



THE PRAYER CLOSET

Encouraging & Equipping Believers in Prayer

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Praying For Those With Cancer

Cancer. That one word has amazing power. Power to break your heart. Power to create fear. Power to bring anguish. Power to shatter dreams, goals, and lives. Power to separate. There is no other word like it. It's a devastating moment when you hear it, whether it's you or a family member or friend involved.

In my 28 years of ministry, I have spent a great deal of time praying for people with cancer. Through the years of serving in churches, I have ministered to many who have had cancer. As an evangelist, I'm asked continually to pray for people who have cancer.

Yet, it is also a personal matter. I had grandparents to die of cancer. My father had prostate cancer and was healed of this. However, he contracted melanoma lung cancer and fought a three-year battle with this. He passed away in February of 2008 from this cancer. Dealing with cancer is not something that I've only dealt with in pastoral ministry; it is something that has had a profound impact on my family and my life.

Through the years, I've sought the Lord how to pray for people with cancer. I've struggled to pray for others concerning this. In addition, I've battled in prayer for my own family members concerning this. I don't understand all about cancer. I certainly don't understand everything about how to pray in this situation.

Nevertheless, through the years, I believe that God has shown me some ways to pray for those with cancer. In this issue of *The Prayer Closet*, I'd like to share some things that God has taught me. I offer this to encourage you and to equip you to pray in this situation.

In addition, I want you to see that there is hope. When people hear the word "cancer," it is often accompanied by a sense of hopelessness.

Yet, we must remember who our God is. The Father that we pray to is our Healer. He is the Great Physician. Whether through medicine and medical procedures or without them, God is the Source of all healing. Healing comes from Him, through Him, and is ultimately for His glory.

The Basic Principles

When praying for someone who has cancer, there are some basic principles that I would like for you to keep in mind.

- *Healing from cancer is a process.* When you pray for someone who has cancer, you will have to be prepared for the ups and the downs. I've noticed that many will be noticeably better for a while and then have a negative response. There will be a positive scans and then scans that show no improvement or growth in the cancer. This frequently happens in the healing process when praying for someone with cancer. When this happens, don't be shocked and don't give up hope. There are times when God does heal instantaneously. However, there are situations when it takes time – when it is the result of a process. In **Mark 8:22-26**, Jesus Christ healed a blind man at Bethesda. Jesus laid hands on him and asked him what he saw. He replied that he saw men like trees walking (**8:24**). Jesus Christ again places his hands on his eyes. Jesus asks again, "What do you see?" This time his sight was restored completely and saw everyone clearly (**8:25-26**). Throughout the gospels, there were people that Jesus touched and were immediately healed. In this case, it took two

touches. Not all healing comes immediately. Sometimes it takes many “touches” from Jesus before there is complete healing. I believe this is especially true when praying for people with cancer. It is a process that takes time and much prayer.

- *Be prepared to pray for the long haul.* This is the practical response to the first principle. Since healing of cancer is often a process, be determined to pray for the long haul, through the ups and downs of this process. Through the years, it appears to me that cancer requires saturation praying. We must pray fervently for long periods before we see improvement and even healing. Prepare yourself to pray multiple times. Determine to stand persistently in faith. Resolve in your heart to seek God over the long haul.
- *Focus on the Healer and not the healing.* This is true of all healing. However, it’s especially true of praying for someone with cancer. Too many times, we focus solely on the healing. That is often our only priority as we pray. Yet, our praying should focus on the Healer. We should worship Jesus our Healer. We should receive His leading to pray. We should be surrendered to His purpose. We should cry out for His love, tender mercy, and strength in those who are in need of His healing. As we pray for healing, we must firmly fix our eyes on Jesus Christ, the Lord of life and the Healer of the body and the spirit.
- *Pray for the family of those with cancer.* As I said earlier, cancer affects everyone involved. It especially affects the family. I’ve seen this in the families I’ve ministered to. I also know this personally. When my dad had lung cancer, it was a roller coaster ride of emotions. It was a daily battle with a variety of issues. It was a constant striving to provide the best care for him. When someone you love has cancer, you live from one scan to the next, from one treatment to the next, from one doctor’s appointment to the next. We need to cover the families of those we pray for.
- *Cover the medical staff in prayer.* It’s crucial to pray for the doctors, nurses, technicians, and all those who are caring for the person. Plead with God to grant them compassion and wisdom in caring for the person battling cancer.

- *Renew your faith in the healing power of Jesus Christ.* I regularly read the gospels. I do this for a variety of reasons. However, one of my main reasons is to read, meditate on, and saturate my heart and mind with the healing accounts of the gospels. I want to strengthen my faith in the power of Jesus Christ to heal and to make whole. Ultimately, all healing comes from Him. We must look to Him and trust Him for this. By regularly reading and meditating on these accounts, it helps strengthen my faith in Christ.
- *Remember that sometimes heaven is God’s healing.* I’ve often said that praying for healing is one of the most dangerous, most powerful prayers we can pray. God may grant complete healing – in heaven. He may provide total wholeness – in His presence. He may remove this person from this world of suffering, pain, and misery and bring him into the glory, joy, and wholeness of healing in His presence. Keep in mind that sometimes God answers the prayer for healing by taking that person out of this life into the total and final healing of heaven.

Scripture Prayers

The following are some of the Scripture prayers that I have used in praying for those with cancer. You can use them or you can make your own from them. Please feel free to adapt them and improve them, as you will. At the same time, I would encourage you to be open to the Holy Spirit’s leading as you pray for healing in the lives of others. Be sensitive to His direction as you pray for those in need of His healing touch.

