

DEVOTION FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH CANCER

Control

In His hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are His also.

⁵ The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Psalm 95:4-5

You ever feel like everything around you is totally out of control and going crazy? Welcome to the life of a cancer patient. It seems that the world you lived in before the diagnosis, the one that left you feeling comfortable has gone totally berserk. The home life you so carefully established, the work situation you sensibly groomed, and the supportive relationships that you had come to depend on have all gone awry. The emotions you had come to keep in check, now betray you. You want to ask, "Is there anything I can depend on?"

So very, very thankfully we can be certain that God is in total control! He has been from the beginning of time. In the two verses above, God's hands are pictured as holding what He has made and caring for His people. Along with the vast expanses of the sea and dry land these images picture all the earth as God's possession; indeed, the whole universe is His is under His control at all times. (TLSB) Psalm 24:1 reinforces this when it says: "**The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.**" There is nothing that eludes Him, ever! Acts 17:28 assures us of this: "**For in him we live and move and have our being.**"

Isaiah 40:11-12 gives more proof of God's loving control but also provides unassailable proof of God's ability to be fully in control of everything including our lives: "¹¹ **He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.** ¹² **Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?**

The devil and the world want to create chaos. When we feel everything spiraling out of control we can go to God's Word to find over and over again God's sustaining comfort for our seemingly tenuous situation.

Prayer:

Lord, my mind can become confused at times during my illness. I often feel so helpless. Help me to cling to your Word when disorder comes into my life. Help me to see how much you are in control of everything, especially my illness and anxiety. Thank you for assuring me that my sins are forgiven and that I am your dear child. Amen.