

IN THE VALLEY OF CANCER, I WILL NOT FEAR!

When I was told a few weeks ago that I had Breast Cancer, my mind shouted, NO! God, NO! It can't be! Not Cancer! I don't want any more pain. I don't want this cup, please take it from me; it's too bitter. But God has other plans for me and I knew that the cup would remain until His plans are fulfilled in my life.

Bittersweet, bittersweet, the words seem to wrap themselves around my mind until finally lodging deep within my heart. I cry out, *Oh Lord, yet another hard journey I must take?* The path of difficulty beckoned—doubt and fear are dark clouds that overshadow my path. Life—death, which would it be? The Valley of Decisions looms large before me as the doctor makes the arrangements for surgery.

Then You, Father, remind me in **Psalm 139** that You perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; You are familiar with all my ways and before a word is on my tongue You know it completely, O Lord.—You hem me in—behind and before—You have laid Your hand upon me. And no matter where I go—You are there. Your hand will guide me; Your right hand will hold me fast. I am not alone. You are my sojourner, my Rock, Comfort, my Help in time of distress--need.

I remembered a story I had read some time back about a little girl named, Elizabeth who didn't like her new house. It was big, strange, and sometimes frightening—especially the hallway going down to the bedrooms in the basement. Unless the light was turned on Elizabeth wouldn't go to her room alone. Her mother would tell her, *Honey there is nothing to be frightened of*, and Daddy would say, *You're a big girl now*—but nothing seemed to help.

After a week of Elizabeth's refusals, her father thought he had the answer. *Elizabeth, do you remember what you learned in Sunday school? That God is everywhere. So darling, you don't need to be afraid.*

But Daddy, she replied, *I don't want God to be everywhere, I want him here to hold my hand.*

"Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.

(Psalms 139:7-10 NKJV). In David's understanding, it is God himself who is there, not just his power or authority.

God promises to hold my hand and guide me through the Valley of Cancer, therefore, I will praise Him with all my heart; and as David did, before his God, I will sing His praise. I will bow down toward Your holy temple and will praise Your name for Your love, Your faithfulness, for You have exalted above all things Your name and Your works.

When I call, You answer me; You make me bold and stouthearted. Though I walk in the midst of trouble—darkness—fear, You preserve my life; You stretch out Your hand against the giants of my soul, while I dwell in the safety of Your arms. Your right hand shall hold me safe and secure from my foes—Cancer and fear; You save me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; Your love endures forever—you'll never abandon the works of Your hands. You are my hiding place, my refuge, and my peace in the middle of the storm. In You forever will I trust.

Dear ones, we serve a faithful, trustworthy, caring God—full of mercy and grace. Whatever your need, whatever your pain, whatever your disease, whatever your path, remember, the Father is with you—you never walk alone, He is always there for remember, our GOD IS EVERYWHERE!