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Weekly Encourager – 5 December 2010

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

GOD'S STRONG HAND IS HOLDING YOU FAST – HE WILL NOT LET YOU GO AND WILL FIGHT UNTIL YOU ARE FREE

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS PSALM 63: (A psalm of David. When he was in the Desert of Judah). O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life; my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. My soul will be satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. My soul sings to you; your right hand upholds me. They who seek my life will be destroyed; they will go down to the depths of the earth. They will be given over to the sword and become food for jackals. But the king will rejoice in God; all who swear by God's name will praise him, while the mouths of liars will be silenced.

The advent or dawning of schizophrenia in one's life is a disturbing and overpowering event. For the person who is already a born-again Christian, the ability to exercise desperate, power-producing faith in God is of crucial importance to survive.

If, like me, the demonic assault was so life-changing and seemingly impossible to handle, you found the only fortress of sanity and composure came from knowing that God was somehow holding you fast in the total and utter confusion.

Anyone reading this who has not been on the receiving end of a rushing flood of insanity and spiritual darkness will not be able to enter into the plight that such a burst of evil offloads on a human being.

I've been reflecting on what happened on a sunny afternoon way back in 1965 as I walked in the village of Conisbrough, near Doncaster collecting local news. The sudden invasion of darkness exploding on my mind was so horrendous as to dispossess me of strength to resist its powers. You may be reading this Weekly Encourager at a time you have suffered a similar onslaught!

I was aware that a strange intruder had descended into my life. I was stunned, shocked and shaken to such a degree as to be unable to put up any resistance. My first response was to flee into the local parish church to pray in search of God. The conversation of two people there seemed so trivial and irritating in the light of the weight I was carrying.

While my mind was now in bondage to a strong, demonic spirit, yet in my heart was the knowledge of having a relationship with God to whom alone I could turn. Turning to God was the only action I could take. I searched for my strong Saviour to fulfil the Biblical promise **“that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us (me) from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8: 38-39)**

As a Christian seeking deliverance and healing from schizophrenia, may I respectfully suggest that the awareness of God's sovereign hand over your life is a constant truth which must be your lifeline in everything you have to face.

The devil is trying to impair and attack the relationship of every believer in Jesus, but for those of us who have felt his particular venom through an avalanche of insanity dumped upon us, we need to take hold of the hand of God through faith, pray the protection of the blood of Jesus over our lives and resist the powers of darkness committed to destroying us.

Battling schizophrenia has long stretches of going it alone with God, and, therefore, it is needful to remind yourself that Jesus said: **“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** Matthew

28: 20. And, again, from John 17: "My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."

If today and every day, you could catch a little of the truth of God's protection, faithfulness and commitment to you found in the promises of God's word, it will sustain you no matter what difficulties may arise. The pathway of enduring and breaking free from schizophrenia is such a heart-breaking struggle that you need to bring these promises to mind, and, in particular, those stated by Jesus himself. Allow these words which are spirit and life to rise from your heart and most certainly they will begin to help you drive out the spiritual darkness in your mind.

During the times you do not know how to pray, the Spirit of God will be praying through you with groanings which cannot be uttered. "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: 27. The heart and mind are linked in ways which we do not fully understand – but I understand this precious truth that as a believer in Jesus the devil cannot touch the "mind of the Spirit" in me. For the whole of 26 years of mental bondage, Jesus protected my spiritual mind. Praise Him!!

The protection that Jesus has for you as a believer in himself is simply wonderful. The Lord will not allow Satan to lay a finger on you – there are areas of your life that Satan and demonic forces cannot enter. It is territory that is forbidden to the powers of darkness. We catch a glimpse of this truth in the life of Job when God gave Satan permission to attack the life of Job. God said, "Everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not touch him." Job 1:12

Allow the LORD your God you have to come to know, to shine a little of this truth into your life today. Know that his protection and care of you exceeds your greatest thought. Let the magnitude and greatness of the God of heaven SO FILL YOU with admiration and hope that you can stick it out no matter how long it takes to defeat the schizophrenic demon who is plaguing your life.

God will give to you even today all the strength and stickability of persevering faith to contend and defeat any spirit you are troubled with. Be filled with the real hope that comes from God alone to fight on through the word of God filling your heart, praying with all kinds of prayer supplied by the spirit of God, and resisting Satan and his forces at present attacking your mind.

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 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.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8: 12

How can I repay the LORD for all his goodness to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD. I will fulfil my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Psalm 116: 12-14

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, 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 Weekly Encourager

12 December: Sharing the Vision of Having a Healing Rescue Home in the UK to Set Christians Free of Schizophrenia

19 December: It is Ignorance and Fear About the Demonic That Delays Your Freedom from Schizophrenia

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-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 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

For sixty-two years and five months I had a beloved wife, and now, in my ninety-second year I am left alone. But I turn to the ever-present Jesus, as I walk up and down in my room, and say, "Lord Jesus, I am alone, and yet not alone – Thou art with me, Thou art my Friend. Now, Lord, comfort me, strengthen me, give to Thy poor servant everything Thou seest he needs." And we should not be satisfied till we are brought to this, that we know the Lord Jesus Christ experimentally, habitually to be our Friend: at all times, and under all circumstances, ready to prove Himself to be our Friend.

George Mueller