



The Lord's Prayer for People

Coping with Cancer

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Coping with Cancer

Cancer will be conquered. Promise. Period. You may not think so when you or someone you love has been given that feared diagnosis. But read on ...

“It’s hard to have patience
with people who say
‘There is no death,’ or
‘Death doesn’t matter,’”
wrote C.S. Lewis
following the death of his wife.
“Cancer, and cancer,
and cancer. My mother,
my father, my wife. I wonder
who is next in the queue?”
(A Grief Observed)

Now that you’ve been shoved into that line of people coping with cancer, the most important thing you can do is know — know with absolute conviction — that cancer will be conquered and that you have been enlisted ... unwillingly, to be sure! ... *in a march toward life.*

Life, you ask? Yes, life! There are so many factors in your life right now that would point to defeat — pain, treatments, financial concerns, fear of the unknown. You did not ask for cancer, but it is in your life. And you can be part of conquering it. Cancer is your enemy, and part of coping is coming to understand so you might know your enemy ... and how to fight it as you march toward life.

To assist you in this fight, experts like oncologists and nutritionists will share information with you. Learn all you can from them. Own your treatment. “Personal responsibility for getting well — for conquering cancer — is one of the most important principles in the cancer journey” (Greg Anderson, *The Cancer Conqueror*, p. 20).

There's more to help you than just marvelous modern medicine. Cancer conquerors will tell you that there's a spiritual factor — a non-material connection — in this quest for life. Quoting Greg Anderson again, "For the thinking person, the cancer journey quickly evolves into a spiritual quest. Survivors are nearly unanimous on this issue. The real triumph over cancer is realized in the nurturing of personal spiritual growth" (*50 Essential Things to Do when the Doctor Says It's Cancer*, p. 127). The following pages are written from such a spiritual perspective, so that you might discover new approaches to conquering your enemy.

Few spiritual writings are as famous as "The Lord's Prayer" or "The Our Father." It doesn't matter if you're familiar with this prayer or not; in fact, it doesn't matter if you've been a spiritual person or not. Waiting as you must for appointments, mulling things over during your treatments, standing as you are in the line of good people coping with cancer, you'll find that this simple prayer speaks to the emotions, the needs, the worries, and the questions you and your loved ones are now facing.

"This is not a tragedy!" declared one cancer patient. Cancer will be conquered!

The Lord's Prayer

*Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy Name,
Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.*

You Are Not Alone

"About one million people get cancer each year. Approximately one out of every two American men and one out of every three American women will have cancer at some point during their lifetime" ("After Diagnosis," American Cancer Society, p. 4).

These are the people of the cancer community and they know firsthand the jumble of thoughts and emotions that fill you. Many of them are ready to share experiences and information to help you cope.

Professionals and trained volunteers are also ready to help. Cancer societies, hospital professionals, individual counselors, ministers, and support groups are ready. The list goes on and on.

So as cancer survivor Dee Simmons writes, "Never try to go it alone. You need the love of others fully as much as you need the medicines your doctor prescribes, and maybe even more. Other people's love and encouragement can rebuild our inner person at times when we believe that's impossible. Reach out to that love and accept it" (*Ultimate Living*, p. 171).

Sadly, some past acquaintances may shy away from you. They may not know what to say. Sometimes family members struggle over how to deal with the situation — not knowing how to deal with their own emotions, they give in to anger, resentment, and even blame. That shows that they're hurting, too.

Sometimes even the cancer patient withdraws. Orville Kelly founded Make Today Count, an organization to help cancer patients and their families. When Kelly first learned of his cancer, he said, "I began to isolate myself from the rest of the world. I spent much time in bed, even though I was physically able to walk and drive. I thought about my own impending funeral and it made me very sad."

Then Kelly asked, "What have you got to lose by trying to live with this damned cancer?" He started talking with his wife and children. And this newspaperman began to write about his experience. He got back into the business of *living* — and so can you.

Don't withdraw; share your feelings with others and enlist them in your *march toward life!* Ask questions of your medical team; don't be passive. Draw upon the experiences and knowledge of your fellow travelers, the cancer community. Use the telephone to keep in touch; don't isolate yourself. If your family is unable to support you due to their own struggles, seek emotional sustenance from others. Ask a friend or neighbor to help you by doing an errand. Now is not the time to waste energy on trivial chores; your priority is life!

