

SCHIZOPHRENIC CHRISTIANS

I. Schizophrenia

- A. Most common form of insanity: 50% of the $\frac{1}{2}$ million patients in mental hospitals.
- B. Reaction to severe anxiety arising from inability to meet the demands of adult adjustment. Therefore, onset is usually between the ages of 18 and 35.
- C. Factors influencing schizophrenia:
 - 1. Heredity.
 - 2. Environment--stressful situation.
 - 3. Parents
 - a. Lack of discipline.
 - b. Lack of physical work for child.
 - c. Allowing laziness to become pattern.
 - d. Parental fear of frustrating youngster.

COMMENT: "Spare the Spock and save the child."

- 4. Individual Responsibility.

II. Christian experiencing Spirit-Filled life has splendid fortification against schizophrenia--mentally-- and spiritually.

- A. Anything that lessens anxiety is important in the prevention of schizophrenia. (John 14:27).
- B. Since the schizophrenic patient is suffering because his interests are directed inward, he must be redirected to interests foreign to his basic nature and to things outside himself. (Philippians 2:4)
- C. Allow time to listen to God's guidance. (Mark 6:31)

OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL SCHIZOPHRENIA

Are you tired of living a roller-coaster spiritual life? Do you think God intends your life to be that way?

Let's admit to ourselves and to God that we fall into one of three categories:

1. Natural man, who has not received Christ. (I Cor. 2:14)
2. Carnal man, who has received Christ, but lives in defeat because he trusts in his own efforts, leaving Christ out of most of life's decisions. (I Cor. 3:1-3)
3. Spiritual Man, who is controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. (I Cor. 2:15)

Into which category do I fall?

The difference between the Spirit-filled Christian and the Carnal Christian:
See Gal. 5:19-25.

Why am I not experiencing the consistent joy of the Spirit-filled life?

1. I didn't know this life was available. (I Cor. 2:12)
2. I am unwilling to dethrone myself to let Christ completely control every area of my life. (I Cor. 3:16)
3. I'm so busy being religious I don't have time to be Spirit-filled.

Why be filled?

1. God commands it--Gal. 5:16; Eph. 5:18.
2. It is the abundant life Jesus promised - Acts 1:1-9; John 15.

How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit right now?

1. First, I must be saved and know it.
2. Desire to be controlled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. (Mt. 5:6)
3. Confess your sins (I John 1:9). By faith thank God that he has forgiven all of your sins--past, present, and future because Christ died for you. I Pet. 3:18
4. By faith claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit by
 - a. His command - Eph. 5:18
 - b. His promise to answer according to His will - I John 5:14, 15.

Campus Crusade suggest the following type prayer to appropriate the filling of the Holy Spirit:

"Dear Father, I need You. I acknowledge that I have been in control of my life; and that, as a result, I have sinned against You. I thank You that You have forgiven my sins through Christ's death on the cross for me. I now invite Christ to again take control of the throne of my life. Fill me with the Holy Spirit as You commanded me to be filled, and as You promised in your Word that You would do if I pray this in the name of Jesus. As an expression of my faith, I now thank You for taking control of my life and for filling me with the Holy Spirit."

How do I continue to walk in the Spirit?

1. Confess sin and thank God for His forgiveness--immediately. Confession involves repentance -- a change in attitude and action.
2. Surrender control of your life to Christ, and appropriate the fullness of the Holy Spirit by faith.

Will I see changes in my life?

Here are God's promises:

1. Demonstration of more and more of the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23) and more like Christ. (Rom. 12:2).
2. Your prayer life and study of God's Word will become more meaningful.
3. Power in witnessing (Acts 1:8).
4. Preparation for conflicts against the world (I John 2:15-17); the flesh (Gal. 5:16,17) and Satan (I Pet. 5:7-9; Eph. 6:10-13.)
5. Power to resist temptation and sin. (I Cor. 10:13).