

*Are you facing devastating news? Are you angry and hurt? We must be emotionally, physically, spiritually well! Cancer can't define you; just prepare you! Are you searching for answers? Give a battle a chance; the outcome leads to victory!*

# **Can I Reach You**

## **An Encouraging Journal of a Christian's Pathway Through Cancer**

by Detria K Little

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# CAN I REACH YOU

A person with long dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, is walking away from the camera up a grassy hill. The grass is golden-brown, suggesting late autumn or early morning. In the background, there are rolling hills and a bright, hazy sky with the sun low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow.

An Encouraging Journal of a Christian's  
Pathway Through Cancer

Can living through painful journeys define our destination?

Detria K Little

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## **Disclaimer**

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This book provides content related to topics physical and/or mental health issues. As such, use of this book implies your acceptance of this disclaimer.

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## **Chapter 1**

### **Reaching You**

Can I reach you on a daily basis? Can I reach you when the world has pushed me to the core of my being? Can I reach you when others have no words for me? Can I reach you when I need to hear a voice of encouragement? Can I reach you to express my gratitude in your love and acceptance? Can I reach you to explain my heart is broken and the pain feels as if a part of my body has been ripped away? Can I reach you when the anger swells up, but I have to bottle it within? God, why am I thinking you are not here? Why God has an emptiness gained control over the soul you saved and the life you have shown grace and mercy for so long? Hear me Lord! This relationship with God is the power we hold in each of us as human beings and God's creation. He created us in His image to have a relationship in which we could reach Him; day or night, continuously. When no other person can be reached, God can. Even if we believe He has left or turned away from us during tough times, He hasn't. He can be reached.

In a world so filled with the devil, can I reach you? Every day, every person will and probably should ask this question. Whether we are talking about our family, friends, co-workers, our boss, pastor, medical professional, just anyone; we are in need of reaching them. One definition of "reach" is the extent

or range of application, effect, or influence; to reach in order to touch or grasp something. Some also find that even pets are in the “reaching” mode! They constantly want to be touched or paid attention to; just like any child; our own or a stranger’s. Even a new born infant cries out until it has been picked up and cuddled against someone. Our human nature began the day God created the first man. In the beginning, Adam knew God would reach him even as he walked in the garden. Satan knew this was a major action/response to a relationship; something he no longer was worthy of sharing. In order to fulfill his destiny of conquering God, he would have to find ways to destroy this type of reaching.

If you are reading this and are ready to stop reading because you do not have a relationship with God, start over. Read that part again where it says no matter if we THINK He is not there, He is! Don’t just know OF Jesus, know ABOUT Jesus! Find that inner peace and understanding so that you can be reached. He promises a better life after all the let downs! His hand is open and reaching out to you, just open your heart and embrace that reaching. If you desire a life changing, life altering full on reachability; the crossroad is here, so turn to Him. Wake up every morning with all new mercies and be abundantly blessed and favored by the one who is constant! Often times family is not enough; friends are not enough, things are not enough. Don’t be so complacent about your situation that you think you don’t need that “extra” reaching! Find that relationship with the God of heaven. If you already have a relationship with God, stop and say a prayer of thanksgiving. God is everywhere, in everything, and reaching out every moment. Reach out to the

knowledge and understanding, remembering that all relationships are created through being “reached”. Each individual has that question, “Can I reach you”, in their lives every moment of every day. The biggest part of reaching is faith. If we are faithful to believe you WILL and can achieve. Open up, ask someone, ask anyone! Research, reach out to find the answer. Reach out to see if having faith and believing will encourage that first step you need to take. If you are already a child of God and feel you have lost your way, reach out. You have to realize God didn’t go anywhere, you did! He has always been right beside you; He is able to be reached!

In every situation we go through we are to be reached. You have a phone number, an address, a relative which you must share to have contact with anyone else. Jobs, schools, church, taxes, social media, etc., you must be able to be reached. Of course sometimes you feel like ignoring those calls, those text, those emails. Well do it! Sometimes you just need you time! Take that moment to realize God has you and is present. But you have to know that God doesn’t accept that you want to be ignored. He is still there. He never leaves you and He listens to your heart, your soul and will always be reachable. When you read the Bible; every person God used for His purpose had to be reached. Noah endured ridicule and judgement from everyone. Yet because God reached out to him, he took the task and faithfully succeeded in accomplishing the goal. Job was a man of God that the devil tried to lure away, but through all his loss, he never failed to reach out to God and believe his reward would come, just by being reached. Moses was reached through a burning bush, and he answered. He was shy, but he took the

task God gave and led God's people as God commanded. Your boss chose you. He/she reached out to you because they believed you could complete the task. The coach chose you because he/she saw a potential of success because you reached out by doing the work. No matter what we are destined to do, we have to be reached.