"At times, patients and their loved ones may feel frightened, angry, or depressed. These are normal reactions when people face a serious health problem. Others in the same situation have found that they cope with their emotions better if they can talk openly about the illness and their feelings with those close to them" (NIH Pub, No. 91-1569, p. 11).

Make the pledge now: I'll not withdraw; I'll not go this alone. I'll assemble a team for life!

Meditate:

"Our Father," the prayer begins. Think about the significance of the word "our." You don't have to cope with cancer alone. There are others to help you — people to love you, people to uphold you, people to be with you. They come to you from God, "our Father." Marvelous!

Pray it:

Our Father, Father of all of us who are coping with cancer, Father of my family and friends, don't let me withdraw. Teach me how to ask for help. Teach me how to receive help. Teach me that I'm not facing this alone. Lead me to loving and caring people who want to be with me. You're with me, our Father. Amen.

Our Father

Father! What kind of father would give his child cancer? I know I haven't been perfect; I haven't always tended to my health. But is this fair? Why is God doing this to me?

If you're a parent, you know what it's like to feel for a sick child. That's the way God feels toward you now. Your Heavenly Father didn't intend for your body cells to go out of control. He created the body with healthy cells, cells that grow, divide, and replace themselves in an orderly way. He's a God full of life and order.

But somehow, things went wrong.

"Cancer cells, however, continue to grow and divide, and can spread to other parts of the body.

These cells accumulate and form tumors that may compress, invade, and destroy normal tissue. If cells break away from such a tumor, they can travel through the bloodstream, or the lymph system to other areas of the body. There, they may settle and form ‘colony’ tumors. In their new location, the cancer cells continue growing ... Leukemia, a form of cancer, does not usually form a tumor. Instead, these cancer cells involve the blood and blood-forming organs” (“After Diagnosis,” p. 3).

Such a gap! On God’s side life and order — on ours menacing disorder, chaos, and brokenness.

Through treatments like surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation your medical team works to cure or ease the symptoms of your cancer. God is also on your team. He wants to restore order to the chaos and bring you life. Our Father sent Jesus Christ. The Bible recounts His activities 2000 years ago, but He’s not just another human being. The Bible describes Him as the Son of God whom the Father sent into our world — our world of so many troubles, our world of disease, and suffering — to defeat death and restore us to the life God always intended for us to have.

Obviously, life here on earth is not perfect, never will be. But the life God intends for us to have reaches beyond the here and now; it reaches into eternity. He closes the gap. That’s what Jesus has in mind when He says in the Bible, “...*I have come that they may have life and have it to the full*” (John 10:10b).

You pledged not to go it alone, to assemble a team for life. Your Father and His Son Jesus, your Brother, want to be on your team too. Don’t turn them away. Choose life!

Meditate:

“You are our Father...” (Isaiah 63:16a).

“...the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23b).

Pray it:

God, You are our compassionate Father. As we cope with cancer, teach us to cling to Your promises of life through Jesus. Share with us an unshakeable confidence in life, abundant life. Since Your Son, our brother Jesus, conquered death, cancer can’t have the last word in our lives. Amen.

Who Art in Heaven

The treatments can leave you feeling helpless. The late Jim Valvano, the great basketball coach of North Carolina State University, talked about his battle with cancer: “I’m helpless! I make no decisions! I have no control! I’m totally at the mercy of the disease and the treatment! I’m not a dad! I’m not a husband! I’m a freak! I can’t do anything! I just lie there and they stick needles into this lump in my chest and pour poison in my body” (*Sports Illustrated*, Jan. 11, 1993, p.16).

Champion bicyclist Lance Armstrong described his weakness from chemo this way: “As I lay in the sheets, doing nothing, I felt like something that had washed up on a beach” (*It’s Not About the Bike*, p. 139).

Are you helpless? No! Not with the team you’re putting together! The expertise and support of the cancer community will be of invaluable help to you. Cancer is the enemy you face, but the treatments you’re tempted to dread are not your enemies but your allies in the fight. And on the spiritual side of your treatment, the more you learn about God, the greater your arsenal of defense.

“Our Father who art in heaven.” To say that the Father is “in heaven” does not mean that God is confined to some location far, far away and unable to help you. God is everywhere, including presently with you right now. That very old phrase “in heaven” means that you have a Father who is not limited in His abilities or confined by space and time as earthly fathers are. Although your Father in heaven cannot be seen, you can experience His great ability to help you. He *“is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine...”* (Ephesians 3:20a).