Father, in the midst of this struggle with cancer in _____’s life, I ask You first to meet his/her spiritual needs. You know his/her heart and life. I plead that You would draw _____ to Yourself. Teach him/her to trust in You and Your Word and to pray to You (**Luke 19:10, Hebrews 5:12-14**).

Father, You have formed _____. You knit his/her inward parts in the womb. You alone can make right what cancer has done in his/her body. I ask in Jesus’ name that You would drive this

cancer from his/her body (**Genesis 1:26; Psalm 139:15**).

You are the God of healing. Your name declares that You are our Healer. I ask in Jesus' name that You would heal _____ of cancer. Manifest Your grace by annihilating this cancer from his/her body (**Exodus 15:26**).

Father, Your Word says that You have the power to heal us of all our diseases, even cancer. I ask in Jesus' name that You would heal _____ of cancer. Cancer is no match for You; manifest Your power in healing _____ (**Psalm 103:1-4**).

Lord Jesus, like the woman in the crowds who touched the hem of Your garment and were healed, I pray that _____ would reach out to You in faith. I plead that _____ would experience Your healing power when he/she reaches out to You (**Mark 5:24-35**).

Father, when unbelief or doubt begins to fill _____'s mind and heart, I pray that he/she will focus on the words of Jesus, "Do not fear, only believe." When there are setbacks, negative side effects, discouraging reports and scans, I plead that he/she will not fear, but will rest in the words of Jesus, "Do not fear, only believe" (**Mark 5:36**).

Lord Jesus, You have been exalted as Lord over all. This includes everything, including cancer. In Your name and through Your power, I plead that You would remove cancer from _____'s body (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

Lord Jesus, Your voice is powerful. I plead that You will command the cancer to leave _____'s body and not to return. Weaken and destroy this cancer by Your command (**Psalm 46:6**).

Lord Jesus, by Your mercy and power, I ask You to deal with the side effects that _____ is experiencing. Deal with the pain, the nausea, and whatever is causing discomfort and misery (**Matthew 9:36**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that You would cause the part of the body affected by the cancer to work properly. Drive out the cancer and cause _____'s organs and tissues to function as You created them (**Psalm 139:15**).

Lord Jesus, I ask You by Your mighty power to keep the cancer cells in _____'s body from multiplying. I plead with You to surround and eliminate the cancer cells in his/her body (**Matthew 28:18**).

Lord Jesus, I plead with You to forbid the cancer cells to use the sugar in the blood that the healthy cells need. Strengthen and enrich the healthy cells and deprive the cancer cells of any sugar (Cancer cells use all the sugar in the blood stream and starves the healthy cells so they die, and the person becomes very weak). Just as You stopped the hemorrhaging of the woman's blood, I ask You to deprive these cancer cells and multiply the healthy cells (**Mark 5:25-34**).

Lord Jesus, I ask You to bless the healthy cells in _____'s body. Protect them from any damage by cancerous cells (**Matthew 28:18**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that if any evil spirits are connected to this illness, that You would bind them and hinder them from doing anything more to _____ (**Matthew 4:10**).

Lord Jesus, I pray that You would break the spirit and fear of death from _____. Fill him/her with Your peace and Your hope (**Hebrews 2:14-15**).

Lord Jesus, I pray that You would break the spirit of fear from _____'s life – a fear that says he/she will not get better but worse, a fear that says there is no hope. Break this fear and fill _____ with faith and hope (**Matthew 16:19**).

Lord Jesus, I plead that You would remove any obstacle to _____'s healing from cancer. Remove anything that might prevent him/her from experiencing Your healing from cancer (**James 5:16**).

Father, I pray that You would pour out Your mercy and grace on _____ in his/her battle with cancer. Let Your mercy and grace sustain him/her in the process of getting medical care and treatment (**2 Corinthians 12:9**).

Father, in the midst of the cancer and all the side effects that _____ is experiencing, enable _____ to be steadfast, immovable, and unshakable, trusting in You and calling on You. I plead that in this battle with cancer, _____ will fix his/her eyes on You, the true Healer and Sustainer (**1 Corinthians 15:58**).

Father, I pray that You would heal _____ of cancer so that he/she can declare Your mighty works to others (**Psalms 118:17**).

Father, You give power to the faint and strength to those who have no strength. You see and know _____'s struggles in this battle with cancer. O God, manifest Your power and fill him/her with strength, power, and endurance (**Isaiah 40:29**).

Lord Jesus, You say in Your Word that You are willing to heal. You are a merciful Healer who delights in having mercy on the sick. You show in Your Word that You have power to heal. Sickness, even cancer, cannot withstand You. I plead that You would show mercy and provide _____ healing from cancer and all its devastating effects (**Matthew 9:2, 15:28**).

Lord Jesus, You are Lord of all. You are Lord of even the cells of our bodies. I plead that You would contain and destroy the renegade cancer cells in _____'s body (**Philippians 2:9-11**).

Father, You have taught me to ask, seek, and knock. I ask You to heal _____ of cancer. I seek You to strengthen and encourage _____ in this battle with cancer. I am knocking for You to open the doors of heaven and pour out blessing and peace on _____ (**Matthew 7:7-11**).

Holy Spirit, I ask You to unleash Your fiery power into _____'s life, burning out the cancer and bringing restoration and wholeness to his/her body (**Luke 1:39**).

In this battle with cancer, may the God of hope fill _____ with all joy and peace as he/she trusts in Your Son Jesus Christ so that _____ may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (**Romans 15:13**).

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