

Walking through the Valley of **THE SHADOW OF DEATH**

God continues to heal people today as in the days when Jesus walked the face of the earth. I was at work at the INSTE (Institute of Theology by Extension) office in Des Moines, Iowa, on Tuesday, April 14, 2009, when I began to bleed from my colon. I felt dizzy and asked Leona, my wife, for some water. Upon drinking the glass of water though, the dizziness did not leave. Leona noticed I was getting pale so we decided to go to our family clinic. On the way there, my dizziness increased and we decided to go to the emergency room.

Upon arrival, I explained my symptoms to the hospital staff and they immediately put an IV in my arm. My hemoglobin was 15 (normal) and my blood pressure was normal. The doctor later came in and decided to admit me for observation rather than let me return home. Both Leona and I agreed with him.

That evening, in the hospital room, I began to hemorrhage severely. Leona immediately called the nurse, who contacted two other nurses. My eyes began to roll back. When this happened, I was not aware of anything. Leona told me later what had occurred. My hemoglobin went down to 7.2, which is close to a coma or possible death. My blood pressure was at 60 over 40, which is dangerously low.

On Wednesday, I had a colonoscopy, an angiogram, and a radiation test to discover the exact location of the bleeding. None of the tests could pinpoint the location for the surgeons to operate.

On Thursday, I had a second angiogram. They still could not discover the precise area for the surgeons to intervene. That evening around 7:00 the surgeon came into my room to speak with Leona and me. She started off by saying the doctors did not understand what exactly was happening. Her words were, "This is a mystery."

When she said the word "mystery," the Holy Spirit revealed to us that this was a spiritual attack. I immediately said to the surgeon, "Please give us 24 hours to pray."

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Leona e-mailed and phoned many of our closest friends and intercessors. I called a pastor friend from Miami who was not available at first. He returned the call though and prayed with Leona. She held the cell phone to my ear so we could agree with our friend. As he prayed, the Lord reminded me of the story of the woman with the issue of blood in Mark 5:25-34. After my friend prayed, Leona went home and I was alone in the room.

As I began to read the biblical passage my eyes were fixed on verse 29: "Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering." After reading the verse, I touched the bleeding area and prayed, "Lord, I know you did this for this woman and you can do it for me. Touch me right now." I felt the cessation of the bleeding right away.

The next morning the surgeons confirmed the bleeding had stopped but that I was not out of the woods yet. The doctors had given me seven units of blood during the previous days. On Sunday I was released from the hospital. However, the doctor said it would take about two or three months for my hemoglobin to go to a normal level from the 10.2 count I currently had.

On Thursday I had a follow-up appointment with my family physician, Dr. Borchardt. A hemoglobin test showed my count was 13.2. Normal! Truly the Lord touched and healed me. The psalmist writes, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me" (Psalm 23:4). I truly walked through the valley and God was with me all the time.

A week after I was discharged from the hospital, I visited Guatemala. Four days upon my return, Leona and I traveled to Spain. All of this happened without missing a beat. When the Lord heals, He does it well.



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