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Weekly Encourager – 7 February 2010

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

ARISE AND PRAY YOURSELF OUT OF SCHIZOPHRENIA!!

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS JOHN'S GOSPEL CHAPTER 6

Key verses 35-40: Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty. But as I told you, you have seen me and still you do not believe. All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

I have been filled with overflowing gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ throughout this week over coming to know him as my personal Saviour at 14 years-old in 1956, a number of years before the bondage of schizophrenia assailed my life. My upbringing of being sent to Sunday School, getting involved in running a Methodist youth club at 16 and later deciding to go to Bible College helped establish me in a living faith in Jesus. By the time I went reeling into a severe psychotic state on a beautifully bright summer day way back in 1965, I had already got my roots into Jesus and he into me.

I am so glad it was that way, though, and I didn't have to depend for my main help during the following 26 years of bondage to the medical world of psychiatry. Jesus became my Master Physician from Day One when in a maze of confusion and spiritual darkness I did not know which way to turn or what to do. The only measure of sanity I was able to keep came my way through hanging on to the scriptures in the Bible, particularly the precious words spoken by Jesus. They were "spirit and life" to me, as he said they would be (see verse 63).

Common questions on your lips, and in your heart, are: "How do I maintain my sanity while enduring this mental oppression of schizophrenia – and, more importantly, how do I get rid of its uncomfortable presence in my life?" I've been there!! Let me commend a way to you. It is all found in Jesus, in knowing him. When by faith you receive him into your life – having first confessed you are a sinner in need of his forgiveness, and accept his death and resurrection on The Cross of Calvary for YOU, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the living presence of Jesus will be given to you. Knowing Jesus, then helps you to pray and understand the Holy Bible – which is like no other book.

In the loneliness you suffer with schizophrenia, knowing Jesus will make all the difference. You are not just praying into the air but to a living God, who knows all about you and can impart his power and strength enabling you to resist and overcome the spiritual darkness that is behind the schizophrenic condition. The complete isolation of the mental illness is so real that you need the comforting strength of God's grace through Jesus in your life to bring you through. Knowing the scriptures and praying made a prayer warrior out of me!! And they can do the same for you too!! **YOU CAN DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA IN THE POWER OF JESUS CHRIST, AS I DID, BE FULLY ASSURED!!**

The revelation that God has enough power to give you, enough truth to keep you, enough faith to inspire you to believe all the promises of God are yours – will not necessarily come to you overnight. I went through a "building-up" process over several years in which I gradually became stronger and stronger in faith in Jesus. So don't get discouraged during those times you feel you are not making strides in "growing in Jesus." He's holding on to you as you are abiding in him.

You will find that the voices from demonic personalities that love to wreak havoc every single day in your life are beginning to recede as you continue to take more and more charge of your life. Faith to believe in more answers to prayer will grow!! The demons within will begin to feel threatened and fear being ousted. You are taking authority over your life and getting ready to exorcise the intruders.

REMEMBER that your power in effective prayer, always depends on your relationship and intimacy with Christ. He is after all, our Chief Intercessor. He is our model and teacher in prayer, as in everything. He helps us through his Holy Spirit in our praying. "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 verses 26-27.

REMEMBER to offer your prayer in the Name of Jesus, whose name is above every other name. His name is exalted higher than any other name. **As the scripture in Philippians 2: 9-10 says:**

"Therefore God has highly exalted him and given him the name which is above every other name that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of those in heaven, of those on earth and of those under the earth and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the father."

REMEMBER to pray without ceasing and don't make your present level the destination of your prayer life. Don't slacken off in prayer or else you will lose the momentum of moving towards defeating schizophrenia. Amass prayer -and more prayer!! Keep in touch with God as you get to know his ministry in your life. It's a matter of life and death that you continue up the exercise and power of prayer in your life in order that you keep moving on to know God's delivering and healing power touch your life!! **YOUR BREAKTHROUGH WILL COME!!**

The Weekly Encourager 14th February - Becoming Desperate in Prayer to Defeat Schizophrenia

You too can know the help and strength that comes from knowing Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. If you have already received him, then keep in touch with him every day through regular prayer and bible study. By so doing, you will begin to discern his voice a lot clearer, and as sharing your life with Christ grows there will come inner and silent strength to overcome every other voice that may trouble you.

If you have never received Jesus Christ into your life, then why not do it **RIGHT NOW**, as we guide you in a prayer: "Lord Jesus Christ I approach you knowing I am separated from you by sin. I know I have also sinned in my thoughts, words and actions. There are so many good things I have not done and there are so many sinful things I have done. I believe that you died on the Cross in my place that I might be brought back to God the Father and know forgiveness and the gift of eternal life. I now ask you to come into my life and cancel out the sin that separates from you. Come in and cleanse me through the power of your blood. Come in as my Lord to control me. Come with the strength of your grace and the power of your Holy Spirit to defeat the evil of schizophrenia which troubles me and bring me right through into the glorious freedom of your kingdom. I ask this, giving you thanks, in your Name. Amen"

You may be reading the Weekly Encourager for the very first time; 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 deal with 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 the One who is well-tried and tested in the area of setting captives free from a bondage that no one else can conquer. 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. In that great sacrifice, He paid the punishment and penalty of your sin and mine by dying for us and on the third day rose from the dead as "The Resurrection and the Life". He 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 (celebrating this month 22 years off all medication)

Pray Until Schizophrenia Heals



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