

They discovered in late October of 2005 that I had multiple cancerous tumors in my bladder. I guess the urinating of blood off and on for five years should have given me a clue. Several years ago I was pushing a shovelful of snow on a sidewalk when the shovel hit a crack and the handle hit me in the bladder area. I've had pain and trouble ever since. I thought I was dealing with a recurring injury, not cancer.

In the summer I spend a lot of time mowing grass. The bleeding would occur sometimes after a long, rough day on the lawn mower. I would always think I re-injured my bladder from all the bouncing around. The bleeding would be there one day and the next day it would be gone. I even had a doctor check it out a couple of times. There was nothing there.

Finally, my Doctor sent me to a urologist. The urologist sent me for x-rays and tests and scheduled me for a Cystoscopy. I had a set time to be at the hospital. Way before my scheduled appointment the hospital was desperately trying to get a hold of me. They finally got me on my cell phone and told me I needed to get to the hospital right away.

When I got to the hospital there was a sense of urgency. I kept asking questions, but the nurses would not answer them. They said the doctor would be there soon and he would answer my questions. I knew something was wrong. So I called my wife at work and told her something was

going on. I said she didn't have to come to the hospital and I would call her when I found out what was going on. She called our daughter and they came anyway. I was sure glad to see them when they walked in.

The doctor came in and told me that according to the x-rays he was positive I had cancer, but would not know the severity until after the Cystoscopy. The doctor wanted to do surgery right then but could not because I had eaten food and drank water. They can't do surgery if you have eaten or drank anything for 12 hours. The doctor said they would do the cystoscopy now and schedule surgery as soon as possible.

When they completed the Cystoscopy, the doctor told me he had found multiple tumors in my bladder and he was sure they were cancerous. I don't care who you are, when they tell you that you've got cancer, it will effect you. I felt fear attacking my whole body. I thought I was going to pass out.

I thank God that I am A Christian. I've studied and read the Bible many times. As the doctor was telling me I had cancer and the fear was about to overtake me, I remembered a scripture I had read in 2 Timothy 1:7. It says, "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind." When I remembered this scripture I silently called upon the name of Jesus and asked Him to help me. I told Him I could not carry this burden. I asked

Jesus to carry this burden for me. Then I felt a peace come over me. I still have that peace with me today.

Phil 4:6,7 says, “ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God and peace which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

I also remembered another scripture I read in **James 1**. It says “ consider it pure joy my brothers when you go through the trials of life, because the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete not lacking anything.”

Yes, God allows these things to happen to us. You ask what kind of a God would allow a bad thing like cancer to happen? I say a loving God that has your best interest at heart. **Roman 8:28** says, “ And we know that in all things God works for good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His Purpose.”

Things like cancer will get your attention and it comes with many opportunities. First you have an opportunity to draw near to God. You have an opportunity to read your Bible and see what God has to say about your situation. As you read the Bible, your faith will increase. As your faith increases so will your strength and courage. Scripture clearly says in **Isaiah 53:4**. Surely Jesus took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, “yet, we consider Jesus

stricken by God, smitten by God and afflicted. But, Jesus was pierced for our transgression. He was crushed for our

iniquities. The punishment that brought us peace was upon Jesus and by Jesus wounds we are healed. Scripture also says that Jesus is the great Physician (Doctor).

Yes, God allows these thing to happen, but not without great opportunities to know Him better, to trust Him more.

Once things had calmed down and I had an opportunity to get by myself and think things through. I prayed and asked the Lord to completely take over this situation and these circumstances and bring it under his control. I gave the whole thing to Jesus to carry for me. You see, Jesus loves us and he died for our salvation and He is waiting for us to come to Him and ask Him to carry our burdens. When I surrendered to this, Jesus took my burdens and carried them for me. I also asked that Jesus would be glorified through my situation. From that point on, I never had any fear worries or pain.

A week later the doctor performed the surgery. He told us the surgery was successful and he felt he got all the tumors out. A week after that, the doctor scheduled an office visit to give me the results of the biopsy. The biopsy confirmed the doctors suspicion. It was cancer, but the doctor had good news. He was sure he got all the tumor and there was no further treatment. As I left the office, the doctor told me that I had to be checked every three months for a year to

see if the tumors return. He had his nurse set an appointment before I left. I left the office very excited.

I had the surgery in the first part of November of 2005. As I spent Thanksgiving and Christmas with my family. I realized how precious they were to me. I thought of how I prayed and asked Jesus to carry my burden and he did. I thought of how much I had learned going through this situation with the cancer. I was thankful that I gave the whole cancer situation to Jesus and I trusted Him with it even to the death. Yes, I trusted my life to Jesus even if He decided the cancer would take my life.

I think when God allows these kinds of things to happen in your life, you have to know what the word of God says and you have to trust it with your life. In other words, have faith that God will do what He says He will do.

We have been studying what the word of God says about healing since mid December 1999 when my wife, Lynn was diagnosed with advanced cervical cancer. We went to the word of God and applied what the word had to say about our situation.

