God is within a person – even someone in bondage to a stronghold as powerful as schizophrenia – then that stronghold has to yield. Get used to the fact that Jesus is the breaker of strongholds and of all demonic presences in our lives. There's nothing too big for him to conquer.

I leave you today with an incident taken from the gospel of Luke (chapter 6) which is full of encouragement. "He (Jesus) went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the sea-coast of Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all."

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 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 for freedom to know the deliverance and healing of Jesus.

(Jesus said): "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life. Yet there are some of you who do not believe." John 6: 63-64

The apostles said to the LORD, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you. Luke 17: 5-6

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13 20-21

The Weekly Encourager:

7 Nov: Every Schizophrenic Needs to Know The Transforming Love of Jesus

14 Nov: Discover the Preciousness of Faith in Jesus in Your Pursuit of Freedom

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 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