

**Text - Phil's notes re comments at the Cancer Support 3 2 21 meeting;**  
***Jud 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,***

Before we do close the meetin, we do want to just hear from the Word. Most of you know quite a bit about the Word.

C., I don't know where you are, but you know, the Word of God is not, as I thought it was for so many years, just a book. This is alive. It's God speaking to us. He has given all in these 1189 chapters that we need. There is nothing in the Book that you need, other than which is in this Book. The problem is not that we need more information. The problem is that we don't do what God shows us to do in this Book, right here.

Most people don't know the Bible at all. They may know a few phrases and may want to pick on some supposed contradictions. God wrote this for us. The One who made us, who created us. He knows everything about us. As Sherry said earlier, He knows the number of our days. He knows exactly when our last breath is going to be. He's known that since the foundation of the world, if you can understand that, then you're way ahead of me! But He loves you! And He sent His Son to die for you.

We've talked a little bit about adversity. This group meets because of adversity of cancer. But we all get put through adversity. Cancer or no cancer, as God uses this, trials and afflictions, to draw us to Him! When things are going well, when you're perfectly healthy, perfectly wealthy and perfectly wise, if that could ever be, you will not grow spiritually at all. You will not grow closer to God. In fact, you'll grow further away from Him. You'll start to worship the things that you have instead of Him. He wants your heart. He wants you worship. He wants to hear from you. He wants to live in your heart.

We get put into these situations, periodically and frequently in some cases, where we have no way out! There is just no way out! Man has no answers. We have no answers. Nobody has answers. So out of desperation, we turn to the Lord. And He lovingly kind of says, well, it's kind of nice to hear from you again. It's been a while. He cures us or He does whatever He going to do and then we thank Him. Then we go merrily on our way and forget all about Him, caught up in all the cares of the world and the different kinds of schedules and all that kind of stuff.

But the Scripture says that He made us, man, in His image. We are a special creature, the only creature that He spoke to during creation. The only creature that really has the ability to communicate with Him. The only creature that has a soul, a soul in the sense of being eternal. Only man is created with an eternal soul. Since we're eternal, that means there is no end to our existence! You might say, well, that doesn't sound right. I had four friends that died the last year, or whatever.

We're not permanent in the body. This body is just temporary tent. As you all know the tent is deteriorating, I think scientifically, I don't know, you would know better than I, most of you, but we start to die, almost as soon as we are born, because of sin.

Because of Adam's sin, we die. Because we are all born of Adam. Adam would probably have lived forever, but he sinned. God told him, don't eat of that tree of that fruit. If you do, you will surely die! And he ate of it and death entered the world, death through sin. He is our Federal father. Since we're born of Adam, we have those same characteristics, of that sin, of that rebellious nature.

So, we're all sinners! The Bible says you've all sinned. There's no not one that hasn't sinned and there is none righteous, no not one! But God sent His Son into the world to pay the price of your sin and my sin so that we would not have to die! So, we have a choice! We can choose death, or we can choose life. I'm not talking about just a few years, I'm talking about eternity!

Eternity is created with two different locations, really, or two different destinations. There are only two, the Bible says. There is heaven and there is what we call hell or Gehenna, outer darkness. You will spend eternity in one of those two places. You get to choose which of those two, you pick. You will pick it. God doesn't force you to come to heaven. He wants everybody to come to heaven, but the criterion is, you must love Him, and you must surrender to Him. You must surrender your life to Jesus Christ and believe that He died for your sin.

That's the free gift, but you've got to receive that, to have it! If you've done that, you have the promise of eternal life. So, when you have the promise of eternal life, then this life in this body suddenly becomes much less important. Because we're all going to die. Whether we die today or whether we die next year, or whether we die five years from now, or ten years from now or thirty years from now, we're going to die. That assured. That's not a negotiable thing because we're born of Adam.

