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Weekly Encourager – 13 December 2009

KNOWLEDGE OF GOD COMES DIRECTLY FROM CONTACT WITH HIS SON, JESUS WHO IS SUFFICIENT ALONE TO DEFEAT SCHIZOPHRENIA

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned." Isaiah 9 verse 2.

"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 verse 12.

Do consider these two powerful Bible verses as we enter into the season of Christmas and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, the only true Saviour of the world. In them you will find the real reason for the season...the entry into our world of God's only Son coming to redeem fallen humanity and prepared to die on a cross for you me and give us the free gift of eternal salvation with a home in heaven.

Jesus entered our world prepared for a contest - nothing short of doing battle with the evil powers of darkness and the kingdom of Satan. In defeating that kingdom he made "an open show" of all of Satan's powers by a total and thorough defeat of them – including schizophrenia, the most involved and devilish bondage of the mind known to man.

Never lose sight of the reason for Jesus's coming - it was primarily to face and defeat all the hordes of hell and regain in your life and mine the restored image of God lost in the Garden of Eden at the start of creation. The power of God's intervention on our behalf dealt such a death-blow to Satan's kingdom and death itself that any influence he still seeks to have in our lives today can be broken and permanently overcome.

Make no mistake about it - Satan can throw lives into such confusion, bondage and bring demonisation that it takes a great deal of effort to exorcise him - and sometimes a great long time too. The Bible, you remember, speaks of him as a "roaring lion" going about seeking whom he may devour. We must resist him and his cohorts with all the powers of Jesus at our disposal. (My own serious resistance was over 26 years and on the day of deliverance in 1990 through the Mighty Name of Jesus, he was driven from my life for god!!).

You may be passing through a tough time suffering with schizophrenia and find it hard to latch on to a lifeline of hope. Let me throw out a real lifeline of hope to you right now in the form of receiving and knowing Jesus as your personal Saviour. Then make yourself strong in the living word of God, the Bible, which contains spiritual light powerful enough to defeat schizophrenia in your life.

The Bible is the inspired word of God. There's no other book like it because it is the revelation of the only true God to the world. If you want God's light to shine in your life then turn to it, read it, meditate on it and use it as ammunition to fight any powers of Satan contesting your life today. You'll find "light in God's light" shining forth from the Bible as you read it - powerful enough to penetrate both mind and heart.

I believe that I owe being alive today to the faithfulness of God and to being directed to His word the Bible. As the mental bondage of schizophrenia was getting stronger in my life, I prayed to God and asked him to show me how I could abide in him and so enjoy streams of spiritual light in my life from day to day.

I asked: "Lord, how do I abide in you? How do I live in you?" Back came the reply from

Scripture itself: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you." (John 15 verse 7) And again: "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life," John 6.verse 63. God was saying, in effect, "Get my word in you and you will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

It was no half-hearted fight having to rely on God and His word during the numerous times of assault on my mind as Satan drove me into wit's end corner. I was virtually pinned down with one weapon to wield ...that of the word of God rising from a praying spirit lacking any sort of fight in it over and over again. I was a feeble believer in Jesus but made strong through his indwelling power. Know this too ... that word was sufficient to both defend and attack and send the hordes of hell retreating.

May I encourage you to find a resting place in your heart for God's word. There's power in that word to rise from you heart and bring freedom into your mind. Light enough, too, to bring sanity and reasoning back to your mind so that you think clearly and can delight in being guided by the Spirit of the God through His Word.

Each day you need to experience the light of Jesus through His word and Spirit shining into your life. Your life may be quite passive at the moment through taking medication but you have got to make the effort and rise up and search for God's word as though it was - as it really is - the one thing you need to bring you through into freedom. Proclaim and declare scriptures like the two at the top of this article for there is great power and release in doing so.

IF YOU WISH TO INVITE JESUS CHRIST INTO YOUR LIFE, DO PRAY THE FOLLOWING PRAYER:

"Lord Jesus Christ, I know I am a sinner separated from you. 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 now see that you died on the Cross in my place that I might be brought back to God and know forgiveness. Now I ask you to come into my life and cancel out the sin which separates me from You. Come in and cleanse me from sin 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 Spirit to defeat the evil power of schizophrenia which troubles me and so come right through into the glorious freedom of your kingdom. I ask this in your Name. Amen".

James Stacey
(recently returned from Rwanda)

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