

“God Can Do Whatever He Wants and We Love It”

Isn't once enough? Seriously! The year was 1994 and it was a beautiful Sunday morning in West Concord, MN. When I was at church making last minute preparations on my message, I received a phone call from my wife (Karen) that no one wants to hear. In a panic Karen said, "Pat, come home now. Scott's (our 14 year old son) in trouble!" I ran across the street to the parsonage wondering what I was going to find. After I leaped nearly two flights of steps to his upstairs bedroom, what I saw was something I will never forget. My son was lying lifeless in the arms of his mother and there was blood everywhere. My heart just stopped. What has happened? It turns out my son had many grand mal seizures during the night and he had chewed on his tongue in distress. There was a very quick ambulance ride to a hospital in Rochester, MN. After a thorough examination by the doctors, we heard the dreaded words, "Mr. and Mrs. Phinney, we are sorry to tell you that your son has cancer and we have to move fast to save his life." Our world turned upside down. Things seemed to go dark for me, as I processed this news. How can this be? My precious, energetic and vivacious son was only 14. This diagnosis set us on a six-month journey that has not been forgotten in our home. To this day, we will talk about how God miraculously healed our son and gave him a renewed life. What we saw in those painful months was more than I have the time to share, but know this . . . God showed Himself powerfully.

Once wasn't enough! On September 2, we heard the dreaded words again from doctors. This time it was my dear wife, Karen. Sitting in ER that day, our lives rocked again. It was cancer. Karen was diagnosed with stage three ovarian cancer that had metastasized in her abdomen. They found several very large tumors around vital organs and we had to move quickly to save her life. She has had two chemo treatments now and is experiencing typical reactions to a drug that God will use to bring healing in this beautiful woman. The plan is that she will probably have one or possible two more treatments. Next, she will have major surgery to remove any lingering tumors, along with a hysterectomy around Thanksgiving or mid-December. After she recovers for a month, then there will be three more chemo treatments throughout the winter. During this painful time again, we are seeing the same from God. He is showing Himself powerful.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all." 1 Chronicles 29:11



Karen's 'new' hair.



Cancer? It has no hold on God and there is no limit to His power. Revelation 19:6-7 says, *"Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!"* Can God heal Karen of cancer? Yes! God can do anything effortlessly. It is no more difficult for Him to create a universe than it is for Him to make a beautiful butterfly. I get tired when I work, but God's infinite power never lessens. Not only does God have unlimited power to heal Karen, but also the authority to use it. Psalm 115:3 says, "Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases." We have the absolute confidence that God's power and authority will work in perfect harmony with His nature. Our family is not questioning God about the cancer. We have not asked, "Why did You do this God?"

Why? It is because God is sovereign and He can do what He wants. Do you want to hear something fun? We love it! We do not question God's use of power. He is in control and *"The LORD is righteous in all his ways and kind in all his works."* (Psalm 145:17)

Yes, it is cancer again in our home. Now what? We fight. We sacrifice. We surrender. We put our total trust in God that whatever He does in our lives in the coming months, it is for the best. WE BELIEVE.

Will you join with us in this journey of trust in God's power by continuing to pray for a miracle?

Pat Phinney

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