But what we do have the option of is choosing death or choosing life! Choosing death is rejecting God, is rejecting Jesus Christ! Choosing life is accepting Him. So, the wonderful thing about cancer and other adversities, cancer isn't the only adversity that God uses to bring people to Him. But as you have heard again today, almost every single meeting, we hear people praising, thanking the Lord for cancer. Before I had cancer, I didn't know the

Lord. I was on my way to hell. I didn't even know it and I was kind of happily on my way to hell. But now, I've turned my life to Him because I got into a desperate situation. I recognized that I may have been able to get by when things are going great, but when they get really tough, I can't get by without Him!! So, you turn to Him and you watch Him bless. The more you turn to Him, the more He blesses, because He is a blessing God. Whatever you get from God is for your good!

I wanted to focus on just a couple of verses here, there almost at the end of the Bible, in this little, one chapter, Book called Jude. Jude a half-brother of Jesus. He has a doxology right at the end. I just want to take the one verse, (*Jud 1:24*) **Now unto him** (God, Jesus Christ) **that is able to keep you from stumbling** (falling is another translation) **He is able!** Only He is able to keep you from stumbling. There is nobody else! Only Him! But to Him, who is able to keep you from stumbling.

Then this next line is really what I want to focus on today - **and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy!** Just think what that verse says, by being His, we're going to be presented faultless – without fault! Now how can that be? We're filled with faults! We've got so many faults! Everyone of us has a tremendous number of faults. And we can't do much about it. But He takes them away because He is going to perfect us.

Now when you believe in Christ, you don't believe in Christ just because you want to believe in Christ, you believe in Christ because He is drawing you to Him. He has invested Christ's blood in you. With that investment, He is going to perfect you! So that day when He gathers the church together – the church is all the believers, it's not man's group or organizations. It's those who believe and are committed to Christ. They are the church. And that will be eternally with the Lord. That will be the day when we've all, the millions and millions of believers will have been perfected to Christ likeness.

He's got a lot to go in most of us. In my case, He's got a tremendous amount of work. But He is able, and He has promised to perfect us! He will perfect you! Now what does He use to perfect us? Cancer. Adversity. Maybe He is using financial problems, maybe emotional problems. He is able to present you, each one of us, fault less before the presence of the Father with exceeding joy! He is so excited to see His own being made faultless, being made Christlike. The only way that can happen is through Him working in our lives as He does it. We can't do it ourselves. We can't perfect ourselves! On our best day, we're still miserable. So far short. Only He can do that.

I hope C., that you can meet with us. That you feel comfortable. There will be a lot of questions, but God loves you. He wants you to be closer to Him. You've already seen miracles in your life. But the big miracle will be, not the physical, I think, so much, as the Spiritual. Physical healing is good because it gives us time for the Spiritual healing. And the spiritual healing and the spiritual maturity that He has us all on different paths, some it happens very quickly and others, it takes, more time. But He is going to do His work. He is going to do His work in each of us. You hear these glowing reports of what the Lord is doing. Then there is some other side of that where – we've got an enemy out there, called Satan – He wants to make your life really miserable. He wants to destroy you. He wants to deceive you. This world is getting more and more deception as we are getting closer to, as the Bible says, Christ's return. He's coming back. He's coming back soon! We need to be ready for that!

Thank you all for being here today and contributing as always, I don't know about all the people who aren't here, but we can hold them up in prayer, just generally. The Lord knows what they need. Isn't it great to know that when you pray, the Lord already knows what you are going to pray? He knows everything about everything. You don't have to tell Him anything. You don't have to explain every little detail. It's fine if you want to, but you don't need to tell Him, because He already knows! We're praying to Somebody who has invited us to pray to Him, who knows everything about us, everything we're ever going to do, forever! We don't know. He has made us, so we don't know one second ahead of us, but He knows it all! He had made us. He has created us and that's the God we serve!

Father, I thank you for each one. I just know how special each of us are to you. How glorious it is! So, I just pray, Lord, that you would bless each one. I pray You would continue to heal, where healing is needed. Lord may Your will be done in every area. In Jesus' name. Amen