

DEVOTION FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH CANCER

Alone

...The LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6

When we have cancer we can feel so *alone* so very, very often. We can be in a big crowd and feel totally *alone*. Yes, the treatment people are very attentive and caring. Yes, our coworkers are supportive and caring. Yes, our families are sympathetic and reassuring. BUT, when the many people in our life are gone and we are headed to the OR, getting chemo, places no one can go with you, there we are *alone* with our thoughts and feelings. This is especially true at night when we are *alone* and it seems to be on our minds constantly.

There are numerous assurances in Scripture. Below are a few examples:

- **Numbers 6:24-26** ²⁴ “**The LORD bless you and keep you;** ²⁵ **the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you;** ²⁶ **the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”** Here God’s face beams with gentle kindness so that His people are not harmed but blessed.
- **Isaiah 41:17** “**I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them.**” This is spoken to Israel while they are still in exile.
- **Matthew 28:20** **...”And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”** This was spoken to the disciples after Jesus had given them the command to “make disciples of all nations.”
- **Psalm 46:1-3**, **God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.** This was written when a powerful enemy king was threatening King Hezekiah who was trapped in Jerusalem. Martin Luther when living a fugitive used this verse as a basis for his hymn, “A Mighty Fortress is our God.”
- **Psalm 121:7-8** ⁷ **The LORD will keep you from all harm— he will watch over your life;** ⁸ **the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.**

When we are in group of people sometimes they seem to act as if we have leprosy, they just don’t know what to say or how to respond. That just makes *aloneness* much worse. We need to know that God never quits on us or leaves *alone*. He is always right there next to us. The desire to have God holding our hand is so strong, but sometimes weakness or doubts keep that from happening.

Prayer:

Dear Lord, when the silent *aloneness* comes remind me of the many ways you have loved and cared for me in the past. Help me feel your comfort and warmth. Remind me over and over again that you are always there with me no matter the circumstance. Amen