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Weekly Encourager – 2 August 2009

## THE LIGHT AND LIFE COMING FROM JESUS KEEPS HOPE OF FREEDOM ALIVE IN EVERY SCHIZOPHRENIC

***JESUS said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12***

The contest for deliverance and freedom from schizophrenia is fought in the arena of true spiritual light versus insidious spiritual darkness. Because Satan's strategy is to dispossess a person of life itself, he assigns demonic forces to "steal, kill and destroy" through oppression and slavery. The way out to freedom is through the Saviour of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ, whose death and resurrection defeated Satan's kingdom of darkness. Thank you, Jesus!!

Sad to say, the psychiatric and medical world, generally speaking, have no knowledge and are oblivious to the very real fight that rages in the life of the born-again Christian focused on becoming free. They may realise that life for every schizophrenic is tough - even to cope each day - but knowledge and understanding of someone fighting the power behind the condition is something well and truly off their radar.

I want in this message to bring REAL HOPE to those Christians who have struggled to become free for so long that right now they doubt the ability of the power of Jesus Christ ever to bring them to His promised freedom. No doubt the battering your mind has received over the years through taking prescribed drugs has created such a passivity sufficient enough almost to kill the bit of faith you ever had. It's hard for you to continue and I can well understand why!

You may - as was the case in my own life - have become a complete stranger to the emotion of joy (which still sings from the top most bough of faith) because it has subsequently been deadened as to create an existence in which you find it difficult ever to anticipate being free. I remember feeling like this during many visits to psychiatric hospitals - just keeping hold of God and His word with a thread of faith and wondering where He was in my wilderness experience. The light of the presence of Jesus and His words of spirit and life never left me at this time... and He will never leave you. I turned them over and over in both mind and heart in order to preserve my sanity. God's word shone spiritual light and truth into my heart as I "was kept ... in His love".

But over the years as that mustard seed of faith grew through being anchored in the Word of God memorised in my heart, the precious invasion of spiritual light from Jesus my Saviour increased the power of His life in mine. You remember He said: **"Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." And, "I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you" John 14:18.** These are mighty trusted words from a Saviour who paid the price of victory for you and me with His own precious life and is committed to HIS OWN. You need the fabric and scaffolding of the word of God to bolster up strength in your mind and heart to be able to survive against demonic attacks seeking to defeat you. You can't for a moment allow your mind to become the devil's playground where destructive voices want to take you over. Resist and fight back in the Name of Jesus. An uphill struggle it may be but one nevertheless in which Jesus is battling alongside you!!

Even as a Christian schizophrenic, God has a ministry to carry out in your life in which the voice of His Spirit is meant to be heard over and above all the over dark, demonic voices that want to run riot in your life. His voice being heard within you is a voice shining light and truth into your life (see John 10 v1-18). Refuse every suggestion that is from the kingdom of darkness. Speak out the words of Jesus which are spirit and life and enable you to abide in your Saviour. The memorising and repeating of Scripture will increase the light of Jesus into your life. The darkness will recede.

As you declare that Jesus is the Lord of your life and no part of it belongs to Satan, your declaration and resistance will stack up in your favour the flow of spiritual light into your life making Jesus more precious. You will become strong, in fact strong enough to go forward in faith to claim your own deliverance and healing. But do remember, get other Christians to pray for you. You need them to give support and bring you through in prayer.

I struggled for many years over the issue about coming off my medication. Maybe like you, some days I just wanted to bin the whole regime of tablets believing that I would be better off without them. The argument for me was confusing when a couple of psychiatrists I visited differed in their judgment over the need to keep on with the medication. But what provided me with the correct guidance I needed came from the wife of a minister involved in deliverance who put it all in a nutshell: "Don't come off your medication until God tells you too." With that word, the issue was finally settled for me.

Before that day of guidance came, I did, however, reduce my regular intake of medication. You may feel uneasy about the amount of medication you are prescribed, for example. You may deem it to be excessive. Careful monitoring to make sure there is not too much medication being taken is absolutely necessary. If on your visits to see your psychiatrist every three or six months for a brief in-and-out consultation you could well have little say in what you are told to swallow - and come away feeling that there's no real heart compassion and concern to ever see you on the way to recovery, never mind full freedom. I once did a 50-minute train and bus dash from work to see my psychiatrist and walked into his office as the phone was ringing. Before he commenced the conversation, putting his hand over the mouthpiece, he said to me: "I can see you are okay, Mr Stacey I will see you in six months time." He then proceeded speaking on the phone. I came away deflated, saying to myself, "What was the point of rushing to that appointment and what good did it do when I got there?"

What a real blessing it is to know the ministry of the Holy Spirit during the continuous effort to become free. Because, "the Lord is a refuge for the oppressed (afflicted), a stronghold in times of trouble" (Psalm 9 v9) take heart that HOPE is promised from Jesus. You may not at this moment be able to see the light at the end of the tunnel where freedom and "life that is your's to live" are waiting for you but be assured you CAN walk right out and enjoy it. Jesus has deliverance and healing for you!! Do all you can to make it yours by enlisting his faithful help directly on your own and by drawing on the prayers and intercession and compassionate care of those with a heart to see you set free.

***Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, I harness all the help you can give me as I seek to break out into your freedom from my prison house. I magnify the grace of your dear Son my Saviour Jesus Christ who has made all His resources available to me to rid my life of every demonic influence and bondage. Burst into my life through faith in Him that all the benefits of His death and resurrection on the Cross of Calvary may be at work and enjoyed in my life. I pray this in His Name and for His glory.  
Amen***

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