

## Weekly Health Update from Pastor Jim – Weekend of May 12 & 13, 2018

### **Dear Friends and Family:**

I had labs on Tuesday, with a doctor follow up next Monday. While all the labs are not in, the most important one is and that is the Kappa/Lambda. I am happy to report that the numbers look good. In the Kappa/Lambda Serum ratio, I went from 163.31 last month to 46.50 this month. In the Kappa Free Serum, I went from 212.3 to 205.9, but still not as good as two months ago when I was 158.3. In the Lambda Free Serum, I went from 1.3 last month to 4.4 this month (5.7 to 26.3 is normal).

Back when I moved to Wisconsin, I had to change vets for my dog, Stanley. That meant he had to stay overnight and was checked for everything. He came home with flies. I called the Vet and he apologized and said I could come in to get a special shampoo that was very strong, and I had to get the dog completely under the water. The Vet warned me the dog will not like it. Well, as it happened, the dog growled and spit and was very upset. How could I explain to my dog what I was doing and that I really was not trying to kill him. It was for his own good, but again how could I let my dog know that?

I envisioned God speaking to me in my pain. You don't understand the reason for the pain. You might think I've deserted you, but I will never leave you. You might think I don't love you, but I love you to the height of heaven and the depth of the sea. You might think I don't care about what's happening to you, but I am orchestrating your days and care about every hair on your head. My ways are higher than your ways, and My thoughts are higher than your thoughts. Yes, I do care about you and what's happening to you. In the end, this will make you better.

C.S. Lewis, who watched his beloved wife die of cancer, put it this way: "God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

Because God loves us, He desires our conformity more than our comfort. Allowing troubles, trials and pain is one way our loving God makes that so. No one likes getting stuck with a sharp needle, but if the needle brings healing or prevents greater suffering, it's just what we need. Faith in Jesus Christ does not guarantee an easy life but a perfect eternity.

I don't know what difficulties you're facing today. It could be the toughest time of your life. But I do know that during tough times, the devil will tell you (falsely of course) God doesn't love you, doesn't care about you or isn't doing anything to help you. Don't listen to him. Satan is a liar, an opportunist who looks for vulnerable times to convince you to question God's power, provision and promises.

No matter what you're facing today, remember this: God loves you. God is good. God wants what's best for you. God is always at work on your behalf. You can trust Him. And that's the truth.

Love you all. Pastor Jim