The children of God have an advantage against those who are unsaved. They allowed God to reach them, to call them to do the task, the job, the journey. The unsaved have existence, not life, but imagine the life that would be given if they accepted when God reached out to them! Even the saved find that to trust in being reachable, one must open up doors that were never known to have existed. If we trust in Him He will breathe eternal life into each of us. To be reached will open your eyes to why God is not just going to repair you; He is going to transform you! Can I reach you?

## **Chapter 3:**

### **Thoughts, Thinking, Worries**

First thoughts are the “what abouts”: kids, spouse, parents, siblings, friends, family. A fear grips your inner most parts; your breath is starting to catch. You’ve just witnessed a family member endure all the rigorous parts of the same petrifying consequences just six months ago. You have even lived through other family members and friends who dealt with the trials, the suffering and for even death. Then as adults we start letting the negative overtake the wondering. Who is going to take care of my family? Who will be their constant enforcer, encourager, their hero, their mentor? You have to be the strong one, the one who already looked to the master to get through everything. But now with this, are you strong, are you capable of pulling that inner strength out? (Ps 116: 3-9) The tears come, they flow like a river with no end. Then the screams, the crying out to God! You want to throw things, break things, tear things! Your heart is so heavy, you begin to pray, asking why; but shouldn’t you be saying thank you Lord for this journey? God alone knows the reasons and the outcomes. I’m trying to reach you Lord?

As a child with this same diagnosis they begin by wondering why so many people are sad and what happened. We always assume because they are young they won’t understand and they have no worries. Studies show, that our presumptions

are wrong. They too question why they keep going to the doctor, why do they still feel bad, why does it hurt more today, why can't they go home now? They are angry, hurt, overwhelmed. They wonder about their parents, siblings, grandparents, friends. They are reaching, searching, wanting honesty and truth. The questions come and go, but the answers are still mind blowing because no one will just explain it the way a child needs it to be voiced; in their way. Children have the ability to accept with true realization of all the information. Unlike adults, who tend to need a realization time out with regenerating! Can I reach you now?

So the young become the supporters of everyone else by giving their all. They illuminate with courage, strength, faith. They find the joy in the pain, becoming the rainbow in the rain. Exuding with the will to fight to live and becoming the positive for everyone else. (Rev. 21:4) We really don't give them credit where credit is due. In all the turmoil with test, exams, treatments they live to see the joy come back into OUR faces, OUR lives. Their worry is for everyone else because they have a Godly faith and understanding that we, as adults, refuse to accept. They find a peace within and build on it until it engulfs their very being. Jesus taught of a childlike faith and He asked for His disciples to build on that kind of faith; going forth to help others build this kind of faith. His word teaches us all to gain that understanding in order to be receptive to all the love He offers. (Matthew 18: 1-6)

As adults the omission of true faith prolongs the understanding into why diseases attack ourselves, our spouses,

our children, our families and even our friends. We get so engulfed with anger, fear, resentment, outrage, bitterness, infuriation, then foreboding; that we forget where that true faith comes from. Take another moment and look up the definitions of those words also. Those meanings will show you everything you will have thought or will again think during this trial. Many times we just do not want to know the truth behind it all. We question again everything we have ever done to ourselves, to our families, or especially to others. Was this payback for our past sins; our misgivings; our lack of trust? The decisions of everyday problems are enough and then to be thrown into this catastrophic dilemma, is just a different type of overwhelming feeling of being out of control! (Matt 11: 28-30) Can we not show all the feelings that are grasping our emotions? Like anxiety; which is defined as appearing because we feel or sense the presence of danger! We arrive again at a point of whom do I reach out? Whom is the one that I can sincerely go to and voice all my fears, my inner hopes, my dreams of the future? The only answer is to turn it over to God; fully, obediently. Can I reach you, again?