Helpless? No way!

Meditate:

“Call upon Me in the day of trouble...”
(Psalm 50:15a).

“...with God all things are possible”
(Matthew 19:26b).

Pray it:

Thank You, Father, for the doctors, the nurses, the researchers, the counselors, friends and family — all who are doing their best to help me. How great it also is to know that Your help is available to me. Hear my prayers, my helper “in heaven.” Amen.

Hallowed Be Thy Name

Back in 1988 lights were installed so that night baseball could finally be played in Wrigley Field. Sections of lights were assembled in a concrete-block building near the stadium. It’s said that when those lights were tested, they were so powerful they shone *through* the block walls.

You might question whether lights could actually be that powerful, but it’s hard to question the power of words. You’ve experienced that when you’ve been hurt by what someone said. More pleasant and helpful are the times when someone’s words have encouraged you and given you hope.

Some of God’s words in the Bible are tough, shining a strong light on things we’ve done wrong or on missed opportunities to do good. However, the most comforting parts of the Bible are those very passages — and there are thousands of them — that shine the healing light of God’s love and forgiveness into our hurting hearts.

“Hallowed be Thy Name.” The words may sound archaic, but their meaning is simple: “Our Father, may everything that You tell us about Yourself in the Bible (that’s what’s meant by God’s “Name”) be super-special in my life (that’s what “holy” indicates, something set apart, something dedicated, something ... super-special).” Sincerely reading and reflecting on the Bible is one way to “hallow God’s Name.” That’s why Jesus prayed that you and I would be made holy by the truth (see John 17:17). God’s Word *is* truth.

Remember when you pledged to let God be part of your team for life? A specific way to do that is to learn more about what God teaches in the Bible. You’ll find it’s like a powerful light that shines the light of our Father’s love into your heart.

Meditate:

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts ... Lead me in the way everlasting” (Psalm 139:23, 24b).

“...you will do well to pay attention to [God’s Word], as to a light shining in a dark place”
(2 Peter 1:19b).

Pray it:

Our Father, I need You on my team for life. Shine Your help and hope into my heart through the Bible. Don’t let me be too proud to call someone who can direct me to some of the most powerful Bible passages that will lighten my way. In this way, Your Name will be hallowed. Amen.

Thy Kingdom Come

What does “Thy Kingdom come” mean? Is it a prayer for God to take you to heaven right now in order to give up the pain of this world? No!

“It is hard not to think about dying, but it’s important to concentrate on living. Remember, a diagnosis is not a death sentence ... For some forms of the disease, 9 of 10 people diagnosed can be considered cured. Of the others, many will live a long time before dying with the disease. Indeed, there are sunrises as well as sunsets to be enjoyed” (“Taking Time,” NIH Pub. No. 92-2059, p. 11).

A kingdom is a place where a king rules. This kingdom is not a destination for the future; it is where our Father reigns today. *“Thy Kingdom come”* is your prayer that our Father will rule your heart and mind with His forgiveness, love, and hope. That starts now as the Spirit of God leads you into a more intimate relationship with the Victor over death.

“This is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent” (John 17:3).

Perhaps you or your loved one have not been given much earthly hope of conquering the form of cancer that has so mercilessly attacked you. Notice the description “earthly” hope. Never forget that “with God all things are possible,” and we all know people who beat the doctor’s prediction. Still, death will eventually come to us all, even to cancer survivors. What encouragement it is to know that you’re already a citizen in the Kingdom of unending life. So when death does come, your continued trust in Jesus the conqueror of death will be your ticket from this earth into heaven. When you enter that heavenly side of God’s Kingdom, our Father *“will wipe every tear from (our) eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain...”* (Revelation 21:4a; see also Revelation 7:13-17).

“As I reflect on living the past 19 years of my life with breast cancer, I can in no way say these years have been a tragedy. However, while I could wish I had never gone through all of this, the reality is that it did happen. I had two basic choices — to quit or to go on with my life!

Since I have always preferred to do my gardening from above ground rather than below, the obvious choice was to get on with life. I was fortunate to have a faith that sustained me and a belief that as long as I had life, I had hope” (Bernita Jacobson, “The Messenger” from Mid-America Cancer Center, September 1991). That’s kingdom talk, life now filled with heavenly hope!

Meditate:

“...You are not far from the Kingdom of God” (Mark 12:34b).

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the Kingdom” (Luke 12:32).

