

Natural Healing Express Weekly

Column 278 Widower's Journey Through Cancer, Part 2

Last week, I shared Part 1 of an amazing writing by client/friend John Adelman who had recently lost his wife Judy to cancer. John has been absolutely wonderful and quite generous in sharing this writing of their battle together against cancer. Stupid, stupid, cancer. If you missed Part 1, feel free to go to [www.naturalhealingexpress.com](http://www.naturalhealingexpress.com) or [www.flashonline.com](http://www.flashonline.com) to view it. If you still cannot find it, email me and I will forward you a copy. Thank you again John for your wisdom and guidance. And thank you to Judy, now at peace. You are missed.

Part Two of John's writing:

*The show WMT Radio aired Sunday night at 11:30 PM was Focus on the Family Weekend. The speaker was Andy Stanley, whose father Charles pastors a large Baptist church in Atlanta. I was just about off to sleep, but was jarred from my tiredness as Andy got into his message that sounded like it was written just for me. Soon I sat up and wept as he preached. I grabbed my legal pad, and wound up taking five pages of notes. The timing was simply providential, and I shared with Judy later that morning what the Lord taught me.*

*The message brother Stanley brought was that the Lord uses moments in life to launch our faith. Never were they designed to be the foundation of our faith. Because circumstances come and go, we must not lean our faith up against them, and risk shattering our belief system. Our faith is often affected by what we see and experience, and if we trust and believe in God based primarily on our ability to find Him in our situations, we have what Stanley calls, "circumstantial faith." He added that "circumstantial faith" is fragile, and because we are usually pretty bad at interpreting our circumstances, we often conclude something is wrong with God if things don't pan out.*

*Preacher Stanley also said our faith and hope should be in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived on earth, ministered to many, died for us on the cross, rose from the dead, and is now sitting at the right hand of the Father in heaven. The foundation of our faith is not an experience, it's not an answer to prayer; the foundation of our faith is a person. We believe, not because things are good or bad, or because we can make sense of life. We believe because the foundation of Christianity, Jesus Christ, entered human history.*

*Brother Stanley then applied this insight from Hebrews 4:16, which says that in light of all this, we can approach the throne of grace boldly and with confidence and receive mercy. Mercy is when God takes our issues seriously, not only because they are serious, but because they are ours, and says to us in effect, "I know how it feels." We can also find His grace is sufficient to help us in our time of need. Grace is when God gives us the strength, energy and peace to endure. He does not always deliver us from our circumstances, but in equipping us with His grace, He has promised to deliver us through them. He was delivering me through mine.*

Andy Stanley concluded that sometimes God does the unusual - like miraculous, medical-defying healing - not because of our great faith, but because He is our merciful heavenly Father. But if and when we don't get our way, Jesus Christ still remains as the foundation of our faith.

Even before she was diagnosed, Judy and I had been avid students of Bible prophecy. We enjoyed regaling each other with new insights we found in the books and magazine articles we read. Deep into the book, The Middle East Meltdown by Andrew Woods, I reached the chapter where the author's points of application validated my sense of peace.

He explained that prophecy is **proof of Biblical inspiration**. Only the Bible can declare history in advance because only the Bible was given to us by an all-knowing God. In fact, the Lord challenged the idols of Isaiah's day when He asked, "Which of them can predict the future?" Woods says that Bible readers and believers are the only people with any real answers or explanations for why things are happening the way they are today.

Prophecy, he said, also **has a calming effect on the believer**. Prophecy gives proof that God is in control of a world seemingly spinning out of control. Author Woods says, "Rather than seeing things as falling apart, they are actually falling into place. God is sovereign."

Further, prophecy is **proof of God's faithfulness**. He has been faithful to a rebellious nation for thousands of years. If this were not so, Israel should have been eradicated long ago. If God is willing to maintain His compassion for an unbelieving, idolatrous, and stiff-necked people, He is going to be faithful to those who have trusted Him as their personal Lord and Savior, as is the case with Judy and me.

With these truths in mind, I take great comfort from two passages in the New Testament. Jesus told His disciples in John 14 that He would go away, but then He would return for them. He said in verses 2-3, "In my Father's house are many mansions. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am there you may be also."

In 1 Thessalonians 4, the apostle Paul describes this future event which Bible scholars call the Rapture of the church, also referred to as "the Blessed Hope." He explained in verses 16-18, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore, comfort one another with these words." How can anyone not take great joy in these incredible truths?

A year ago, I was a basket case, trying figure out what I should do to take charge and manage things in my own strength. But the more I became still, thanks to Judy's gentle urging and witness, the Lord drew me closer to Himself. The truth they both led me to understand was that as long as I insisted on taking center stage, making decisions and barking orders, there was no way He could or would get involved. A passage from Our Daily Bread

states, "Christians are tried and purified when God uses difficulty to burn away our self-reliance, pride and earthly wisdom." When I relinquished control and simply **trusted** Him, my struggles and anxiety began to subside. I realized I no longer needed to take charge of situations to make sure they turned out right. He blessed me as I grew to "be still;" His will **was** and **is** being done in our lives. I have been tried, and I have His peace.

Given the present conditions in the Middle East, I believe the stage is being set for the Rapture of the church, as referred to in John 14 and 1 Thessalonians 4 - and that it's closer than we think. So, my being separated from Judy is but for a short time. I **know** that God is faithful. He **will** fulfill His promises. I love Judy and have the Lord's assurance that we will be **reunited IN Him and WITH Him** - soon.

Because of Judy and the Lord, today I am a changed and humbled man. Together they taught me to stop relying on my faulty, imperfect self, and that I could put my complete trust in the one Person Who can fulfill all my needs, Whose peace truly is beyond understanding. I hope my life now will reflect Judy's love for and trust in the Lord. You, too, can have this assurance and this peace. I invite you to talk with anyone in the family, or with Pastor Mike. I know Judy will rejoice when you do. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Thank you.

Thank you again John for sharing your amazing Journey. My thought by publishing this writing is to be helpful to anyone who may need awareness of John's peace and knowledge. We all have our challenges, no one is exempt, yet some just glide through things easier than others. John's writing establishes the reason why.

Our Café has been named—it is called the Silver Fox Broth and Tea Company. The slogan is Healthy, Gourmet Food- Delicious and Fast. We hope to see you soon!

Enjoy! Hope to see you soon and as always, please contact us via one of the following methods. Natural Healing Express: Phone 815 990 8732, email: [skscham@aol.com](mailto:skscham@aol.com) 204 W Main St, Lena, IL 61048.

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