

# Crowning Glory

Dear Family, Church Family and Friends;

So we don't have to share this information on my diagnosis over and over, I'm going to write it out to share with you.

While the surgeries I had last year showed that all the cancer had been taken care of, recent tests show it's back. It is connected to the endometrial cancer that I had the surgery for. It is a very aggressive form and has spread. There are 6 or 7 masses in my abdomen and they will do a scan to see if it has traveled farther. I found out about it when I had to go to the emergency room with severe abdominal pain. The doctor says they will not be able to totally get rid of the cancer. With chemo they can possibly shrink the masses and slow down the cancer. If I do nothing, they say I have 2 months. If I do chemo, the average time is 2 to 3 years.

I start chemo on January 3. There will be 6 treatments 3 weeks apart. They said I would feel very tired, etc. for a time after each treatment, and about the time I'm feeling good again, it will be time for another treatment. They have guaranteed that I will lose my hair starting after the first treatment.

I said to the Lord, "You said a woman's hair is her crowning glory. Do I have to lose that?" He reminded me that Jesus gave up His glory to come to the earth and die on the cross for our sins that we might have eternal life. Losing one's hair hardly compares, I thought. So, I will leave it in His hands!

I shared with my doctor that I had asked Jesus into my heart and life when I was 14 years old. I have walked with the Lord for 59 years and He has always been faithful to take care of me, through good times and bad, and He will see me through this. I frankly, don't know how people go through life without Him. Those who do, cannot possibly know that peace and joy you experience when you have that intimate relationship with the One who loves you and created you.

I shared parts of Psalm 139 with my doctor. I told her that it says that God was there while I was being formed in my mother's womb, and that all of my days were recorded in His book before there was yet one of them. God knows the length of my days so, we are trusting Him. I told her I know that when I die, I would be spending eternity with the Lord.

So, I have no fear of dying, but the process of getting there, however the Lord chooses to allow it to happen, doesn't necessarily sound exciting. But, God has never failed me, even when I have failed Him. He has always poured out His peace and love in every life situation. He's even done the miraculous in situations that seemed, from man's point of view, to be unredeemable. So, I have no trouble trusting that He will see me through every process and every step I take for the rest of my life.

Those are the facts of the diagnosis. But, there is something greater than the facts, and that's God's truth that we can put on top of the facts. These are all the promises of God! Psalm 103:2 reminds us not to forget all His benefits, some of which are that He forgives all our sins and heals all our diseases. Psalm 107:20 tells us that He sent forth His word and healed us and saved us from destruction. Both Isaiah 53:5 and 1 Peter 2:24 tells us that by Jesus' stripes we were healed. There are hundreds more promises in God's word that are ours. But just like when someone offers you a gift, it doesn't become yours until you take it. And it does no good until you open it and use it! Then, it is oh so important to thank the giver.

It is the same with God's promises. They don't become yours until you take them, use them, speak them out loud, and thank God for them. So when you are praying for me, put God's truth on top of the facts. Pick a promise and turn it into a prayer. You can even personalize it. For example..."Thank you, Lord Jesus, that by Your stripes Paralee is healed." Then, leave it in His hands!

Church family, family and friends who are born again believers in Jesus Christ, I have prayed for a long time now that you would fully understand who you are in Christ Jesus, and that you would realize the power and authority He has given to you. I see too many walking in defeat in areas God has already won the victory for them. As you have heard it taught before, we fight from victory, not for victory. It is already ours but, sometimes we need to chase the devil out of our promised land. And God has given us the ability, the privilege, the promise, and the responsibility to do that. He told us in Matthew 10 that He gave us power to cast out unclean spirits and heal all manner of sickness and disease in His name.

And in John 14:12, Jesus told us that the works He did we can do also, and even greater than these because He has gone to the Father. In James 5:14, the Lord tells us if we are sick, we are to call for the elders of the church, and they will pray over us, and anoint us with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save the sick. Proverbs 18:21 says, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue."

So, believers in Jesus, we need to speak life and not death over the situations in our lives. How do we speak life? By speaking God's word! Hebrews 4:12, "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword." Isaiah 55:11, "So is the word that goes out from My mouth; it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

So believers, speak life over your situations and mine. Put on that armor of God, hold up that shield of faith, wield that sword of the spirit which is the word of God, fight from victory, and give God the glory!

But you say, I have prayed for people who were sick and they never got better. God says we are to keep on asking, keep on knocking. I heard the testimony of one man who prayed for 200 different sick people, and not one got better and some even died! The interviewer asked him why he kept praying for people. He said, because God told him to. But person number 201 that God told him to pray for, and everyone since then, was healed! What if he had stopped after one or one hundred, or one hundred and ninety-nine?

Believers, keep on praying and believing no matter what the outcome, because that is what God tells us to do. We are just to obey Him, trust Him, and leave the outcome in His hands. Even if it doesn't look like victory to us, God has already proclaimed victory for us. Deuteronomy 29:29, "The secret things belong unto the Lord our God:.." There will be things we will never understand. It goes on to say, "but those things which are revealed belong to us and our children for ever, that we may do all the words of the law." So, what God has shown us to do, DO and leave the secret things to Him. Romans 8:38-39, We are more than conquerors through Him that loved us.

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December 2018

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