

Twenty years ago, I was diagnosed with Acute Leukemia. It took a few weeks to come to that diagnosis and it turned out to be what I expected since I work in a clinical laboratory. God gave me a verse that I clung to during that time: 2 Corinthians 1:9 “Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.”

When the diagnosis became official, I was immediately admitted to the hospital to begin treatments. At that point, looking back, I went through a Job-like experience. One doesn't take much to the hospital, certainly nothing of real material value. Stuff like houses and cars and furniture and clothing and jewelry really didn't matter anymore. Even the thought of losing my hair seemed pretty trivial at that point.

The hardest part was saying good-bye to my 4-year-old son and 10-month-old baby daughter. They would not be allowed to visit me because the chemotherapy would make me very susceptible to infections which children often have. Sometimes leukemia patients don't survive the first round of treatment so I did not know if I was saying goodbye for now or forever. What really mattered in life became crystal clear to my husband and I – knowing Jesus and trusting in Him. We were very grateful that we had been Christians for ten years and we found Christ to be the Solid Rock that we could depend on.

As it turned out, I almost died due to complications. During the bleakest night, when death seemed imminent, my husband found strength in the Lord when this verse came to him in his sorrow. 2 Corinthians 12:9 “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in your weakness.” Much like Job, my husband was able to trust in God's sovereignty and to find peace in His plans.

Throughout the rest of that year of treatments and hospitalizations and the follow-up appointments to see if I was still free of cancer, we prayed that God would be glorified through all of it. We knew that there would be a story of God's love and protection. We just didn't know if I would be around to help tell it. We developed an “eternal perspective” on life, realizing what is really important in life. I think Job also had and rediscovered that “eternal perspective” through his struggle.

God has helped you write an excellent Bible Study on the book of Job. He is using you!!! I have been very blessed by this study, having found a renewed joy in spending time really digging into His Word. I have been reminded anew of God's sovereignty and power and justice. Over and over, I have been reminded that He is God and I am not!

Thank you so much for answering God's call to take on this type of ministry.