

## Weekly Health Update from Pastor Jim – Weekend of Aril 21 & 22, 2018

### Dear Friends and Family:

I started on another week of chemo pills, I take at home. The itchiness from two weeks ago has just subsided, and I am hoping it does not come back with this round. But we will just have to wait and see. Oh, I pray, that the side effect of chemo could be removed. But I guess they would not call it chemo then, right?

Met with my cancer doctors this week and they said that, yes, my numbers ae up, but if you view the numbers of the last six months, this month is no worse or better, but right in line with where I have been all along. Thank you Jesus.

Over the years, and especially these last two with my cancer prognosis, I've learned to trust God with the secret desires of my soul. And I can testify to God's faithfulness when it comes to giving me more of His vision, His presence and His calling, all for a purpose bigger than my own, my health or my family.

Back in 2016, I was planning on retiring and moving to Virginia to be close with my grandkids. Instead, in May of that year, I received a cancer diagnosis that tied me to the Cleveland Clinic with treatment and procedures galore. Now almost two years later, I am still sitting in Cleveland, and still wanting to move to Virginia, my soul's desire.

Have you ever stopped to wonder what God's response would be to your heart's cry? The *more* God wants for your life, and mine, is beyond comprehension. Ephesians 3:20-21 (MSG), tells us, "God can do anything, you know — far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us."

Do we really realize the power of this truth: God can do *anything*. And not just a little bit more than we could dream of, imagine or even think of, but *FAR* more. Yes, you read it correctly. Read it again... "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." (Ephesians 3:20 NIV).

So, what are your craziest ideas, your deepest longings and your grandest plans — the things you've barely allow your soul to imagine? All of heaven is looking down upon you, shaking their heads and saying, "Is that *all*? Is that all she wants? Is that all he can dream up?"

I am dreaming about the day when I settle in Virginia; hoping to move into remission and live life to see my grandkids every single day; do different projects with them; help them grow closer to Jesus; and finally join me and my family in heaven. Yes, I want it all. And the Bible tells us, God wants to give it all to each of us.

So, allow me to stretch your thinking, because we serve the ultimate "Big Thinker." No plans of yours can even *compare* to God's. The amazing truth is, God can take every limitation that's been put on your life — by cancer or by others — and expand your heart and purpose in a way that's *way* bigger, *way* higher, *way* more effective than anything you could imagine. You can never out-dream God.

So, keep dreaming. Love you all. Pastor Jim