

“ALONE WITH GOD”

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isaiah 7:9

In August 5th, 2007, early in the morning, I was diagnosed with Lymphoma by the doctor at an initial visit to emergency room (ER). I just finished my night duty that morning and I went to ER right away because I was coughing persistently and I became so weak and exhausted that I could hardly breathe.

Lymphoma is a tumor or neoplasm of lymphoid tissue that is usually cancerous but in rare cases, may be benign. Characteristically, the appearance of a painless, enlarged lymph node (nodes) is followed by weakness, fever, weight loss and anemia. Treatment for lymphoma includes intensive radiotherapy and chemotherapy.

For the past few years, I had been coughing on and off and it was not relieved with any medication. I went through a lot of tests and chest X-rays but it did not show anything and I was told that everything was fine. That's why I was shocked to hear it when the ER doctor told me the news. She confirmed it again by doing the CT scan of the chest. Then she referred me to a lung specialist for follow up. That morning, I came home with a lot of thoughts and worries. Questions like “How long will I live?”, “Is the cancer spread and at what stage I am?”, “Will I have to go through chemotherapy or radiation?”, “What are the chances of survival?”, “How will my parents cope without me?” often disturbed me. Honestly, I was spiritually ready but not physically. I had not accomplished anything in my life and I still had a lot of plans and goals. I could not sleep that night. My parents did not know about it and I myself decided not to tell them until the last minute. They lived thousands and

thousands of miles away from me and I did not want to give them any more of my burden. I only told my eldest brother who lived in Singapore in case of unexpected circumstances. I did not plan to go back to my hometown either no matter what happened since I chose this path against my parents' will. I prayed to God, the only God who had been with me all the time since I started my journey alone. He was the only one who knew me better than anyone else. I had been traveling alone for

**“How
Long
Will
I
Live?”**

many years and God was the only one who had been beside me, guiding me through all the trials and hardships and I was really thankful to Him.

That night I kneeled down and prayed "Lord, it is your will that I am in this world. If it is your will for me to go home, I am ready. I believe that you do everything in your time. Your time is always perfect and I believe that you will take care of my parents if I have to leave this world. I pray that you will give me strength and help me to understand you more and to obey your will. Let your glory appear in all things I do. If it is your will for me to live, heal me in Jesus' name, Amen" and then I went to bed.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.
Psalm 139:7-10.

One week later, I went to see the lung specialist and had bronchoscopy and lung washing done. I was sedated before the examination. During that procedure, a curved flexible tube was inserted into my windpipe all the way to my lungs and the doctor examined it and he sent a lot of fluid specimen for test. I was really tired after that procedure but I praised God for giving me strength and endurance. Another week later, the result showed that there were no Tuberculosis or bacteria growth in the lungs. Praise the Lord.

Then the lung specialist referred me to a surgeon again one week later to do the biopsy of the enlarged lymph node which was closed to the right lung. It was a minor surgery but I was really afraid honestly. During the procedure, the surgeon made a cut about one inch just above my sternum. Then he inserted a tube which also had light and lenses, behind my sternum to do the biopsy of the enlarged lymph node. I was really exhausted after that surgery as they put me to sleep during the surgery. I was dizzy for days and night and I was not able to eat or sleep well. However, I thank the Lord again for giving me strength and endurance. While I went through all these

God was the only one who had been beside me, guiding me through all the trials and

procedures, I called my parents once a week as usual and I thank the Lord for giving me peaceful mind.

In September, 2007, the result showed that I had Tuberculosis in the enlarged lymph node and it was not lymphoma. There were no cancer cells in the lymph node at all. Praise the Lord. I was overjoyed with tears and I believed that God answered my prayer and He still wants to use me in His ministry. A whole bunch of medications was started for six months. I was allowed to go out for a short walk or shopping as the disease was not transmittable through air or droplets or contagious. I thank God again for His wonderful miracle.

On 14th September, 2008, I decided to tell my parents about my past one month experience. They were worried at first but they were relieved that I was on treatment and doing fine. Honestly, I was lonely and scared while I went through all these tests alone but God was good and gracious to me. He gave me strength and power to hold on to Him and He let me rest in His arms. I was also paid even though I was not able to work for two months.

Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar. Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life; you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand you save me. Psalm 138: 6-7.

ALONE WITH GOD

From the above experience, I would like to emphasize that we need to thank God for living in this world. At first I always wonder “why am I doing in this world?”, “What do you want from me Lord?”, “Is there any purpose for me to live in this cruel world?” and now I know the answer.

God wants us to realize that He loves His children and He wants us to enjoy our lives through his grace. He longs to have fellowship with His children and wants us to feel His presence *whenever* and *wherever* we are and *whatever* situation we are in.

Then I realized that it is good and proper for a man to eat and drink, and to find satisfaction in his toilsome labor under the sun during the few days of life God has given him- for this is his lot. Moreover,

when God gives any man wealth and possessions, and enables him to enjoy them, to accept his lot and be happy in his work, this is the gift of God. He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.
Ecclesiastes 5:18-20.

So I commend the enjoyment of life, because nothing is better for a man under the sun than to eat and drink and be glad. Then joy will accompany him in his work all the days of the life God has given him under the sun.

Ecclesiastes 8:15

NAW MU