PLEADING THE BLOOD OF JESUS HASTENS THE DEFEAT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS 1 PETER CHAPTER 1: Selected verses – 13-21: Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: "Be holy, because I am holy." Since you call on a Father who judges each man's work impartially, live your lives as strangers here in reverent fear. For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God. Verses 23-25: For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord stands for ever." And this is the word that was preached to you.

Remind yourself today that the defeat of schizophrenia will not happen through the following of a drug regime or resting in any confidence put in a psychiatrist, but through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Great Physician.

Nobody else will ever get as desperate as you are to be set free of this monster of psychotic bondages – so hold fast to the truth that Jesus alone holds the keys for the great deliverance and healing being pursued in your life.

Living hope to defeat the stronghold of schizophrenia will come alive in your spirit this week and in future days through believing in the power of the blood of Jesus.

You may have missed out so far in *fully knowing* what the shed blood of Jesus Christ accomplished for you on the Cross. Forgiveness from sin and cleansing from the power of sin were procured that day when Jesus Christ poured out his life-blood and died for you, and the whole world.

There is the continuing power of the blood of Jesus at work every day to help you after conversion to Christ. I spent a whole year in a Bible College without receiving teaching about the blood of Jesus and missed learning something very precious. My spiritual eyes were not fully opened up to how much Satan detests the blood of Jesus and how it is the master stroke to defeat him.

Did you know that the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross releases power into your life for daily living to defeat Satan and all the powers of darkness He defeated on the Cross – even the same evil powers behind the condition of schizophrenia?

Not every believer in Jesus who is troubled with schizophrenia finds themselves able to muster spiritual warfare against the invading spirits that have entered their lives. To be able to plead the blood of Jesus as protection and so ward off evil powers when life is full of mental anguish and confusion can be immensely difficult.

This is no doubt because your mind is so passive through taking medications and the effects have drained any resistance and fight out of you. But fight you must in order to survive!!

Don't be discouraged if in your battle with the demon of schizophrenia there are more times of just holding your ground than being engaged in deliverance to be set free. That's how it was for me!! I had no strength left on arriving back home each and every day after turning up for work over many years.

The issue for me was one of just being able to get to work and last out until the end of the work shift itself.

During 26 years of schizophrenia, I sought to hold on to God in prayer but never possessed a continuous hope of ever coming out of the condition. I was not aware of people really praying for me during a good proportion of that time. When real prayer did begin to rise for me with callings out to God to do something to set me free, then that was the time I began to *notice* a change in my life. My own prayer life became more alive and with it the hope that this psychotic nightmare could be broken.

I did not win the triumph over schizophrenia myself but, like those mentioned in Revelation 12: verse 11, I "overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony." When Satan tried to queeze the victory of Jesus out of my life and destroy me, the help given by Jesus to stand firm meant the final victory over Satan. The troubles I passed through for more than a third of a lifetime were not because Satan was too strong, but because he was a beaten foe.

I could never have experienced what it is to know about the relentless hostility that Satan has towards the human race and those, in particular, who are determined to follow the Lord Jesus Christ without being inside a schizophrenic prison. My continuing desire to help other believers who are held in this stronghold of evil bondage grips my spirit because of having had a taste of hell itself and its power of spiritual darkness.

It may seem something of a misnomer that in your life as a Christian suffering with schizophrenia, you are not living in a victory already achieved but find yourself working towards knowing that victory. Nevertheless, the gates of brass and the bars of iron around your mind will break as the power of God triumphs in your life, just as the bondage of sin yielded when you received Christ as Saviour.

The power of the blood of Jesus will begin to work for you against the demon of schizophrenia as you declare that JESUS CHRIST OWNS YOUR LIFE AND NO DEMON HAS THE LEGAL RIGHT TO ANY PART OF YOUR LIFE. SATAN AND ALL THE POWERS OF DARKNESS LOST *EVERY* LEGAL RIGHT WHEN THE POWER OF THE BLOOD OF JESUS DEFEATED THEM ON THE CROSS AND CHRIST MADE *EVERY PROVISION FOR YOU TO BE FREE*!!

That is a fact of truth well worth remembering. When disturbed by voices of spirits you are seeking to drive from your life, bind them in the Name of Jesus and declare boldly that your life has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

The blood of Jesus will avail for you.... and will never ever lose its power.

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

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) said to them: ... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1: 8

For he (Jesus) healed many, so that those with diseases were pushing forward to touch him. Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God." But he gave them strict orders not to tell who he was. Mark 3: 10-12

For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity." Jeremiah 29: 11-14

The Weekly Encourager

13 March: How Taking Palliative Drugs Can Inflict Passivity On Your Mind

20 March: How to Make Sure You Get Refreshing Sleep Instead of Endless Galloping Thoughts

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-tried 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!!



^{**}see Galatians 3:13-14; Genesis 24:1