

T *estify*

THAT'S PHENOMENAL! *By Jerold Morris*

In August of 2007 I was diagnosed with colon/rectal cancer. The oncologist alerted me that my cancer was every bit at stage III, and possibly stage IV. The tumor was pressing up against my prostate; we had no idea if it had penetrated.

As Pentecostal believers, we are confronted with questions about faith and medicine. Where does faith begin? Do you even allow yourself to be treated with medicine? I was told that if I used medicine, I was lacking in faith. I had counseled many people in the same position, but now it was my turn. My wife told me to use any and all means that would help me be healed.

I find it interesting that we have those in the medical field who do not recognize the power of Christ, and we have those in the church who do not recognize the ministry of the medical field. In Matthew 9:12, Jesus recognized the need of doctors and Doctor Luke, in his gospel, recognized the ministry of Christ. I concluded that I would use both fields.

Treatment began with prayer. People from all walks of life and various churches – Methodists, Lutherans, Catholics, and Pentecostals – prayed for me. It meant much more to me when people told me, “We are praying for you” than when others said, “Good luck.” When people prayed I knew that not only were they standing with me, but that also the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were also there with me. What a comforting thought!

Next came eight weeks of chemotherapy, radiation, and the operation, followed by eight more weeks of intense chemo to mop up any possible remaining “Lone Ranger” cells. The last chemo caused me to hold onto 1 Peter 5:10 very tightly: “And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.”

After the operation, I was scheduled to see the surgeon and the radiologist on the same day at two different appointments. Each doctor used the same word when they told me what they found. The radiologist said,

“Jerold, when the surgeon went in he could not find the tumor. Not everyone gets these kinds of results. This is phenomenal!”

I went from there to see the surgeon. He asked, “Jerold, do you realize that I could not find the tumor? That’s phenomenal!” I learned that man can only go so far; doctors can only do so much. Then the Great Physician finishes the job.

As of March 2, 2010, my oncologist made this statement, “You will not need to have anymore CAT scans. You are doing so well. If I was in Las Vegas and I were a betting man, I would put my whole wad on you. You are cured!”

I would like to share tips I learned while going through this that might benefit others facing something similar.

- **PRAY.** Be in prayer and enjoy God’s presence as often as you can. Also let people pray with and for you. You need the prayer and they need the practice.

- **WORD OF GOD.** Hold onto Scripture. Meditate, memorize, and speak it. Don’t just go through the charismatic and Pentecostal motions. Get into it and let the Spirit bring His instruction, revelation, and counsel.
- **JOY OF THE LORD.** Nehemiah 8:10 encourages us to “laugh at the spirit of fear.” Learn to say, “SO WHAT?” Laugh and enjoy life. Don’t stop living no matter where you are in your fight.
- **REST IN CHRIST.** (Daniel 3:16-18) I put this mindset on right after I got the call from the doctor. This battle is the Lord’s. If He wants to take me, what am I going to do? My Lord is sovereign, so I’m going to relax and rest in Him.

Thank you for praying for me! You were a comfort and there were times I could literally feel you praying. Finally, to God be the glory for what He has done through His wonderful Son and His precious Spirit. Romans 8:2 is still true: “Because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”



Sarah Hagen (mom) and Cindy Morris join Pastor Morris in blessing baby Conner “from the top of his head to the toes of his feet.”



Jerold Morris currently pastors at Sunshine Open Bible in Des Moines, Iowa. A graduate of Open Bible College, he has been ministering with Open Bible for 35 years. Jerold is married to his sweetheart, Cindy, and together they have three grown sons and four grandchildren.