## **Chapter 4:**

### **Finding Knowledge**

What is cancer? In reality, it is an evil word, a heart breaking diagnosis. It is a disbelief that it could happen to you or to anyone you know and love. It forces thoughts and feelings from the very depths of your soul to emerge; to bring everything negative out. It begins as simple, minor symptoms, often totally undetected or ignored. Small and seemingly silly things we notice in movements of legs, arms, head tilting; unknowing that there is a hidden source. That small dark spot that got bigger; that small knot under the skin that is now larger. Could it have been that nagging cough or those colds that just wouldn't go away? Maybe it was in the slurred speech, the incorrect words that came out in conversations. The noticeable fatigue after little or no exercise. Maybe there were times of sudden bursts of pain, sharp stabbing, then gone. It wreaks havoc throughout the body. It creeps through the vessels/veins, the tributaries, even the bones; slithering as a venomous snake. It also causes discoloring of the skin, the nail beds, the white of your eyes; drains your energy. Then it forces unexplained emotions of the most crucial of the body parts, the mind and soul. Like the devil whispering memories, whispering past sins, picking; then prodding into the depths that hold things forgotten. Bringing up the might have beens. It wants to invade not only those parts

that function and control the living, the breathing; but the inner self that believes, trusts, focuses. Can I reach you now?

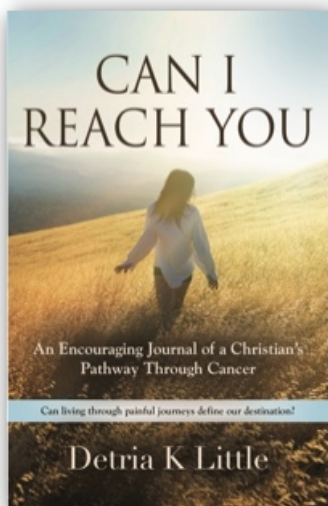
But again, let us not forget that there are other debilitating, life threatening diseases too. All of which bring us to the point of no return. Each one with unbearable symptoms, long lasting prognosis, and all of which are loaded with fear. What are the answers to all the questions? What are the answers to all the suggestions? Is there a right one; is there a wrong one? How do you find the one that's right for you or for your loved ones? Who can provide the true, honest, complete decision to the choice that will give the best outcome? In acknowledging the presence of these predicaments, we must find acceptance and be willing to go on. In doing so, we know the answer, God; but again we hesitate. Can I reach you?

Why can we as adults not be reached? Why do we feel we cannot reach an affirmation to these test? Our hesitation to let God reach us is a never ending fight with the devil who wants that relationship with God to be divided and eventually severed. Open up your eyes and see the true light! We must come into a survival mode; one of continuing to live, not just exist! Can we not reach out and ask God to remove that paralyzing feeling of what we don't know! (Ps 55:22) In the Bible, David endured hardships; many he brought upon himself; but his one constant was his faith in God who never left him, even during the struggles. Read any of the Psalms and see where he longed to stay within the reaches of God and the relationship that kept him going. Try constantly listening to Christian music radio stations that play encouraging songs all day! Don't just listen to

the songs, but HEAR the words/lyrics! Those authors speak words you are now feeling, and probably always have! Their trials, temptations, struggles, and renewed faith in God's promises flows through every word. God gave them the words to sing so you could hear them and know you are not alone. Others do share your pain, your struggles, and your grief! It is truly amazing how music and heartfelt lyrics open you up to acceptance of not only God, but God's promises of blessings. You will find that there are millions of others who feel the same! Am I reaching you?

All these diseases force us to endure. Let's stay in the fight; there is life up ahead, you are able! This new journey has begun; first one test, then another. How many vials of blood can be taken? The machines are massive. They make loud ominous sounds that feel deafening. Why does it take so long? Why must you wait in those small enclosed walls? Someone wants your consent, someone ask your name again, someone wants to verify your birth! Can we not just get this done, why can it not be over? Then, here you are placed before the mighty machine. They must inject something; it is supposed to reveal locations, but will it? It's been seen before. It's taken life before. Is it genetic? Is it viral, bacterial, or does it float in the air to be breathed? All the research shows good, then mediocre, and then sometimes bad results. Researchers claim there are not yet cures; but there are options to prolong, test that show survival but is it really? Pharmaceuticals will never allow such cures to become reality. Why is it not okay to save all lives? This is a money hungry world, a world the devil wants to invade and conquer. The internet provides so many definitions, so many

studies. How can so much knowledge and effort not have been completed yet? Can I reach you Lord?



*Are you facing devastating news? Are you angry and hurt? We must be emotionally, physically, spiritually well! Cancer can't define you; just prepare you! Are you searching for answers? Give a battle a chance; the outcome leads to victory!*

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