

What Cancer Cannot Do
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Cancer. A dreaded word. Webster's dictionary defines cancer as anything bad or harmful that spreads and destroys. We all are touched by it in one way or another. Either a friend or a loved one or perhaps even we ourselves have experience this dreaded disease. It might be cancer in the body, or it might be cancer of the spirit or soul. The reality is that we can't escape it. It's all around us. The numbers of cases diagnosed seem to be growing. Yet, in the midst of all of this, there are hopes and promises given to us in God's word.

Some of you may remember Dave Dravecky, the former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants. At the peak of his career in 1991 he lost his pitching arm to cancer. It is bad enough to have cancer, let alone face the amputation of an arm and the loss of a promising career. Naturally, Dave was filled with many questions.

During his struggles, letters poured in from all over the country. Most were letters of encouragement. Some were looking for answers to life's questions. They had seen him keep his faith, and they wanted to know how he had done it. He responded that it was his faith in God and God's promises that enabled him to stand firm in the midst of all that had happened. Dave stated, "I am convinced that there is a God. I know that no matter what happens to me, standing with me is a loving, caring God".

Put in the right perspective, we can come to realize that cancer is quite limited in many ways. Cancer is not all powerful. There are things that cancer cannot do. A friend once shared with me such a list. For instance, cancer cannot separate us from God's presence. "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." (Deuteronomy 31:8)

Cancer cannot overcome love. "Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails." (1 Corinthians 13:7) Cancer might invade the body, but cancer cannot invade the soul. "The Lord is my shepherd ... He restores my soul." (Psalm 23:1,3) Cancer can take away our earthly life, but it cannot steal eternal life from us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

Other things that cancer cannot do: suppress memories, kill friendships, or cripple love. "A friend loves at all times and the memory of the righteous will be a blessing." (Proverbs 17:17;10:7) Again, when you look at the bigger picture, cancer is limited in what it can destroy.

Do you know someone with cancer? Share the good news! Are you afflicted with cancer yourself? Grab hold of the message that embraces faith and hugs hope. We are surrounded by cancer and cancer infiltrates our life, but cancer is not the victor – God is. Because of this we can face whatever happens, for we know that standing with us is a loving, caring, victorious God. Thanks be to God who gives us the victory as well with His all-embracing love and the love of family and friends.