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Weekly Encourager – 1 November 2009

“FORGIVENESS IS THE PRIMARY WEAPON FOR BREAKING BONDAGES OF DARKNESS”

Jesus said: “For if you forgive men when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.”
Matthew 6: verses 14-15.

I have a question for every born-again Christian believer suffering with schizophrenia who is reading these words. Ever thought how the lack of real forgiveness in your heart maybe hindering the defeat of schizophrenia and the dawning of a new-found freedom and life in Jesus!!

Consider a couple of discerning quotes I've just discovered from two Christians. Firstly, Peter Wagner, says: Forgiveness is the primary weapon for breaking bondages of darkness,” and the words of a Christian psychiatrist: “If I were to obtain forgiveness for all the patients in my clinic, I would be able to discharge half of them tomorrow.”

Powerful words indeed! Satan is so adept at screwing up our thinking that he will seek to justify us not being involved in acts of forgiveness. But all such unforgiveness is sin and staying in sin hardens your heart, and if your heart is hardened it makes the revelation and penetration of God's Holy Spirit into your life most difficult to receive.

Having suffered confusion in my thoughts and decisions many times during a 26-year-long struggle with schizophrenia, I can underline the menacing strategy of Satan and demons to deceive a born-again Christian into thinking that its quite all-right not to adopt an attitude of forgiveness to, say, a family member who you may accuse as being the one responsible for the presence of schizophrenia in your life.

But don't you realise that the longer you persist in your decision not to forgive you are robbing yourself of God's power and strength needed to fortify you in your fight to become free - and are giving Satan a legal right to continue his domination and rule in your life!! After casting his net of delusion over your life, the prince of the power of the air will next seek to bring you into a state of passivity where faith in Jesus is inactivated and possession of the word of God in your life is difficult to get hold of to such a degree as to change your behaviour.

You have got to rise up in faith and shake off every ounce of indolence and grab hold of life-imparting scriptures in your heart that become ammunition to break the gates of bars of iron and the gates of brass shackling your mind. It's at that point when the truth of God's word begins to penetrate into you mind and you see “light in his light”.

Let me just alert you to these two contrasting thought-patterns you are facing. Whenever Satan has the upper hand in your life and the presence of the schizophrenic demon has mastery, unless you fight back in the power of the grace of God using the Scriptures your thoughts will never alter. NO HOPE WILL BE IN SIGHT.

But when faith has the ascendancy in your thoughts, you will contest and question every previous thought you had coming from demonic sources. The subsequent confusion may at first be quite baffling until you are aware concerning what is taking place. You are saying something like this to yourself. “Yesterday, I believed this about a certain thing, but today my thoughts are completely the opposite. Why, and what is going on?”

If you have set your heart on becoming free in Jesus, let me tell you that these bouts of confusion are bound to occur – it's all part of the light coming from the Spirit of God dispersing the darkness.

Now to get back to forgiveness. Hear what Jesus is saying to you. If you want to obtain your freedom in Jesus sooner than later YOU MUST forgive anyone in your life that YOU KNOW you have not forgiven at the present moment. In the quietness right down a list of all those you need to forgive. It is such a vitally important act that if you find it impossible to accept or can't believe, cry out to God to show you how "to see it".

The words of Jesus: "Unless you forgive men their trespasses, then your heavenly Father will not you forgive you your trespasses" ARE TRUE even though you may be in a schizophrenic prison and think that you are absolved from this applying to you.

You may not FEEL like forgiving - now here lies the problem. You have got to get beyond whether or not you feel like forgiving or not - it is RIGHT AND PROPER TO FORGIVE - AND A MUST - because God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ says it is so. And seeing that his words will never pass away - even though heaven and earth may do - then you will never be able to escape the need to FORGIVE.

Finally, what does forgiveness do for us. Well, with schizophrenia it prepares you to receive more of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. You've well and truly set out on the road to advancing your freedom quest once you have forgiven everyone in your life that needs to be forgiven.

Spiritual darkness will begin to recede as you take the stance of forgiveness. Satan does not like it when Christians perform acts of forgiveness. He can't stand it - just as he can't stand Christians worshipping God. There is real power from Jesus in forgiveness, and it is that power which is strong enough to equip you to go on and take authority of the demon of schizophrenia in your life once and for all.

If you need to forgive, do it right now. If you are unable to forgive because you have never received Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, then pray the prayer below. And receive the power to forgive from Jesus himself who has forgiven you of all your sins.

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:
"Lord 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 sorry for my sins and turn from everything I know to be wrong. You gave your life upon the cross for me. Gratefully I give my life back to you. Now I ask you to come into my life. Come in as my Saviour to 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 and so come right through into your glorious freedom. Amen".

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