



*"Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me."*

*Philippians 4:11-13*

I have been thinking about this verse for well over a week now. It amazes me how Paul was content in humble means, prosperity, hunger, abundance, and suffering. Somehow he was able to have a level of contentment that was absolutely and totally unrelated to possessions or even circumstances.

This has been our prayer in these 15 months of cancer. "O God, our hope is in You and that hope lives in us each day. You are our all in all and we live only to serve You. We have no conception of life apart from you. God, give us the ability to be content in a circumstance that hurts so much. We trust you."

Last month, I shared that we were scheduled to have a full line of treatments in January, but that changed. I mentioned that they measure cancerous activity by doing a "tumor marker" blood draw, called CA125. Karen went in for chemo treatment #6 of 12 on January 21. After doing a blood draw to examine the level of her white blood cell count, they discovered it was too low to take chemo. As the result, it was advised that Karen not leave the house because she would be too susceptible for infections. All chemo treatments and tests were postponed a week. She had to take four consecutive shots from January 21-24, in order to boost the body's ability to reproduce more white cells. The shots were successful, so Karen could resume treatment #6 on January 28.

Karen had a PET scan on February 1 to determine if the cancer was regressing, remaining the same or progressing. Unfortunately, we received unwelcomed news on Tuesday, February 5. The PET scan showed that the cancer was showing a mild progression. Current chemo treatment of Gemzar will be stopped. We have an appointment on February 8 to discuss the next steps.

Don't be tempted to stop praying because of the longevity of Karen's illness. We need your prayers more than ever. Pray that God, the Great Healer, will touch Karen's body and rid her of cancer. Pray that God will bless us with His joy and contentment, so we can rest in these ever-changing circumstances. Pray that we can have a strong testimony of God's grace to those who do not know Jesus.

I just love what David Jeremiah once said, "When our lives are filled with peace, faith and joy, people will want to know what we have."

*Pat and Karen Phinney*