In **James 5:14-16** it says, "If anyone is sick let him call the Elders of the church. Have the elders anoint him with oil. The prayer prayed in faith will make the sick person well." Notice it does not say, "might or maybe, make the sick person well. It says, "will make the sick person well." Is God's word true or not? Then it goes onto say the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned he will be forgiven.

Therefore, confess your sins to one another so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. Notice in the next verse **James 5:17**, it talks about Elijah. The scripture says that Elijah was a man just like us. That means like you and me. It says he prayed earnestly that it would not rain and it did not rain on the land for 3 ½ years. Again, he prayed and the heavens gave rain and the earth produced its crops. This clearly shows us the power of a righteous man's prayers.

James 5:14-16 is God's instruction on what to do if you are sick. If you don't do what the scripture says to do, it can't possibly work for you, can it? Scripture also says to confess your sins to one another. Is God saying you could be sick because of your sin? Yes, He is saying you could be sick because of your sin. I believe sin is the #1 cause of sickness and disease today. Remember, there was no sickness or disease before the fall of man. God warns us many times in the Bible not to sin or bad things will happen. **John 5:13,14 says**, "Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you."

In 3 months I had my first check-up and another Cystoscopy to look at the inside of my bladder. You know it's bad when your Doctor starts talking to himself during the exam..."hmm, look at that, oh boy." He told me I had two more tumors and he needed to schedule surgery as soon as possible. One week later I had my second surgery to remove the tumors. One week later, I had another

Doctor's office visit. He told me the tumors were cancerous, but that the surgery was successful and they got all of the tumor. He said no further treatment was needed and he'd see me in 3 months.

Three months later another Cystoscopy revealed two more tumors in my bladder. This was becoming very familiar. A week later I had my third surgery. A week later my Doctor visit revealed the tumors were cancerous, but once again he felt he had got it all and I'd need no further treatment. See you in 3 months.

After 3 cancer surgeries in 9 months, the scripture in **James 1** was coming back to me every day. "Consider it pure joy my brothers when you face trials of many kinds. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

I started praying everyday that God would show me any areas of my life that He wanted me to change. It's been my desire to serve God and do things that glorify Him for a long time. I was willing to change anything about myself that God wanted changed.

Shortly after I prayed the prayer, thoughts started coming to me that God was not interested in the appearance of my outer man. I could appear like Mr. Godly Christian anytime I wanted. He was interested in my inner man. While mowing the church lawn one day, God convicted me of being a grumbler. As I think about it now, it takes from 5 to 7 hours to mow and trim the church lawn and most of

my time spent on the lawn tractor, I spent grumbling about everything. This person should be doing this, that person should be doing that, why aren't these people here helping me, I should not have to do this whole job by myself. Everything I could grumble about, I did grumble about. God spoke to me and said, "I hate grumblers and you are one of the worst grumblers." Shortly after that I got an understanding. Grumbling was why Moses' people were in the desert for 40 years. God told me I would never get to where I wanted to be as long as I grumbled.

When God convicted me of grumbling, I told myself I just won't think those thoughts anymore. Once again, I was going to try to make myself look like Mr. Godly Christian. Did you ever try not thinking the thoughts you think everyday? It can not be done. I tried to change my thinking, but week after week while I was mowing the lawn, I would find myself on the lawn tractor grumbling. I could not stop myself.

I am a self-employed Food Salesman. My territory covers SW Michigan and North Central Indiana. One day while running my sales route and listening to a Christian radio station, I heard Nancy Lee DeMoss talking about the power of the tongue (**James 3.**) She said what comes out of your mouth is what's truly in your heart. This spoke to me deeply and I kept thinking about it over and over. I would say what comes out of your mouth is what's truly in your heart. After several hours of thinking about this, God spoke to me. God said, "It's not only what comes out of

your mouth that's in your heart, it's the thoughts you think that are in your heart.”

This hit me like a ton of bricks. For the first time in my life I came to the conclusion that the thoughts I think are because of my heart condition. You see, God knows our heart. On the outside we can dress up like Mr. and Mrs. Christian, but God knows every square inch of our hearts. There is no place in our hearts we can hide anything from God. We can fool our families, our friends, our neighbors, but we can not fool God. He knows our hearts.

After God opened my eyes, I came to the conclusion that I needed a spiritual heart operation. I went to my knees and asked God to cleanse my heart. What I thought was going to be very hard, was very easy. God just took the thoughts away. They were not there anymore. Wow, what a miracle. The thoughts that I knew were wrong and tried to battle all my life were now gone. (Some of the thoughts were hate, bitterness, rage, anger, grumbling, slander, malice, pride, rebellion, lies, jealousy, sexual immorality, lust, infidelity and adultery. Just like the scripture says.)

Even though God cleansed my heart and I was free of evil thoughts, the devil tries to bring them back every day. When he does, I take the thought captive and make it obedient to Christ, **2nd Corinthians 10:4,5** says, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of this world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension

that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought and make it obedient to Christ.” Then, I ask God to cleanse my heart again. God cleanses my heart immediately before the thought can take root.

