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Weekly Encourager – 3 January 2010

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

THIS YEAR COULD BE YOUR TIME TO BE DELIVERED OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

"Is anything too hard for the Lord?" Genesis 18 verse 14;
"If you can?" said Jesus." "Everything is possible for him who believes." Mark 9 verse 23

In this first "Weekly Encourager" of 2010, I want to inspire and build up faith among so many who desire freedom from schizophrenia for themselves and the many family members and friends who long to see loved ones conquer this devilish bondage once and for all. Faith in Jesus Christ and prayer made in his Name is the way to make it happen - for there is no other solution to the schizophrenic's predicament.

The start of a New Year is a great time to disperse Good News. It follows hard on the heels of the Christmas "Good News" season when we celebrate the coming of God's Son, Jesus Christ, into our world to go to the Cross to die to redeem us from sin and secure eternal life for each one of us. The same power that washed away your sins and mine, defeated death and Satan and all his powers of darkness is the same power well able to defeat the stronghold of schizophrenia in your life or the life of your loved one.

Here's a thought to get hold of - and don't let it go throughout 2010 ... "If God through Jesus Christ has the power to defeat schizophrenia (and He has) then I must do all in my power to avail myself of his help no matter how long it takes or hard the fight will be UNTIL He unleashes into my life the stronger power of the Holy Spirit to drive out the evil spirit of schizophrenia for ever."

One you have received Jesus Christ as your Saviour and know his indwelling Presence in your life, you possess such a treasure and wealth of resources from God himself well sufficient to overcome the hordes of hell that have settled on your life in the form of schizophrenia. Yes, "... the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world." 1 John 4 verse 4.

Problem is that as a schizophrenic you are not so much fighting to defeat "the devil in the world" but the devil who has weaved his way into your life in the form of demonic forces usurping and taking control over your life - and only a sustained fight and opposition through faith and prayer in the mighty Name of Jesus is going to drive them out.

If you are ever to be free of schizophrenia there has got to be a driving out of the demons behind the bondage it causes. You've got to get radical about what has been happening to you and wake up to resist their presence in every way God guides you to and become purposely employed in taking back control of your life.

It's high time for you to go on the offensive and see things as God sees them. I don't want you to lose more than a third of a lifetime - as happened to me - because it took that long for me to get free of schizophrenic after an endless fight and struggle for survival. I could have been freed much sooner had there been others helping me in the fight but it took Divine intervention to move things forward when God decided to engineer circumstances and get me out of my mental prison.

You may be reading this and speaking back to me about the delusions you are going through, the passivity in your mind caused through taking medication and screeching out to say that you've got no fight left in you and it seems impossible to grab hold of the hope that I am saying is only found in Jesus Christ.

Let me encourage you to fight on... to kneel down and cry out to God and ask for his help. Why not ask him to provide you with some friends who will be willing to carry you in prayer? Ask God to open up a way to help you where there appears to be no way at the moment. Reach out with the mustard seed of faith you have and see God use it.

There is a real-life story in Mark 9 which I believe is a good parallel for loved ones seeking freedom for present-day schizophrenics. A father brings to the disciples of Jesus his son who is possessed by a spirit

that has robbed him of speech. The manifestations of the spirit's presence were that it often seized him and threw him to the ground. He would foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth and become rigid. The father asked the disciples to drive out the spirit but they could not.

After expressing disappointment at their lack of faith, Jesus asked that the boy be brought to him. Immediately the spirit saw Jesus it threw the boy into a convulsion, and he fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. After being asked how long he had been like this, the father replied: "From childhood and it has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. **BUT IF YOU CAN DO ANYTHING, TAKE PITY ON US AND HELP US.**"

Jesus replied: "If you can? Everything is possible for him who believes." Immediately, the boy's father exclaimed: "I do believe, help me overcome my unbelief!"

Notice, the father was **HUMBLE**: He had a proper estimate of himself. The very fact that he was making an approach to Jesus and the disciples showed his willingness to come for help. He didn't claim to have more faith than he had. There was not a lot of faith there but sufficient for God to use it. May I ask if that is the place where you are at as you suffer with schizophrenia? You are not overflowing with faith that believes Jesus can come and both deliver and heal you right now, but you have a little faith and are willing to bring it to Jesus to use. What you have is a starting point for him to come and work with. Or you may be a loved one who for years has longed for the day when your son or daughter or your wife or husband breaks free from the bondage of schizophrenia.

Are you willing to bring the mustard seed of faith you have for God to use, increase and make it sufficient to bring about the desired freedom for yourself or your loved one?

The father was also **HONEST**: He told Jesus the truth about the amount of faith he had. There was some faith there but he was completely honest and admitted that there was also a lot of unbelief present. Let's call it **FAITH IN THE PRESENCE OF DOUBT**. Can both co-exist. They did on this occasion. And they co-existed in my life for many years. For so many years, it was a marathon session of waiting for the day to come when Jesus would blast wide open the prison doors and lead me out for ever. But sufferers of schizophrenia need the kind of perseverance of faith in Jesus to endure, and to endure - and to endure. Hang on to Jesus no matter how long it takes for him to set you free.

But the father was also **HELPLESS**: That's the cue to call in Jesus to the scene of expected activity. He's so good at giving helpless you and me the help we need. Make your prayer to Jesus out of similar desperation as the father in the story and He will turn up. Your part is to make your request known to God not to figure out how God is going to lead you out into freedom. Leave all of that to him. You are not meant to stutter and ask: "How can I become free of this bondage? I can't see it happening?" God says that nothing is too difficult for him - and to the believer with constant prayer coming from his heart, there will be evidence from the God who delights to answer prayer; he is mindful of you and has a tailor-made answer ready for you.

Sad to say, that in the field of schizophrenia, it is possible to trust the psychiatrist more than the living God to the point where it is thought that a medical answer will win the day when in fact you ought to be believing for an intervention of freedom from Jesus Christ himself. If you are looking for a medical solution to bring you out of this intricate psychotic bondage, you will be waiting for ever; Jesus is the only One capable of setting you free and giving you your life back.

My prayer, as I glance over the many letters received during the course of 2009, is for you who suffer with schizophrenia to allow the **HOPE** that springs from a living relationship with Jesus Christ to **FILL YOUR HEART AND MIND** more and more. Thus, taking hold of the presence and power of the Holy Spirit to strengthen, counsel, equip and teach you his wisdom, you will advance in your engagement in prayer and faith to become free. May 2010 be your year of **JUBILEE** as you not only secure your long-sought after freedom but you then become strong in the knowledge and love of God to be able to offer that same freedom to others as well. There's no reason why it should not happen for you!!

Keep in touch with our ministry and pray for us as we seek to help those in the body of Christ who contact us for encouragement and support. Thank you. And may God make himself known to you **THIS YEAR** as you seek his face.

James Stacey
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals