

Live the Overwhelming Victory Through Jesus



"No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us. And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39 (NLT)

"You have cancer." If you are anything like me, when I first heard those words, I too, was afraid. I begged God to take cancer from me, but He didn't. And I'm so glad. Why? *Because God's plans are always the best, and sometimes the best gifts come in the ugliest wrapping.*

Once I had a good ol' cry over my diagnosis, I reminded myself about who God is: **God is in control** and He is bigger than my diagnosis. I know that God's love is not always a preventing love, but it is always a protecting love and a perfecting love! I know God's promise is that He works "all things" (even cancer) for the good of the one who loves Him and is called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28). And I know that God wastes nothing; so, *He has purpose in this pain.*

Did you catch the shift above? I shifted my circumstances from the foreground of my heart to the background; and I put God in the foreground, where He belonged—where He always belongs. My circumstances were very real and overwhelming. But when I made the shift in perspective and emphasis—**choosing to see God as BIG** (because He is)—that's when I changed. *That's when peace and faith replaced doubt and fear as the overwhelming things in my heart.*

So, I prayed, "Ok Lord, let's do this thing. What do you want to teach me or show me about You while I walk this out? I don't want to be the same girl coming out of cancer that I was going in. I want to do more than survive this! I want the overwhelming victory!" (Romans 8:37).

I didn't want to waste my cancer...and I pray you don't. You will waste it if all you do is talk about your cancer, search the Internet, and worry about your healing or a possible recurrence. But you will make the most of your NOW by realizing the hand that dealt the cancer card *loves you with an everlasting, unfailing, steadfast, never-leaving-you-for-even-one-second, LOVE.*

This precept applies to any hard situation—not just cancer. So, I've put together a few of the daily disciplines that helped me make the most of my cancer...things that helped me say, "Thank you, God, for this cancer." I pray it does the same for you and that you'll come to know Jesus in such a beautiful way that is only attainable as one who is on the journey you are on.

Ask a friend to help you walk these 5 steps out. Commit to praying these scriptures over your cancer and for others who are on the same journey. And watch and see how God works your cancer for your good and His glory!

LIFE ON LIFE
with Punky Tolson

Make the Most of Your Cancer

*Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,
making the most of every opportunity,
because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16*

1. *Don't be ignorant about cancer; but don't let it dominate you.*

- a. If all we do is read about cancer and talk about cancer, then we've allowed cancer to win...to rob us of joy, happiness, and peace.
- b. Use the 10:1 ratio. For example, for every 1 sentence you speak about cancer, say 10 sentences about your God, your hope, and what He is teaching you, and the small blessings of each day. Relate all that you are learning about cancer back to Him and His purposes...and you won't become overwhelmed.

2. *Don't run away and hide*

- a. Let people love on you and learn to be a gracious receiver.
- b. You can be a blessing and bring a blessing to others by living openly and lovingly within your weakness.

3. *Live on purpose*

- a. There is profound purpose in the pain! Psalm 90:12 "Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom."
- b. Let this trial change you for the better (the way you think, act, live, treat others).

4. *Look for the greatest blessing in your deepening relationship with Jesus*

- a. Cancer could be the greatest blessing of your life as you come to know and love Jesus more deeply. God becomes more real to us in the fire—in what God does for us, with us, and through us.

5. *Use your cancer as a witness*

- a. Doctors, nurses, hospital workers: You may be the only person they meet that day who blesses them or shares the hope of Christ with them.

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Scriptures to Pray over Chemo

Personalized parts of scripture are bolded and emphasized.
Fill in the blanks with your name and pray these scriptures over you!

And these signs will accompany those who believe- **[that's you, _____]**: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when _____ drinks deadly poison **[this chemo drug]**, it will not hurt **her** at all **[there will be no debilitating side effects]**; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well. Mark 16:17-18

Moreover, the Lord your God will send the hornet **[the chemo drugs]** among them **[the cancer cells]** until even the survivors who hide from you **[any and every rogue and misbehaving cell in your body]** have perished. Do not be terrified by them, for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a great and awesome God **[His name stands an eternity above the name of "cancer." By his power and authority he determines the outcome of your life and trumps every diagnosis and prognosis by the power of his word]**. Deuteronomy 7:20-21

The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. He will drive out your enemies **[the cancer cells]** before you **[using this chemo]**, saying, 'Destroy them!' Deuteronomy 33:27

"See, it is I who created the blacksmith who fans the coals into flame and forges a weapon **[the chemo drugs]** fit for its work **[to destroy the cancer cells in my body]**.

And it is I who have created the destroyer **[the chemo]** to wreak havoc **[on the cancer cells]**; no weapon **[the cancer cells]** forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you **[every frightening, lying prognosis of the enemy]**. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and this is their vindication from me," declares the Lord. Isaiah 54:16-17

But for you, _____, who fears my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked **[cancer cells]**, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 4:2-3

Jesus says to you, _____, his beloved disciple [I have much work for you to do...] "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:15

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CHRIST over CHEMO

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:37-39

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