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Weekly Encourager – 3 April 2011

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

PLEADING PRAYER SUPPORT OF OTHERS WILL HASTEN YOUR DEFEAT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS LUKE'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 10: *The Parable of the Good Samaritan*: Selected verses 25-30: On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all you heart and will all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind', and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' " "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half-dead... verses 33-37 "But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' "Which of these three do you think was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

If fellow Christians were sensitive to your need for deliverance and healing they would engage in praying for you instead of you having to seek out their prayer support.

Two great needs in your life, and in the lives of Christians in bondage to schizophrenia the world over, are for other believers to feel compassion leading to effective prayer involvement.

Once the Spirit of God is allowed to show a fellow concerned-Christian just what must happen in order for you to be set free, tremendous progress is made in defeating schizophrenia.

For example, if a strong prayer force was at work praying for your mind to receive light and truth from the Holy Spirit, the struggle and lies of demonic schizophrenia would feel the impact.

If powerful prayer moved in and pleaded with God to break through the "bars of iron and the gates of brass" (a fitting description of the schizophrenic mind), the hold of spiritual darkness most certainly would be penetrated.

The effect of prayers would not allow you to tolerate the demonic voices coming from the evil nest of spirits associated with schizophrenia. You would begin to hear more of the Word of God found in the Bible than the lying voices seeking to destroy you.

Another point to bear in mind is that when fellow Christians are pouring out their hearts for you at the throne of Grace, heaven hears and God answers. An impossible situation no longer seems impossible!! You must have at least one close-trusted Christian friend you can turn to in times of real pressure. Ask the Lord to give you the urgency of enlisting their much needed prayer support for the difficult times you pass through. It will make the times of desperation you face less desperate.

I had struggled to survive for over 20 years until God brought Tina into my life. When she informed me that our relationship of seven months was over, it proved not to be the end but the start of something leading to freedom from schizophrenia.

My refusal to let her walk out of my life rested entirely on the fact that I had received a real vision from the Lord in which I saw Tina in a bridal gown. Though not ready for marriage, I refused to let her go believing that a God-given vision always comes to pass.

Tina went home that day after we had decided to meet less regularly in the future. She began to ask the Lord: "Is there a way out for James? He really loves you, and I like the real James I see from time to time."

What followed was the start of a prayer involvement which was about to hasten my deliverance, though it took two years.

After searching through the medical book to learn all about the three main types of schizophrenia, Tina was persuaded by the Holy Spirit to ring a group of close Christian friends to enlist prayer for me.

Confidence grew in Tina that God was able to bring me through this most evil of psychotic illnesses. There's power in prayer – and she believed that the prayers ascending for me were not just "keeping me going" in life generally, but were breaking through the spiritual darkness behind the condition of schizophrenia.

So whenever she met a problem in my inability to see truth clearly and instead showed a confused mind, she would ring the Prayer Force of helpers to ask God to give me His help.

She had regular back-up of prayer at home from her father, retired-minister Maurice Winterburn and his endearing wife Esther. Both would pray for me individually and together. Whenever Tina used to return home absolutely shattered through meeting the presence of spiritual darkness in me, she would turn to them and her team of faithful supporters and desire prayer for me.

Notice, it was not me so much asking for prayer as Tina herself feeling the compassion of Jesus which moved her to pray and seek others to pray for me. The insight and help of the Holy Spirit showed them what I needed to see happen in my life – nothing less than the bursting forth of the light and truth of God penetrating "the bars or iron and the gates of brass around my mind" and the demons being driven out of my life.

Faith in God grew in me through the prayers of Tina and all the prayer warriors she had rounded up. God answered those prayers by increasing my boldness in declaring that Jesus had died for me and my life was His alone. The revelation that Satan and the kingdom of darkness had no legal right in my life burned deeply in my spirit and a show-down was inevitable.

I do believe that I could have come out of my schizophrenia prison much earlier than enduring the anguish of 26 long and difficult years. I never sort much prayer help for myself during the stretch between 1964-1987 because of trying to cope with a bondage which was hard to manage. I only wish I had been able to frame into words what I was passing through, but the weight of the bondage was often too great for that.

A disintegration of my personality was taking place which others with discernment should have been able to see, I do believe. But as my pastor in those days says: "... we were not into this kind of ministry some years back."

Today is different. There is more acceptance among Christians of the presence of evil spirits among believers and active ministry exists to help people overcome – but much more needs to be achieved. A bold faith in Jesus within compassionate hearts who do believe that Christ did give His power and authority to His church will make all the difference. The working of miracles, signs and wonders – including the setting free of countless numbers of people suffering with schizophrenia is most certain to follow for the glory of God.

PRAYER - Dear loving Heavenly Father, you know how much I desire to be set free of schizophrenia and enter the full freedom which your Son Jesus obtained for me when He died on the Cross of Calvary. I ask you to provide compassionate support from fellow Christians who will both love, care and pray for me to make this desire a reality in my life. In the Name of Jesus, I pray. Amen.

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.

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.

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 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. Luke 6:17-19

In the same way, the Spirit 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. 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 8:26-27

(The boy's father answered): "It (the evil spirit) has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mark 9:22-24

The Weekly Encourager

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

17 April: The Defeat of Schizophrenia Was Achieved When Jesus Died at Calvary

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-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