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Weekly Encourager – 12 September 2010

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

AWAY WITH THE STIGMA OF TALKING ABOUT HAVING SCHIZOPHRENIA

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS: 1 SAMUEL CHAPTER 1 : Key verses 10-18: In bitterness of soul Hannah wept much and prayed to the LORD. And she made a vow, saying, "O LORD Almighty, if you look upon your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head." As she kept on praying to the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. Hannah was praying in her heart, and her lips were moving but her voice was not heard. Eli thought she was drunk and said to her, "How long will you keep on getting drunk? Get rid of your wine." "Not so, my lord," Hannah replied. "I am a woman who is deeply troubled. I have not been drinking wine or beer; I was pouring out my soul to the LORD. Do not take your servant for a wicked woman; I have been praying here out of my great anguish and grief." Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." She said: "May your servant find favour in your eyes." Then she went her way and ate something, and her face was no longer downcast.

There was a time years ago when I used to be affected by the stigma of having had schizophrenia, but not now. What changed everything was the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and his freedom which helped me see the worth he places on my life.

You may be suffering from carrying a measure of stigma in your life right now as you seek deliverance and healing out of this crippling mental bondage. True, it's much easier to cast off the "mark of shame" once Jesus has led you out into freedom than when you are ensnared in the bondage.

Only the restoring love of Jesus can effect such a transformation for you which can reach every part of your daily life. The power of such love is far beyond our thoughts and knows no limits or boundaries.

May I be allowed to encourage you TODAY to come through "downcast times" when a certain stigma of having schizophrenia invades. Perhaps you have longings for a time past when you were able, for example, to keep down a job and enjoy a "normal existence", but that seems a distant memory. In your more lucid moments, you hate the stigma that still emerges in your thoughts now and again.

Prayer offered in the name of Jesus Christ accomplishes the impossible and can rid you of every ounce of stigma about schizophrenia. Your petitions simply don't just hit the ceiling when offered in the power of the Holy Spirit who lives within you. They obtain answers, as Jesus promised (read Mark 11: 24).

In this week's reading from 1 Samuel, we read of how Hannah dealt with an occurrence of stigma which was directed by her husband's other wife, Peninnah over her inability to produce children. She kept provoking her to irritate her. Satan, too, can be behind stigmatic thoughts that harass you from time to time, so don't be surprised about that!!

Your prayer will differ from that of Hannah's because you will be asking for more of God's prayer power to indwell you, so you can wage spiritual warfare on the evil presence behind the condition of schizophrenia in your life. But you, like Hannah, must pray in faith to receive that which God alone is well able to impart.

I read this morning a power-packed sentence that has some bearing on what we are discussing. Here it is: "Prayer that seeks deliverance for the sake of deliverance has lost that objectivity in prayer that Jesus teaches so carefully." (R. Arthur Mathews).

Such a gem of a thought raises the valid point that God has got more in mind when He sets you free of schizophrenia than just breaking the hold of the devil on your life. What about the larger picture of

him getting all the glory for it and then using your life to proclaim just how wonderful a God he really is!!

I personally believe that God allowed me to remain in a schizophrenic prison for 26 years to accomplish something like that!! To intervene and bring about a remarkable freedom after such a long time is a powerful event to bring him glory, but what about God's love and faithfulness in it all? He was continually showing his keeping power to me so as not to yield to the devil's scheme to end my life. Often, we miss what God is trying to achieve and what He is about!!

Maybe, in your requests to God to bring you out of schizophrenia, you may choose to follow a new approach by asking that in the process of doing it, He receives the glory and your life forever after is going to be available to spread abroad the fame of his Name. True, you can't wait to be free of the chains wrapped around you mind. However, when Christ has done it and you are walking in your freedom, remember who it was who did the life-changing transaction.

I know, of course, that the preoccupation you have at the moment focuses on getting free of all evil spirits associated with schizophrenia. You have enough on doing just that. But persevere in faith with the help of the Spirit of Jesus and you will be fully aware that He is the one who is bringing you through and taking you out of the worst mental condition of all.

Take a leaf out of Hannah's book. Just as she was so wanting to dedicate the son whom she was asking God for to the service of God, be determined that the mighty God you petition over and over again will get from your deliverance and healing ALL THE GLORY.

Hannah lost all the stigma of being barren, and the taunts of Peninnah, the moment she handed over her prayer petition to God. But sense her song of deliverance and joy in 1 Samuel Chapter 2 at the time of giving Samuel over to the service in the house of the LORD. No inferiority here, only praise and thankfulness for the greatness of God, who continued to bless her with three more sons and two daughters. She understood that **"He (God) raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honour. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD'S; upon them he has set the world"** (verse 8).

Knowing Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord lifts you into the position of being his blood-bought child. It's this revelatory knowledge through the Spirit of God in your heart that destroys every lie and feeling of being of low importance. You are as precious to God - as you seek your deliverance from the bondage of schizophrenia - as any other person on the planet. Keep that continually in mind.

In the midst of your battling now, it will give you staying power to continue fighting until the breakthrough of mighty prayerful faith dawns on your life for good.

Take a look at the mighty promises of God in his word to help you get there found lower down in this Weekly Encourager. Remember, the Devil cannot stand the word of God coming out of your life in prayer.

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 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 in 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.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.” Revelation 12: 10-11

At this the Jews exclaimed, “Now we know that you are demon-possessed! Abraham died and so did the prophets, yet you say that if anyone keeps your word, he will never taste death. Are you greater than our father Abraham? He died, and so did the prophets. Who do you think you are? Jesus replied, “If I glorify myself, my glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies me. Though you do not know him, I know him. If I said I did not, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad.” John 8: 52-56

(Jesus said): “I tell you the truth, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” Matthew 18: 18-19

The Weekly Encourager:

19 September: The Light of the Life of Jesus is the Strong Deliverer of Schizophrenia

26 September: How to Expel the Demon of Schizophrenia

You maybe 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-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 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