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Weekly Encourager – 4 July 2010

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

AFTER DELIVERANCE FROM SCHIZOPHRENIA , WHAT NEXT?

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MARK CHAPTER 5: Key verses 14-20 *The healing of a demon-possessed man*: Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man – and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

The question raised by our subject this week does not cross your mind if you are a Christian schizophrenic. Until you have been delivered by Jesus Christ, the preoccupation with the insanity of schizophrenia does not allow you the luxury of making right life choices. But once the freedom of Jesus has burst wide the prison gates and freed your captive mind, you can think as soundly as anyone else!!

The Gadarene demoniac was so possessed and controlled by hordes of evil spirits that he never once thought of what he would do with his life. After Jesus drove out the entrenched intruders and restored him to "his rightful mind", he was totally transformed and returned to full control of his mental powers. He knew immediately what he now wanted to do – to join the close ranks and be a follower of Jesus. Transformation indeed!!

The power of Jesus to deliver and heal is seen at its best in this incident recorded in the gospels. How grateful we are to the Lord Jesus for stepping onto the shore of the land of the Gadarenes. For if ever there was a man in need of being healed, it was this man. No need to look any further for evidence that demons can inhabit and control a person – here it is. Made in the image of God, but deprived of a freedom to live life, he was in the grip of Satan himself.

He got his life back that day. He no longer had to keep on living in the caves ostracised from his community. Those who always feared what he might do no longer needed to bind him up in chains, though that only worked for a time. I hope the people who had banished him from their presence were now pleased to see him as a free man!! You can't imagine the joy of such freedom unless it has happened to you. The words "transformation" and "restored" fall short to describe what the wonder-working power of Jesus achieves.

Can I take you back to what happened in my life just over 20 years ago when Jesus delivered and healed me in a matter of minutes, and to the days, months and years that followed? First, I no longer needed to keep up the constant battle of prayer warfare that had been necessary to get me free. Instead of intercessory prayer in the toilets during my lunch breaks, I was now out in the sunshine sitting on a rare piece of lawn in the centre of the city of Sheffield, praising and enjoying God. Still standing fast in faith and holding onto God each and every day, I was determined not to lose my new-found freedom, but there was an abiding rest in my heart at the same time.

For far too long I cared to remember – 26 years in fact – I had been prevented from enjoying my whole life as emotionally and mentally whole. The personalities of demons had "sown" parts of their own into mine. As I cut myself off from these and began to live life through my own personality, I found there was a long process of restoration involved. To make out that the only issue is to become free without regaining all the ground you lost in the time of suffering the mental bondage of

schizophrenia, falls far short. You must – once having been set free by Jesus – go on to keep hold of his presence which imparts continuing full and restorative healing in future days.

My wife, Tina closely observed my life from the time of deliverance in 1990. She saw me going through years of recovery and restoration. In 1995, I was getting itching feet to want to go and preach and tell what God had done. “You’re not quite ready. God is restoring you but there is more to follow,” she rightfully said. Because I too believe that “the schizophrenia deliverance is the deepest, most involved and most determined deliverance” of all, I was prepared to fight through to “restoration” victory for as long as it took.

It was in 2002 when I believed that “full restoration” had been achieved – though growth in grace and renewal in the love of Jesus have always been daily ministries to seek and enjoy. I often wonder if the Gadarene demoniac had to go through a process of getting his life back in the same way I did – or did Jesus restore everything to him at once when he set him free. We are left with the thankfulness of a change and freed man who was totally liberated by the only One who could have brought him freedom – Jesus himself.

At present you are focused on how to enter into the freedom of Jesus and defeat schizophrenia. Keep leaning hard on God and his Word, have faith to believe that what God has promised you in his Word, he is well able to perform. No matter how long it takes, you are committed to see the dawning of your day of freedom brought about by the faithfulness of your powerful Saviour, Jesus Christ. It will come, make no mistake!! God will fulfil His Word IN YOU!!

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 sin that separates me from you and acknowledge the death of Jesus on the Cross to redeem me. 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 enable me to know your power as I believe that my mind too can also be completely set free. 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 at the bottom of 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 to know the deliverance and freedom of Jesus.

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 1 Peter 2: 9-10

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. Galatians 5: 16-18

The Weekly Encourager:

11th July: The day you can't go on any longer, Jesus sets you free

18th July: The mind of the Spirit overcoming the schizophrenic mind

You may be reading the Weekly Encourager for the first time as you've stumbled across our website in a desperate search to break free of schizophrenia. Or maybe, you've been looking at W.E. every week 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 in your life and mine, the same victorious life that brought him back from the dead, in the person of the Holy Spirit, to everyone accepting his sacrifice. 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!!

*James Stacey
Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals*

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

