

DEVOTION FOR THOSE SUFFERING WITH CANCER

Power

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

When in the process of cancer treatments and we are laid low by the reactions, we wonder if we will ever feel normal again. We may feel that no one, not even God has the strength to help us. When we feel that way we are not alone. There are some pretty big names in the Scriptures who needed God's assurance that He was able to do great things, names like Abraham, Moses, Job and the children of Israel.

The right hand/arm of God speaks of God's omnipotent power. What follows are some forceful reminders on the part of God to not only to the names mentioned in the last paragraph but also for us. In Genesis 17:1 God comes to Abraham to once more assure Abraham, who was 99 years old by then, that he and Sarah will have a son who will be their heir. To back up His promise God identifies Himself as "God Almighty." That is the name "el Shaddai." It is thought to mean "God the Mountain One." Mountains symbolized great strength. That's our God who is gently holding our hand.

In Numbers 11 the people of Israel were doing their usual complaining to Moses. God had even added Quail to their diet. Still this did not stop their carping. At this point Moses is feeling pretty overwhelmed, in fact Moses just flat out doubts. God's answers Moses in verse 23: **"Is the LORD's arm too short? Now you will see whether or not what I say will come true for you."**

We are all familiar with Job and his great problems. His friends were not helpful, but down right hurtful. Job continued to maintain his complaints about the unfairness of his situation. But then God speaks. He speaks for four chapters (chapters 38-41). Some early few verses of chapter 38 include parts of God's speech. **⁴ "Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Tell me, if you understand. ⁵ Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know! Who stretched a measuring line across it? ⁶ On what were its footings set, or who laid its cornerstone—**

In Isaiah 40 God through Isaiah comforts His people by assuring them that He will always cares for them **¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her that her hard service has been completed, that her sin has been paid for, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins.**

To make certain that they can trust Him God states **¹¹ He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young. ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand, or with the breadth of his hand marked off the heavens? Who has held the dust of the earth in a basket, or weighed the mountains on the scales and the hills in a balance?** If God can measure the heavens or weigh the mountains, He certainly has the power to carry us through this difficult time. He loves us with all His heart.

Prayer:

Lord, sometimes I feel so weak and hopeless. Thank you these and other verses to remind me that are always there for me. Thank you that my feeling of inadequacy don't in any way keep from providing me the full arsenal of your great might. Help me to see these verses as comforting. Amen.