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death (notice it says, “through the valley,” not “I’m stuck in the valley”) I will fear no evil, for You are with me...” (Psalm 23:4a).

Pray it:

O God, Your Kingdom is present wherever Your words of forgiveness, love, and hope are present. May Your Spirit bring Your fatherly presence into my heart to make me a citizen of Your Kingdom now and forever in heaven. I ask this because of all that Jesus did for my life. Amen.

Thy Will Be Done on Earth as It Is in Heaven

One of the good things about cancer ... Can I write that? “Yes,” says the cancer community because one of the good things to come out of your experience is a new perspective and a new set of priorities.

The doctors thought 25-year-old Lance Armstrong had about a 3 percent chance to make it when he was diagnosed in 1996. He not only made it; he’s gone on to win the prestigious Tour de France bicycle race seven times. “The truth is, if you asked me to choose between winning the Tour de France and cancer, I would choose cancer. Odd as it sounds, I would rather have the title of cancer survivor than winner of the Tour, because of what it has done for me as a human being, a man, a husband, a son, and a father” (*It’s Not About the Bike*, p. 265)

“Thy will be done” is a prayer that you’ll keep first things first. Even in the midst of your struggle with cancer, keep your priorities straight. Your priorities will be straight when they’re lined up with what God wants for you — God’s will. *“...What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with Your God”* (Micah 6:8b).

So here’s an invitation to examine your past priorities; such self-examination can be tough, but the results promise to be wonderful. “A diagnosis of cancer ... is a powerful stimulus against procrastinating on warm and kindly or beautiful things ... a reminder that many of the material things aren’t all that urgent after all... Take time to watch the sunset with someone you love” (National Cancer Institute, “Take Time,” p. 9).

A new appreciation for the here and now. That’s promised to you as your relationship with your Heavenly Father grows ever closer. Jesus says, “Your Heavenly Father knows what you need” (see Matthew 6:32). And He provides.

Meditate:

“...You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed” (Luke 10:41b).

“Direct me in the paths of Your commands, for there I find delight” (Psalm 119:35).

Pray it:

Our Father, I’ve been so concerned about so many things. That’s natural; I’m no different than anyone else that way. But all of a sudden, cancer shows how trivial many of my pursuits have been. Let Your promise to take care of me be my motivation to line up my priorities in line with Your will. In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

The treatments may take away your appetite. Eating well provides calories the body needs.

This prayer is about appetite ... and all the other physical things you might worry about.

Worries about tests — treatments—finances — insurance coverage — your future — the future of your family —how will others act around me? — who will care for me? — can I stay at home? Eating your daily bread is just the tip of the iceberg! The Lord's Prayer teaches us to ask ... and trust ... that God will provide for what we need to face each day.

The persistent idea that physical things — like the body, food, finances, possessions, and such — are somehow ungodly concerns is like a plague visited upon us.

But that simply is not true. God is a spirit; that is a being with no body. So the erroneous conclusion has been drawn that the realm of the physical is beneath God's concern. But that's not the way the Bible tells it. Our Father, a spirit, sent His Son into the world to take upon Himself the form of a human body. That's who Jesus is — God with a body. *"In Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"* (Colossians 2:9). The concerns you have for your physical needs — daily bread, finances, and the like — are important to God. Our Father in heaven does not consider your physical concerns to be trivial, any more than you would regard your child's concerns as unimportant.

That's why we trust God and pray, "Our Father, *give us this day our daily bread* ... and anything else You know we need for the support and wants of our body."

Meditate:

"Do not worry, saying 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'... Your Heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow..." (Matthew 6:31, 32b-34a).

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God" (Philippians 4:6).

Pray it:

Our Father, You've promised to take care of our needs — mine and my family's. Help me not to worry, but instead to trust in You. When I do start to worry, remind me to place my concerns in Your hands. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Forgive Us Our Trespasses

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world" (C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, p. 93).

God has your attention, doesn't He? Cancer promotes introspection and introspection can lead to brooding. For example, perhaps you can attribute your cancer to some bad health habits. "Almost 75 percent of all cancer cases in the United States are related to tobacco and alcohol use and to diet" ("After Diagnosis," p. 5).

You might begin to brood over the things you've done wrong. But since cancer is an equal opportunity tormentor, you may have had the best of health habits and were still diagnosed. Whatever your health habits have been, stop pondering how you got cancer.

