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Weekly Encourager – 4 & 11 April 2010

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

HE'S ALIVE, HE'S ALIVE, HE IS RISEN!!

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 21:

Key Verses: 4-14 – Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realise that it was Jesus. He called out to them, "Friends, haven't you any fish?" "No," they answered. He said, "Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some." When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it and some bread. Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught." Simon Peter climbed aboard and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.

The good news of Easter is the best news of all - for the whole human race!! Just think of it!! The one and only Living, True God revealed himself on the stage of human history in the person of Jesus Christ, died to take away your sin and mine and rose again offering us the gift of eternal life. News indeed that is more newsworthy and reportable than any you'll hear on worldwide television this holiday period.....news so important and destiny-changing that it ought to be flashed from shore to shore and into every nation of the world for indeed there is none greater.

This is the season of hope, not hopelessness. Whenever you bring the Lord Jesus Christ into a situation hope irradiates. Let it be declared so strongly today to you who are suffering with long-term schizophrenia that you CAN BE set free by the Great Physician for nothing is impossible with him. Your son or daughter, or relative, may have shown no change in their life for years and you wonder if things will ever change. The resurrected Lord would encourage you today!! The One whom death could not hold, also holds the key to the deepest and darkest mental bondage of all.

What precious commodity is God looking for in your life so he can display his power and shatter the bars of iron and gates of brass that shackle your mind today? In a word, a believing faith that hopes to see happen what God says he can do. God doesn't have to prove to himself that he can perform his word, he is wanting to show himself faithful and powerful to those who venture out on the promise of his word. Living, conscious and active faith always wins the day. Possess the audacity to say to God that you have the faith to prove his word, and you will see it rewarded.

If you believe in God's word declared by Jesus, his Son, you will live to see the glory of God in action. Do you remember the incident in John 11 which records Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. When Jesus gave the command to take away the stone, Martha the sister of Lazarus, said: "By this time there is a bad odour, for he has been there four days." The next recorded words of Jesus are most revealing: "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

Once you receive the faith-building words of Jesus into your spirit, things begin to happen. Because the words of Jesus are spirit and life they impart into your spirit a power-surge of life. Nothing less than the resurrection life of Jesus takes up residence in your life the moment you first receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, and then "continue to believe in his word".

You see the words of Jesus are not the words of just a man but of the God-man. He is very God of very God made in fashion as a man. He said that he only spoke the words his Father gave him to say

and he only said the words that his Father wanted him to speak. These are words that can be depended and relied upon one hundred per cent. Jesus, you remember, spoke about the time he would die, but he also spoke about conquering death and coming back to life. Because his word is the eternal truth of God, it always came to pass. God cannot deny his word.

It takes unshakeable faith to stand on the promise of God's word. To lean on that word day in and day out claiming and claiming it until you see it performed. Suffering with schizophrenia is a wearisome existence. An uphill struggle even when you able to have faith. Throwing out the lifeline of hope God's word to you today may not grip you but it does have the power to do so. I believe you can reach freedom much, much sooner than I did there is power in the promises of God's word and in the Name of Jesus to set you free of this entrenched maze of a psychotic bondage.

Catch hold of the resurrection power of Easter. Death could not keep its prey – Jesus my Saviour. He tore the bars away – Jesus my Lord. Up from the grave he arose, With a mighty triumph o'er his foes. He arose a victor of the dark domain, and He lives forever with his saints to reign. He arose, He arose. Hallelujah, Christ arose.

The same power that raised up Jesus from the dead lives in you if Jesus is real to you. That same power, I am pleased to be able to testify, can blast wide open every demonic stronghold including schizophrenia and set you free to enjoy his risen life. This wonderful hymn by Charles Wesley will inspire you to have faith in God and his word:-

All things are possible to him
That can in Jesu's name believe;
Lord, I no more Thy truth blaspheme,
Thy truth I lovingly receive;
I can, I do believe in Thee
All things are possible to me.
The most impossible of all
Is, that I e'er from sin should cease;
Yet shall it be, I know it shall:
Jesus, look to Thy faithfulness
If nothing is too hard for Thee,
All things are possible to me.

Though earth and hell the word gainsay
The word of God can never fail;
The Lamb shall take my sins away,
'Tis certain, though impossible;
The thing impossible shall be,
All things are possible to me.
All things are possible to God,
To Christ, the power of God in man
To me, when I am all renewed,
When I in Christ am formed again,
And witness, from all sin set free,
All things are possible to me.

While I believe that schizophrenics are the most neediest people in society requiring help in prayer and support than any other to come through this evil bondage, let me say that for a single person to struggle through with just the promises to hold on to displays a perseverance so commendable and inspiring.

Deliverance minister, Ida Mae Hammond said of the schizophrenic deliverance: "I greatly admire schizophrenics who fight through to victory. I admire these victories above all other deliverances. The Schizophrenia deliverance is the deepest, most involved and most determined deliverance that we have encountered."

A PRAYER OF HOPE: "Dear Loving Heavenly Father, as I remember the celebration of the death and resurrection of your dear Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ will you come to me and make his sacrifice so real to me. Wipe away, once for all, my sins that you died to atone for on the Cross of Calvary in order that I might not have to die eternally. Thank you, Jesus, for taking my sins and my sorrows and for making them your very own. By the power of your shed blood, I am set free and I am now opened up to all the resources of your grace and power which enables me to live for you. I am looking forward to the day – why not today, O Lord? – when the bondage of schizophrenia surrounding my mind is totally defeated. Yes, all the darkness driven away by the light of your Resurrection Presence. And your same power and strength will be there for me day in and day out as I get my life back together, too. Thank you too for wisdom found in your grace to both deliver and keep me. There are no words to describe how thankful I am that you the Holy and Righteous Son of God left the courts of heaven to come to earth to set me free. I accept your sacrifice. Thank you for going to the Cross for me. I see the devastating darkness of sin and my need of repentance and

forgiveness, and I am only too willing to fall at your feet as my Lord and my God. My life is truly yours and belongs to no other. Yours by creation and redemption. Receive me, dear Lord as I desire to bring pleasure to you by loving you with all my heart, mind, soul and strength – free of any form of bondage and demonic stronghold near me. In the Mighty Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, I pray. Amen.

We are continuing to insert at the bottom of the Weekly Encourager, some powerful Scriptures for you to learn and commit to memory and USE in your prayer battle against defeating the demon of schizophrenia. By so doing your confidence in the Lord Jesus will grow because the words will impart “spirit and life” into your spirit, and so equip you in your pursuit to the freedom of Jesus.

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6 verse 4
God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all. Ephesians 1: 20-23
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?” John 11: 25-26

THE WEEKLY ENCOURAGER 18th APRIL - In the Bible Hope is not Wishful Thinking But Firm Conviction

You maybe reading the Weekly Encourager for the very first time or perhaps you’ve stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia which has just dawned on your life. Or maybe you’ve been looking at W.E. every week for encouragement to help you overcome this “monster” of mental illnesses and have already gained HOPE that the Lord Jesus Christ is the One to open the prison door to freedom in your life once and for all.

We encourage you to keep logging into the site as often as you can for scriptural advice and help as we continue to point to Jesus who is well-trying 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 to die for you and me on the Cross at a place called Calvary just outside Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. In that sacrifice, He paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine by dying for us and on the third day rose again as “The Resurrection and the Life” and has now released the power of the Holy Spirit into the life of every believer accepting his sacrifice. A life-transforming experience that you too can know!!

James Stacey
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals

"I will proclaim your mighty acts,
O sovereign Lord" Psalm 71: 16

