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Weekly Encourager – 28 November 2010

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

USE THE POWER OF THE SUPERNATURAL WEAPON OF PRAYER WITH THE AUTHORITY OF A FAITH THAT COMMANDS AS WELL AS ASKS

THIS WEEK'S SELECTED BIBLE READING IS MATTHEW CHAPTER 12: Key verses 22-33: Jesus and Beelzebub: Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and dumb, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons." Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand? And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters. And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. Make a tree good and its fruit will be good, or make a tree bad and its fruit will be bad, for a tree is recognised by its fruit."

It is a matter of great concern today that help to deliver Christians suffering with schizophrenia is very thin on the ground. Those who turn their hand to set free captives often have no real idea of the strong power behind the bondage and have been known to deepen the entrenchment as they have engaged in attempts to drive out the demons behind the condition.

What a judgment on the Christian church which is so slow to come to your rescue!! While the greater majority are unsure that mental bondage is something that falls within the power of Jesus to deliver – others sally forth in their own power eager to attempt to drive out demonic intruders without knowing the right designated authority from Christ. Even those who have previously practised deliverance successfully have "lost it" in their attempts to set free a believer held by schizophrenia.

You may be in a church where you are receiving support and prayer in an endeavour to defeat schizophrenia. The pastor, church leaders and members of the fellowship really love you in Christ. They want nothing more than to see you get your life back and the bondage robbing your life at present expelled for good. But very little progress is being achieved to get you there all because of ignorance and fear about the real demonic root of schizophrenia.

I guess you feel a little like I do. What on earth is the church doing to set the captives free through the power that Jesus sent down on his church over 2000 years ago? Why are the problems of mental illness left unfaced and remain a huge mountain to scale? And what is this mistaken belief that the sphere of the mentally ill is the sacred ground only of the psychiatrist and medical profession?

We need to pray earnestly – "Lord God and loving Heavenly Father, in the name of your Son and our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, please awaken your redeemed people to do what he did – to preach good news to the poor, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release for the prisoners. Create heart-felt desire to be filled with the power of your Holy Spirit to minister deliverance and healing to those held captive in demonic mental bondages. Forgive us that for far too long we have deprived so many of the freedom you came to give them because of our ignorance, fear and lack of faith. Be glorified more in our world as the Saviour you really are both from the power of sin and Satan. March forward as the great Deliverer of evil mental bondages at present among your own people. We ask this in the Name of Jesus. Amen".

It is my firm believe that because of the horrendous Satanic entanglement behind schizophrenia, every person suffering the bondage needs help to come through. Every Christian should have a deliverance minister or group of ministers. You need unfailing, effective prayer support and help to overcome a spiritual strongman much more powerful than addiction to alcohol, drugs, sexual perversion or even Satanic ritual abuse. "The Schizophrenia deliverance is the deepest, most involved and most determined deliverance we have encountered," wrote Ida Mae Hammond. I understand what she is talking about – and pray you have some insight into the statement.

I have to admit that although I was sealed by the Holy Spirit following conversion to Jesus at the age of 14, there were at least two occasions when I completely "lost it". In other words, my behaviour was such that you would have thought that the powers of hell and Satan's kingdom were dictating control of my life. We like to have tidy definitions of what we believe and that is necessary. Sometimes things happen that do not fall inside those tidy statements. That is how it was in my life right then. I was on those occasions not in possession of my own life and evil seemed to be triumphing in me - yes, as a born-again Christian.

You would have thought that I was possessed for a short while by the same evil forces at work in the man we know as the Gadarene demoniac. He was totally out of control with demons ruling in him. My behaviour - thank God it did not last - shattered the commonly held view about the difference between a Christian being demonised and demon possession. I hasten to add that the Lord Jesus Christ was in overall charge of my life even in these bizarre moments. He was not going to see me defeated, and to this end never left me. The power of his blood shed for me won the day!! No-one – not even powers of darkness – can snatch us out of the hands of Jesus.

It is so important for you to be able to use the weapon of prayer in your fight to be free and to know how to command with the authority of faith in Christ for demons to be expelled. It goes without saying that anyone in the role of a deliverance minister seeking to help you must possess that same knowledge, too. Learning "to pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests" enables you to wield the weapon of prayer with terrible effect. (see Ephesians 6: 10-20).

Though you may find praying in the Spirit difficult because of passivity caused through being on medications, you have to persevere – for your survival depends on it. At some stage, at some time, you are going to need the effective prayers of God's people to bring you out into freedom.

To have Christians praying for you continually affords the best protection and progress. But you also have to do your own praying. It is your vital breath. You are in a spiritual battle and prayer is your only life-line to God. Fight the good fight of faith with all your might. Engage all the resources of heaven into your battle. Fight on in the Name of Jesus, your Strong Deliverer and **YOU WILL COME THROUGH TO PRAISE HIS NAME!!**

Further reading - visit Weekly Encourager Topic on 14 February (see Homepage File copies):
Becoming Desperate in Prayer to Defeat Schizophrenia

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, pour your delivering and healing power into my life as I take authority in the name of Jesus through the power of his blood over the intruding force. I assert your ownership of my life and resist any legal right that the devil seeks to hold over my life and bind up and expel any evil presence. I believe that my mind, too, can also be completely set free and my whole life enjoy the total freedom of Jesus. 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 to learn and commit to memory for 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 for freedom to know the deliverance and healing of Jesus.

Then Jesus cried out, "When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, but in the one who sent me. When he looks at me, he sees the one who sent me. I have come into the world as a light, so that no-one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12: 44-45

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings. 1 Peter 5 8-9

Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe. The miracles I do in my Father's name speak for me, but you do not believe because you are not my sheep. My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no-one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no-one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." John 10 25-30

The Weekly Encourager

5 December: God's Strong Hand is Holding You Fast – He Will Not Let You Go and Will Fight Until You Are Set Free

12 December: Sharing the Vision of Having a Healing Rescue Home in the UK to Set Christians Free 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-trying 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