

# Knowledge Is Power

What everyone should  
know about cancer

by Rev. Percy McCray



For many, the term *“cancer”* has become a mental and emotional bully because of its historical reputation. Cancer’s reputation has been prominently associated with mortality, which causes intimidation and fear of dying. In our current social climate of “anti-bully”

messaging and encouragement, the strategy employed to combat this dynamic has been to empower our own mental view of the so-called bully in relationship to ourselves by renewing what our thoughts are about the effects of the bully—in this case, cancer.

*“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants.”*

Hebrews 2:14-16 [NIV]



Holy scriptures remind us to “*fear not*.”

### PSALM 23

“Thou I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil ...”

### MATTHEW 10:28

“Do not fear those(that) which can kill the body but cannot kill the soul ...”

### ISAIAH 41:10

“Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you ...”

### 1 JOHN 4:18

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear ...”

## Why are we constantly being told by God to *fear not* ?

Fear drives anxiety and distress, which trigger emotional response to cancer that may influence both morbidity and mortality.

**What are some of the ways we may be able to overcome the fear and reputation of cancer? *Mental (attitude) adjustment!***

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

- Romans 12:1-2 [NIV]



**Webster’s Dictionary defines attitude this way:**

“A complex mental state involving beliefs, feelings, values and disposition to act in certain ways.”

When we transform our thinking about the bully’s power, we may be able to change the bully’s effect of fear over us.

# 1

### More people are surviving a cancer diagnosis today than any time in the history of cancer:

[2021 American Cancer Society death rates](#) shows a continuous decline in cancer mortality rates, dropping 31 percent from 1991—translating to 3.2 million fewer cancer-related deaths.

Choose to believe you can be one of the survivors.

*"The Lord's right hand is lifted high; the Lord's right hand has done mighty things!  
I will not die but live and will proclaim what the Lord has done."*

- Psalm 118:16-17 [NIV]

# 2

### Early diagnostic tests and screenings offer an additional tool in your toolbox, so please use it:

Have you ever tried driving a nail with a pair of pliers? The right tools matters...

[Cancer Prevention & Early Detection facts](#)  
[Screening delays create concerns](#)

*"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. . . . Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil's schemes."*

- Ephesians 6:10-11 [NIV]

# 3

### New tools of precision medicine, like [immunotherapy](#), [targeted therapy](#), and [advanced genomic testing](#) are personalizing cancer care and allowing doctors to attack the disease at the cellular level:

This means cancer treatment is beginning to shift from a cookie-cutter, one-size-fits-all approach to a more individualized treatment model.

*"Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made."*

- Psalm 139:12-14 [NIV]



# 4

### Many physicians who are experts in their field have an abiding, intrinsic faith in God:

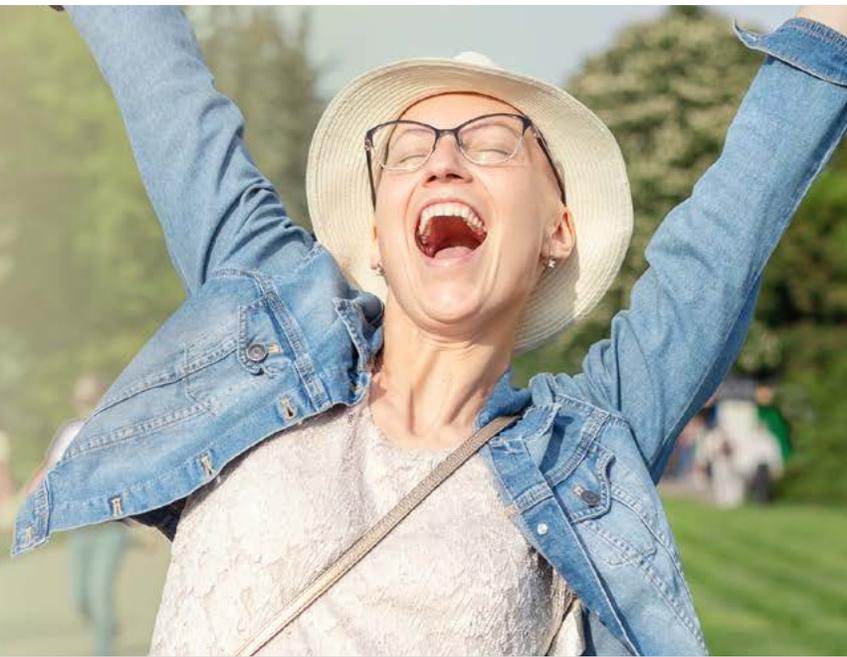
A growing number of physicians who practice medicine say they "[believe in God](#)."

*"He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words: "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him."*

- 2 Chronicles 32:6-7 [NIV]

## You need no one's permission to fight to live, just a reason

Remember a renewed mind and attitude may help you better prepare for the journey ahead with hope and optimism, believing that you may be able to "do all things through Christ, who strengthens you."



Rev. Percy McCray Jr. has spent more than 20 years ministering to cancer patients and their caregivers at Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA).

An ordained minister, Rev. McCray is a member of the U.S. Chaplain Association. He has been recognized as one of the "most influential African Americans in Lake County (IL)" by the *Chicago Peoples Voice* newspaper for his religious and leadership roles within the community.

**Health, Hope & Inspiration** is a weekly podcast, sponsored by Cancer Treatment Centers of America® (CTCA), designed to help people find answers to questions about cancer, cancer prevention and overall healthy living. One of the greatest gifts a person can enjoy is good health. A well-rounded lifestyle is the product of physical, emotional and spiritual health. These three things are interdependent, and that is the message of *Health, Hope & Inspiration*, as well as the basis of the integrative approach at CTCA®.

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