

DEVOTION FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH CANCER

Fear

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Matt. 14:27

The word "cancer" strikes fear in almost everyone's heart. A large part of the cancer scare is the fear of the unknown. There are so many questions. Did they discover it in time? Did the surgery get it all? Is this treatment going to be successful? Will the cancer come back? No matter at what stage we may be in our cancer journey there are things that we just don't know about. That brings fear into our lives.

The setting for the verse above is when Jesus comes walking on water. The previous verse states "**When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. 'It's a ghost,' they said, and cried out in fear.**" While we may not have seen any ghosts, our fears are just as real. BUT, there is help for us as well. Jesus's words to His disciples are His words to us as well.

When Jesus says "It is I" Jesus brings a whole new dimension to the help that is there for us. This is like God assuring Moses about his assignment to go into Egypt to free the Israelites. When ¹³ **Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?"** ¹⁴ **God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" (Exodus 3:13-14).** That told Moses that the eternal God was all the support he needed. When Jesus says "It is I," that means that the whole power of God is available to us. He is not holding anything back.

When Peter said "**Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water.**" Jesus (V. 28), Jesus said "**Come.**" When Peter was overwhelmed by the waves coming at him and he cried out for help and Jesus "**immediately reached out His hand**" (V. 31).

We like Moses and the disciples still have a great deal of fear. We need many reminders to "not" fear. God stands ready to calm each fear that we have. We can run into Jesus' arms just like we once did with our parents when we were little. Jesus will always be there to catch us. Someone has said that there are at least 365 "fear nots" in the Bible, one for each day. Jesus will reassure us through our daily prayers and devotional studies that He is always in charge.

Prayer:

Dear Lord thank you for giving me constant reminders that I don't have to fear anything. Thank you also for your forgiveness when I forget to trust you and begin to fear. Our bodies may not always respond as we would like, so strengthen my faith in you to endure. Amen.