I do not think this next part is a coincidence. My 3 month check-up for the bladder cancer was on October 3rd at 4:15p.m. As the Doctor gave me another Cystoscopy, he said, “your bladder is clear, no cancer.”

I truly believe God allowed me to have this cancer to draw my attention to my sinful heart condition. You see, cancer is what it took to get my attention. To me, sin is the root of all sickness and disease today. It sure was in my case. Nobody wants to talk about it, but it's true. Our sins could lead to sickness or death if we don't stop doing what we're doing. Remember, the penalty for sin is death. Jesus took upon the penalty for sin when He went to the cross, but there are still consequences of sin.

Romans 8:13 says, “for if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.” **Prov. 14:12** says, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.” If you get involved in immoral activity and get a STD such as AIDS, is there a consequence for that sin? Yes, there is. Could that sin lead to sickness, disease or death? Yes, it could. Can you ask to be forgiven for that sin? Yes, you can. Will you be forgiven if you ask? Yes, you will. Can the consequences of the sin still be sickness,

disease or death even though you are forgiven? Yes, it can. **James 5:20** says, “Remember this. Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save him from death and cover over a multitude of sins.”

After praying, reading & studying the Bible, I have come to the conclusion that you can sick for many reasons. Here are three reasons God laid on my heart. Sin, God’s Glory or It’s the way God has decided to take you home.

One Reason is: Sin. There are dozens and dozens of scriptures in the Bible that talk about sin that causes sickness, disease and leads to death. I believe that’s why the scripture in **James 5:14,15,16** is so important and you really need to understand it. In the beginning of the scripture it says if anyone is sick, call the Elders of the church, anoint them with oil, the prayer prayed in faith will make the sick person well. (It’s not the elders, the oil, or the prayer, that heals you. It’s the obedience to God’s word that makes the difference. God is the healer). Then, later on in the verse it talks about confess your sins to one another so that might be healed. The verse talks about a sick person getting well. Then, later in the verse it talks about confessing your sin and getting healed. I thought to myself, isn’t this the same thing, a sick person getting well and a sick person getting healed? As I prayed for understanding, the Lord said no, they are not the same. I now believe the first part of the verse has to do with the physical healing of the body. The second part that talks about confess your sins to one another so you can be

healed. I now believe this part has to do with spiritual healing. As I understand things now, physical healing without spiritual healing is no good. It won’t work or last. I believe that spiritual sickness is one of the causes of physical sickness. In my case, I sinned and sinned and instead of making these sins right by confessing them and asking to be forgiven, I justified them, hid them and covered them up. So, I believe that I became spiritually sick way before I got physically sick. If we are spiritually sick long enough, I believe it will manifest itself as a true physical disease.

Another Reason Is For: God’s Glory. Remember the man that was born blind in **John 9**? Jesus spit in the dirt and made mud. He applied it to the man’s eyes. Then, Jesus told him to go wash in the pool. The blind man was able to see. The Disciples asked Jesus who had sinned, the man or his parents? Jesus answered neither had sinned. The man had been born blind for God’s glory. As I read and studied the Bible, I discovered there were many scriptures where God glorifies Himself through a sickness or disease.

The Third Reason Is: This Is The Way God Plans On Taking You Home. **Acts 9:36,37** says. “In Joppa, there was a disciple named Tabitha (Which when translated is Dorcas) who was always doing good and helping the poor. About that time she became sick and died and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. The Bible also mentions several other people that got sick and died. Some

of them were Jacob, Moses, David, Hezekiah and Lazarus. With each of these deaths, God was glorified.

In Conclusion” Whatever your situation or whatever your circumstances, don’t deal with them alone. Don’t go through it in your own strength. **Call upon the name of Jesus. He will never leave you or forsake you. Let Jesus Lead You, Guide You, Direct You, Protect You, Love You, Strengthen You and Heal You.**

In the next five years I had 10 more bladder cancer surgeries. Every surgery was a learning experience and I came through it stronger and closer to God. As of the finish of this book in 2011, I’ve been cancer free for about a year and a half. **Jesus truly is the Great Physician and it’s by His stripes we are healed. Remember when you’re down and it looks like there is no hope. Jesus is the God of all hope. Remember if God is for us, who can be against us?**

Jesus is “The Great I Am.” “He is the Alpha and Omega.” “He is The Way, The Truth and The Life.” God will always give you Grace to get through our trials. Have you trusted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If not, why don’t you ask Him to come into your heart and be your Savior now.

If you would like to trust Jesus and ask Him into your Heart, you can pray like this.

Dear Heavenly Father, I Confess That I Am a Sinner. I Know That The Penalty For Sin Is Death. I Know You Sent Your Son, The Lord Jesus Christ To Die On The Cross And Pay My Sin Debt. Jesus, I Repent Of My Sins And I Know That My Sin Debt Is Paid In Full. Please Come Into My Heart And Save Me Now. It’s in Jesus Christ’s Holy Name I Pray. Amen. Thank you Lord For Saving Me. (It’s truly that easy. Why not do it today.)

**A
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