

November 2019



I cannot even tell you how many times people have said to me, "How do you guys handle or process this trial in your lives with cancer?" I have thought about this many times and here is my answer. God's supernatural wisdom is our only source for understanding right now.

Think about it. Wisdom has always been among the highest, most respected virtues believers can have. The Lord was pleased when Solomon asked for wisdom rather than riches or power. The Lord granted him the request in 1 Kings 3:5-13 and Solomon later showed the importance of wisdom in Proverbs 2:6-7, *"For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright . . ."* Job's friends gave misguided advice when trying to give comfort and he eventually came to the profound conclusion that the Lord's wisdom is the only source for understanding life and its difficulties. *"But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man does not know its worth, and it is not found in the land of the living."* Job 28:12-13

Ok, what am I saying? God's wisdom puts things in right perspective during our trials and it helps us endure them. Here is the kicker! You have to ask for it. James beautifully said, *"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith . . ."*

September proved to be another turn in our chapter with cancer. Mayo Clinic suggested we discontinue the immunotherapy treatments because they were unsuccessful. We went back home to the place we felt most comfortable and that was Minnesota Oncology in Edina. We met with our Oncologist on October 1 and she suggested that Karen begin another regimen of chemo with the drug Taxol. Back to the drawing board to trust God for another attempt. So October 10 started the day with another treatment, which Karen would have three times a month for six months. Probably in December they will do a CT scan to determine if the treatments are stabilizing the growth. It is one more opportunity to trust God for something that is humanly improbable. A good friend recently gave me a quote he heard on the radio, "With God impossible is nothing!" Amen.

As our loving and supportive friends, how can you truly help us in this difficult time? Pray to God that He will gift us with the wisdom of His perspective and then we will be okay.

*"Holy and awesome is his name! The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever!" Psalm 111:9-10*

*Pat and Karen Phinney*