

## **A letter of loving counsel to my sister in Christ when she was told...**

### **...Your Biopsy Report was Positive for Cancer.**

My Dear Sister and Friend in Jesus,

In the presence of God I write these words to you. You have just learned your breast biopsy is positive for cancer. You are going through tremendous emotional shock. Naturally you are feeling overwhelmed by sadness, fear, confusion, and anger. No one can think clearly at such a time. May I offer you these reflections with my love and prayer?

Before saying anything else I ask you to grasp the plain meaning of these words: You have not received the death sentence!

No, you are not dying. There are millions of people in the world right now who are far closer to the end of their lives than you are. Thousands of them have cancer and do not even know it. You know your body is under attack by cancer cells. You are able to fight back. In God's providence, you have privileged access to the most advanced medical treatment for cancer in the world. Thanks to treatments now available, most people who get cancer today survive. Make up your mind right now. With God's help, and your doctor's services, you will overcome this cancer. You are not alone. Standing with you in love and prayer are your family and loved ones, your doctors, and your brothers and sisters in Christ. Above all, your God is with you and He wants you to have life to be full.

In regard to death, your biopsy report does not make any difference. You are just like anybody else. We are all going to pass out of this world to the Father when the time is fulfilled. As to the day and the hour when Jesus will come to take any one of us to the Father's House only God knows. Only God! I could die before I finish typing this sentence. Or I may live for another generation. It is the same with you. You could die soon of something other than cancer. Or you may live another lifetime after getting this positive result of your biopsy. Neither you, nor I, nor the doctors, nor any one else but God, knows how long we will live.

Dear sister in Christ, this "cancer scare" is uppermost in your mind. That is understandable. Yet, will you let me suggest that the main thing going on in your life right now is spiritual. The cancer is only the external occasion, which God is using to increase His Spirit and Life within you.

My sister in the Lord, the devil has been a liar from the beginning. The present stress you are under could make you vulnerable to his lie. With prayer in God, I beg you not to believe for one moment the demonic suggestion that, "I am being punished by God for the wrong I did in the past." That is a lie. God does not punish His children who turn to him for forgiveness. He embraces them in His love. Jesus took the punishment of our sins upon Himself on the Cross. You are not being punished.

Do not think, because of this biopsy report, that God is asking you to accept death now. That would be fatalism, not faith! Therefore, my sister, choose life with all the strength of our will and all the passion of your soul. It is not "selfish" to want to go on living. God Himself is glorified when you are fully alive! He needs you, and we need you. You are in this world on a mission from God. Don't let it be over until you have completed the full measure of days assigned to you by God for loving people in this world.

What God is asking of you is this: to accept your unknowing, to trust in His love and to walk in the way God marks out for you day by day. You are not being asked to die but to live. And the life God wants to give you is your trusting surrender into His love and providence for your life. Your Heavenly Father makes all things work together for your good. That "all" includes the implications of the present biopsy report. You are going through a dreadful experience. God will use it to bring you into the fullness of life. Will you let Him?

Dear friend, this biopsy report is an awful, awful, flow to your heart and mind. Suddenly the mortality common to every human being, and commonly ignored, is staring you in the face. Please do not let the Evil Spirit throw you into panic or despair. Almighty God is your Friend, and He is in control here. Remember this: cancer is less of a threat to your life and happiness right now than the feelings of hopelessness and depression. The cancer is real. You are going to fight it and, God willing, you will win. The feelings of bottomless sadness, fear and despair are also real, but they are not true. These natural feelings cannot take into account the supernatural love of God poured out to you through the Spirit in Christ Jesus. Your supernatural faith does take these things into account. These two struggle within you for mastery: natural feelings and supernatural faith. Do not surrender yourself to the unenlightened feelings, but lean into the gift of your faith. I pray with all my heart that God will give you such strong trust in His love for you and such deep faith in His loving plan for your life, and that those oceanic feelings of sadness, fear, and despair will not be able to overcome your confidence in God. The Lord Jesus speaks these words to you:

"My child, do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid. Trust in God the Father. Trust also in Me." (Cf Jn 14:1)

Now more than at any time in your life, take refuge in Jesus your Savior and your God. Call upon His name. Jesus draws near to those who are in danger, those whose hearts are broken. Because of what you are going through, Jesus is nearer to you now than at any time in your life. May God grant you, and may you find in your heart, dear sister, sentiments and words like these.

Lord Jesus, I was predestined for Life in You from all eternity. Then I came to Life in this world. I am making my journey through this world to the mansions where You live with the Father. Now in the midst of my journey, cancer has come upon me. Blessed Lord Jesus, I always needed You. But now I know I need You more than ever. Be with me, Lord, Save me from this cancer that threatens my body. Save me from this fear and sadness that threaten my spirit. Dear Lord, You have shown the greatness of your love for me on the cross. Therefore I will trust in You. Lord Jesus, into your hands I entrust my life. Amen.

I will continue to pray for your complete healing, in body, soul, and spirit.

Sincerely, in the Lord Jesus,  
Your friend and brother  
William

**Note:** The Reverend William Wilson has been gifted to Dr. Winchester as her husband. He is an Anglican Bishop and previously was a Trappist monk cloistered for twenty-five years. During that time, he served as Novice Master and Chaplain to the nuns. He is presently involved in spiritual life ministry. If you or your family need further spiritual support, please feel free to call him at 542-7848.