



Choose to Live By Gigi Davidson

God has given us a choice: choose life or death. When we choose life, we live. We all must live—right now we are all alive—Praise God! We are breathing, thinking, moving creatures.

But are we really living? Jesus came so we could have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10b).

Are you living with Joy? “Well,” you say, “my circumstances are such that I can not be happy.” Happiness comes as a result of circumstances. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit. All you have to do to have joy is stay grafted to the vine. Jesus says, “I am the Vine. You are the branches. (John 15:5)” We do not have to work at it, we just stay grafted to Him by reading the Bible, going to church, hearing the Word, spending time with Him in prayer, having a close relationship with our Lord and Savior.

“Well,” you say, “you don’t know, my circumstance is grave.” Yes, I do know. All circumstances are grave.

A friend, former Mayor of Des Peres, MO, Sharon Burchart, had a very serious cancer and withstood a bone marrow transplant. She said, “Gigi, we are up a creek without a paddle. The difference between us and those without cancer is they don’t know they are up a creek without a paddle”

Last May I attended my 16-year-old son Matthew’s baseball game. I watched his 27-year-old coach Keith instruct him and guide him. Keith was in great physical shape, happy and healthy. By the next week, he was dead. He had drowned. I watch Keith choose life until the end.

None of us know when God will call us home. We may die of cancer or something else. Larry Burkett said in his book, Damaged but not Broken, nothing can keep us here if God wants us, and nothing can take us until He is ready for us to go. God is in control, not us and not cancer.

We are not caught in a circumstance that God does not know about. He goes before us and says, “I am with you wherever you go.” He walks with us and helps us. “I will be a very present help in time of trouble.” Psalm 46:1

He comforts us so we may comfort others. “Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted by God” 2 Cor. 1: 3-4 He loves us with an everlasting love. “Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love. Therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee. ()

God is in control—God knows your every need. God gives us grace. God will not leave us as orphans. You can have a life of joy.

“How can I say this?” you say, “you don’t know what I’m going through.

Yes, I do. “No,” you say, “you had cancer and went through a year of high-dose chemotherapy ten years ago.

One and a half years ago, I had a reoccurrence, and cancer came back in my lungs and bone. In January of 2007, after being on Taxo, Zometa, Zolota, and Avastin, I was lying in bed. By this time I was completely bald, and I had a head broken out with great boils. My skin on my feet and hands was completely peeling off. My fingernails were coming off.

My husband was away traveling on business, and my son was spending the night at a friend’s house. I reached to turn out the lamp by my bed, and I could not make my fingers turn the button. I fell into bed—weary, tired, hurting, frustrated, alone, sad and with my bald head hurting and itching, I shook it back and forth on my pillow and thought, “I can’t do this. God, I can’t do this. I don’t think I can do this. If this is my future, I can’t do this.”

Immediately a memory of a tape I had seen at church in a Grief Share series came to mind. A pastor saying, “Those who commit suicide do not trust God for Grace in the next moment.” I thought, “I trust God for Grace.” He even spoke to me and said, “I will give you the Grace you need for each day.” I was thinking, “I can’t do this tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.” I then said aloud, “God, I do trust you for Grace for this moment. The word “Benedryl” popped into my mind.

I jumped up as quickly as I could and took two Benedryl. Poof—off to sleep and no more itching.

Since that day, I have gone on a trip of a lifetime with my two sons and family through Yellowstone. I have taken a cruise with my two sons and husband. I have seen the Grand Canyon with my younger son and husband and a train ride through Arizona.

I have lived—experienced Grace for each day and lived in Joy.

The news is not different. I have the same facts which do not make me happy. But one of the fruits of the Spirit is Joy.

All you have to do is stay hooked up to Jesus and stay grafted to the vine. He will give you Joy—Joy unspeakable.

Will troubles come? Yes, most of us have troubles. He said, “In this world are tribulations but be of good cheer. I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

But we can choose to focus on Him, not cancer.