

DEVOTION FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH CANCER

Hope

³ Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-5)

During the cancer process hope is all that we are left with. And, sometimes hope seems to be eluding us. Sometimes we may wonder just what good is all the pain and aggravation. A hopeless feeling is sometimes very normal, but it can be very depressing and overwhelming.

The Roman Christians Paul was writing to had their daily problems. They were a small minority in a largely heathen Roman world which was hostile to their little group. That meant that there were many sufferings that came into their lives. Some in their assembly were relatively new Christians were more easily overwhelmed by their setbacks.

Paul tells them to rejoice in their suffering because it can produce a strong Christian character. It may well build a durable relationship with the Lord. The end result is that they will have a hope that “**does not disappoint.**” This hope is not a part of unfounded optimism. It is the blessed assurance that God is always there for us because it based on the life, death, and resurrection Christ Jesus.

The pain and suffering may continue but we can have it build a trusting unbreakable bond with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Romans 8:39 tells us that nothing in heaven or earth can separate us from the love of Christ.

Prayer:

Lord, in my deepest woes remind me that you are always there for me and that I can trust you in every situation. Give me confidence when my days seem to show no prospect of hope whatsoever. Above all else, constantly remind me of the expectation of heaven waiting for me. Amen.