

Psalm 23:2003

My initial cancer diagnosis in March 2003 immediately sent my husband and me searching for peace and comfort in the face of an unexpected turn of events. We knew we needed look no further than our Bible, where God's amazing love is poured out on every page. For some reason – and to this day I'm still not sure why – we were drawn to a familiar passage, Psalm 23. We read these verses – which we had both committed to memory years earlier – over and over again. The words became our rock, our comfort, our encouragement, our source of peace.

On different days – depending on what we were going through – different verses or phrases stood out to us. Two in particular jumped out at me in 2003, and they still do today.

The first one is actually the first sentence. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want." What a tremendous statement! God is truly our shepherd – our protector, our leader, our guide – and we will not want for anything. He knows each day what we need, and meets our every need so faithfully. This is such a simple sentence, but it's one of the most powerful statements I know.

The second passage that caught my eye – and more so, my heart – is in verse four. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me." Wow. Those words still take my breath away every time I read them. I have quoted them – aloud and in my head – literally countless times since my initial diagnosis with cancer. Over the past years, I've undergone tests, surgeries, treatments, and so much more...all of them more than I ever thought I would be able to endure. During those times – while on a table in an operating room, or in a CT scanner or MRI, or sitting quietly in a chemotherapy bay – I relied on the familiar words of Psalm 23:4. "...I will fear no evil, for you are with me..." And I still rely on these words today. Even though I may truly be walking through the "valley of the shadow of death," by the grace and mercy of God, I fear NO evil. God is with me. Period. What more do I need?

Psalm 23 became ingrained in the hearts and minds of my family during this time in 2003 as well. It grew more special to all of them as each day passed. The

passage became a bond we shared as a family – giving us all a constant reminder of God’s immovable presence in our lives at each waking moment.

This favorite family passage took on a new role one day. As I was recovering from surgery in March 2003, my family was reminded of God’s gentle sense of humor through our new-found connection with Psalm 23. My sister-in-law, a nurse practitioner, removed my surgical staples a few days after surgery. When she finished, she asked me if I knew how many staples she had just taken out. I did – without even counting...23. (And incidentally, while she worked to remove the staples, my family recited the Psalm 23 as a distraction. We made it through four times before all the staples were out!)

We all smiled at the irony of the 23 staples, and our hearts were reminded – as always – that God continued to be in control. We also let out a chuckle and a sigh of relief with the 23 staples. You see, as a family, we had found peace and comfort in reading another passage in Psalm – chapter 139. How grateful we were that I didn’t have 139 staples!

As time passed, my family and I drew closer and closer to God’s words and promises in Psalm 23, and relied on the passage more each day. As we did, a dear friend of ours decided to set the familiar words to music – personalizing them to reflect our feelings and experiences. This is the first – and to date, the only! – song anyone has ever written for me...and for my husband. We are humbled by it, and more importantly, our hearts are moved each time we listen to it.

I want to share Psalm 23:2003 with you – and pray that it will touch your heart in a special way. Its beautiful words remind me of one thing – that God is in complete control as He holds me safely in the palm of His hand. May you always feel His presence, power, and peace in your life...and may your heart be forever comforted by the amazing words of Psalm 23.

To listen to Psalm 23:2003, click the song link on ‘the journey’ page of www.oneamazingjourney.com.

*Psalm 23:2003 was written and performed by Becky Brown. To learn more about Becky, her ministry and music, visit her website at www.littlebrownlight.com.



 **one amazing journey**

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