In fact, now that God has your attention, He'll do more than help you stop brooding over how you got cancer. He'll help you put anything and everything you've ever done wrong behind you. In your times of solitude your conscience may be hearing loud shouts of guilt. "If only I had ..." "Why in the world did I do that?" "Look at all the trouble I've caused." While those accusing shouts of guilt may be well-founded, God wants you to hear something different, something better.

Listen carefully ... here's the Good News: *Whatever you've done wrong against others and against Him (the Bible calls those wrongs "sins" or "trespasses") has been forgiven.* That's right — forgiven. That's because Jesus died on the cross. Jesus, the Son of God who had no sins, paid the ultimate penalty to secure your forgiveness. That means your cancer is not a punishment for your sins. Hear it again.

Cancer is not a punishment for your sins: *"God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him"* (John 3:17).

Many people who trust Jesus for forgiveness still find themselves tormented by feelings of guilt. That's natural. We're bundles of emotions that don't change overnight. But embrace this — whatever you've done wrong has been forgiven. Meditate on God's gift of forgiveness and let Him erase any guilt you may be feeling: *"There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"* (Romans 8:1).

Meditate:

"I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord'—and You forgave the guilt of my sin" (Psalm 32:5).

"One of the most difficult lessons I have struggled to learn is how to receive gracefully. I was raised to believe that it is 'more blessed to give than to receive.' I did not realize that if no one received, no one could give. I had to swallow my pride ..." (Bernita Jacobson).

Pray it:

Our Father, I think about the things I've done wrong. Despite my best intentions, I have often failed. I haven't measured up to Your high standards. Rather than foolishly cling to my own virtues, let me swallow my pride and accept Your forgiveness. When I'm tempted to think that You're using cancer to punish me, remind me that the Bible says You've forgiven me because of Jesus. Help me believe that more and more. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us

Cancer isn't only about you. It's about all of us. Remember "Our Father"?

Dr. Christopher Gates tells the story of a 56-year-old woman with breast cancer. Her husband had once been unfaithful, but he dropped that affair and now for some years had been completely true to his wife. But she couldn't accept his statements of love. She accused him of still cheating and told everyone in town. Townspeople believed her lies and thought the husband was scum for cheating while his wife was battling breast cancer.

The husband didn't know what to do. She wouldn't accept his word when he said, "I'm being faithful." He couldn't seem to prove it to her or convince her. Friends and family were vilifying him. All this because the poor woman refused to believe that her husband truly loved her and was faithful. Dr. Gates writes, "She was full of rage and felt helpless. She felt seriously deformed by her treatment ... (it) had all been for naught, she felt, because the treatment had not cured her. She had withdrawn from her friends, feeling humiliated by her condition" (*Psychological Issues and Cancer*, p. 22).

What she did not know is that forgiveness makes all the difference. She chose to burrow into anger, resentment, and self-inflicted punishment rather than receiving care and support from her husband. Instead of knowing that she was loved, she let herself sink into despair. Though she herself had experienced forgiveness, she withheld the forgiveness she could have bestowed on her husband. Forgiveness received and forgiveness shared makes all the difference.

"How often do we need to forgive? Always. Don't drag the memories of past hurts and mistakes into your present moments. Nothing from the past is important enough to allow it to pollute your present.

Family, relationships, acceptance, understanding, and compassion are much more important than holding on to the past at the expense of present-moment wellness. Forgive. You'll change your life!" (Greg Anderson, *50 Essential Things*, p. 135)

Meditate:

"If you forgive men when they sin against you, your Heavenly Father will also forgive you" (Matthew 6:14).

Pray it:

Our Father, You sent Jesus so that I could have the joy of forgiveness. Of all times, this is not the time to nurse old grudges and hatreds. Help me to forgive those who have wronged me. Help me to be at peace with all. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

And Lead Us Not Into Temptation

"I feel myself getting more depressed and try to think of the best way to fight it" (Joyce Wadler, *My Breast: One Woman's Cancer Story*, p. 72).

Cancer often ushers in depression, but like this woman, you can choose the right attitude — you can choose to fight it! Fight it with facts. "People with cancer do not become hopelessly depressed. Just after learning they have cancer, they may go through a time of grief or mourning. This may seem like depression, but it really is not ... When someone's emotional upset or sadness is long lasting or gets in the way of day-to-day things, they may have clinical depression. About one in four people with cancer will develop clinical depression ... Talk with your doctor if you have concerns about depression" ("After Diagnosis," p. 8).

