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Weekly Encourager – 4 October 2009

## **WHY JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY ONE WITH THE ANSWER OF REAL FREEDOM FOR EVERY SCHIZOPHRENIC**

**Jesus said: "In that day you will no longer ask me anything. I tell you the truth, my Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." John 16 verse 23-24**

You may have asked many times: "Can God see me through schizophrenia - this maze of a mental bondage that dogs me day in and day out?"

Or you wonder: "Why is God doing nothing? I've been struggling so long to get free - and the fight never ends - that I've nearly lost all hope of ever coming through to the other side."

I know how you feel. I've been there. I wish to pour into your life the hope that comes from knowing the true and living God who saw me through and remains so committed to you once you surrender your life to him and receive his Son, Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour.

Permit me to stress how much you need to receive Jesus if ever you are going to come through the dark demonic bondage of schizophrenia. You'll never beat the condition without Jesus fighting your battle with you. You need him on your side. He's such a faithful God that once you come to know him, He promises never to leave you or forsake you (Matthew 28: verse 20) - and He will bring you through.

Consider: Receiving Jesus as your Lord and Saviour and acknowledging that He died to forgive you of your sins and to give you eternal life (John 6: 51) brings His living presence into your life. You are thereby equipped with God's spiritual resources of light and truth to fight and defeat schizophrenia.

You may have been a schizophrenic for many years - but why not welcome Jesus into your life and receive his wonderful forgiveness. By doing so you become born again by the Spirit of God (John 3:3)) and so are filled with the truth and light from the presence of the Holy Spirit. Just think of it - God makes his home within your life, the best that can ever happen ever to you.

Your schizophrenia problem may remain the same at the time you make this most important decision of your life - although God sometimes moves in such power and glory into a person's life when they receive him that he breaks the bondage over the mind all in one act. But if He doesn't, you are better equipped to pray and use God's word the Bible as spiritual ammunition.

But remember how much God is committed to defeating schizophrenia in your life. What brought me through 26 years of mental bondage was the faithfulness of God. He was hanging on to me more than I was hanging on to him. For there were many times when I had no fight in me. The effect of constant medication had left me so passive that the living, active conscious faith I sought to maintain seemed hard to keep.

We'll never know how much God is committed to us, for our understanding is so inadequate, but God loves us, watches over us, protects us, fights for us in a way far greater than we can ever know. He's carved you on the palms of his hands (Isaiah 49: 15-16) speaking of His death on the Cross at Calvary. But the glorious understanding of his dealings we now have inspires us to go on to seek and prove him in our lives.

As a schizophrenic you need to know the truth about your condition. Most importantly, that it is a bondage not requiring a medical answer but a spiritual one. Because Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life, He promises to impart his Spirit of truth into your life. He said: "But when he, the Spirit of truth is come He will guide you into all truth." I found it such a help to discern all about schizophrenia from God's Holy Spirit that it focused my desire to break free of the evil which my life had been subject to for far too long. I began to prove the words of Jesus.

When Jesus said in John 8 verse 31: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free," He was referring to the truth taught by the indwelling Spirit of truth in the heart of the believer. You can know the same ministry in your life from the Spirit of truth once you make Jesus Christ Lord of your life.

The Holy Spirit is also known as the Comforter. Jesus said: "Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." John 16: 7. You are going to need the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you battle against schizophrenia. Learn to pull aside and sit in the presence of God and you will experience something of the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The "place of refuge" I created for myself in my fight to become free was that I planned to get into the presence of Jesus time and time again because I knew He was waiting for me to pour the strength of his presence and love into my life. This made my ongoing fight to become free more able to be maintained.

Take heart, draw your strength and endurance from God himself through the power of his grace. When you find the going tough and lonely, trust him in those times that are most difficult. To secure a breakthrough in prayer means to continue praying until you have a breakthrough from the bondage of schizophrenia and the dawn of real freedom from Jesus has come. Whatever the price to get there, is well worth it.

***Prayer: "Lord God, I believe that you alone have the answer to break the bondage of schizophrenia over my life. I need all the strength, support, endurance and love from yourself to get there. Grant me all the help I need as I make my prayer to you in and through the name of your Son, my Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen"***

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