The Lord's Prayer teaches us that our Father doesn't want us to wander into despair and hopelessness. *"Lead us not into temptation."*

The facts tell us that it's natural to grieve, but if you're concerned about depression, talk to your doctor. And talk to your Father in heaven, too. He'll help you overcome the mourning that your health isn't what it used to be, and He'll help should you find yourself struggling against long-term depression. "... *You hold me by my right hand, You guide me with Your counsel...*" (Psalm 73:23b-24a). Our Father loves you. He'll help you when you are tempted to wander too close to despair and hopelessness.

“I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future’” (Jeremiah 29:11).

Meditate:

“When I said, ‘My foot is slipping,’ Your love, O Lord, supported me. When anxiety was great within me, Your consolation brought joy to my soul” (Psalm 94:18-19).

“When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone” (James 1:13).

God *“...has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead” (1 Peter 1:3b).*

Pray it:

Our Father, coping with cancer is a real test. Don't let me give in to the temptation to hopelessness and despair, to think of myself as a helpless victim. Use these times of meditation to kindle in me a growing hope that will press toward the future of life You have in store for me. Amen.

But Deliver Us from Evil

Cancer will be conquered. Promise. Period.

There's sound medical evidence for saying that. “More than half of all the people diagnosed with cancer will be cured by today's treatments” (“After Diagnosis,” p. 7). Advances are being made on all fronts. More and more people are cancer survivors than ever before.

But there's also a spiritual basis for predicting the defeat of cancer. If it appears that yours will not be cured, then this spiritual basis is of immediate significance. You won't want to miss the importance of this message:

Because God raised His Son Jesus from the dead, He will bring you through your death to a wonderful life in heaven that will never end. Just as Jesus died once and will never die again, your trust in Jesus will take you *“through the valley of the shadow of death”* into a transformed personal existence in heaven's joys.

“...I am the Resurrection and the Life,” Jesus says. “[The person] who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in Me will never die...” (John 11:25b-26a).

We are speaking of a defeat far greater than a mere cure for cancer. Yes, cancer will be conquered because the day is coming when death itself will die. Jesus Christ *“must reign until [God] has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death” (1 Corinthians 15:25-26).* This defeat has eternal significance.

Cancer will be conquered. With God on your treatment team, you're on a *march toward life!*

Meditate:

Jesus says, *“...Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!...” (Revelation 1:17b-18a)*

“...He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; He will remove the disgrace of His people from all the earth ... In that day they will say, ‘Surely this is our God; we trusted in Him, and He saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in Him; let us rejoice and be glad in His salvation’” (Isaiah 25:7b-8a, 9).

Pray it:

Our Father, You've assured us of the final victory. You will deliver me! That gives me more and more hope, hope that is certain because it's based upon Jesus' victory over death. May Your promises of life fill me with confidence today and uplifting hope for tomorrow. Nothing shall separate me from Your love! Amen.

**For Thine Is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory
Forever and Ever. Amen.**

As you and your medical team, as well as your family and friends, continue to cope, remember how important the spiritual connection is in your *march toward life*. Remember that our Father in heaven is part of your team. Through Jesus He promises you victory. For that gift and all the others that you experience as you cope with cancer, we conclude by saying, *"Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever."*

And we say that with a strong "Amen," a Hebrew word that means "It shall be so." It really will be! Cancer will be conquered! Life will triumph! That's God's promise! *"No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through Him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God"* (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Cancer? This is not a tragedy!

Meditate:

"In life I often have discovered,
With gratitude and glad surprise,
When clouds of sorrow o'er me hovered,
God sent from them my best supplies;
In troubles He is ever near,
And shows me all a Father's care."
(*"O That I Had A Thousand Voices"*)

"I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done" (Psalm 118:17) Amen!

The 23rd Psalm

The LORD is my Shepherd,
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down
in green pastures,
He leads me beside quiet waters,
He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths
of righteousness for His Name's sake.

Even though I walk through the
valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,

For You are with me;
Your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the
presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
My cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will
follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in the house
of the LORD forever.

*Check out LHM's online store
for a variety of ministry resources*

If you would like to get hard-copy booklets
of this item, you can do so by going to

<http://www.lhmgift.org/storefront/products.asp?by=topic&id=7>.

There you will find this and other **Project Connect** booklets,
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divorce, forgiveness, cancer, gambling, post-traumatic
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