- I have BROUGHT SOME THINGS... from LOUISIANA...
 - 1) MY WIFE... AMY...
 - WE'VE BEEN MARRIED... 27 YEARS
 - 3 WONDERFUL CHILDREN 22, 19, 16 years old
 - 2) HURRICANE HARVEY
 - 3) A WORD of ENCOURAGEMENT
- I HOPE to... ENCOURAGE YOU... THIS MORNING... because...
 - YOU... YOUR CHURCH... and... YOUR STAFF... have BEEN...
 - a GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT to ME
- OVER the LAST 12 YEARS... AS WE PLANTED... CCF in BATON ROUGE...
 - PASTOR SANDY... Has BEEN a GREAT ENCOURAGEMENT to ME
 - The OTHER PASTORS and STAFF... HERE at CALVARY...
 - The PEOPLE of CALVARY CSM...
 - HOSTING and SERVING for CONFERENCES... MINISTRY CAMPS
 - COMING to LOUISIANA and HELPING with DISASTER RELIEF
- But SPECIFICALLY... OVER the LAST 2 ½ YEARS...
 - o YOU... YOUR CHURCH... and... YOUR STAFF... have BEEN...
 - a HUGE ENCOURAGEMENT to ME... and MY FAMILY
- OVER the LAST 2 ½ YEARS...
 - MY FAMILY and I... HAVE BEEN... FIGHTING a BATTLE
 - PASTOR SANDY, the STAFF HERE, and MANY of YOU...
 - HAVE been STANDING WITH US... IN THIS BATTLE
- In OCTOBER of 2014
 - BEING TREATED for a SINUS INFECTION... that WASN'T GOING AWAY
 - o My DOCTOR did MORE TESTS... he DISCOVERED SOMETHING MORE...
 - And ONE DAY... | SAT in HIS OFFICE... and HEARD THOSE WORDS...
 - "YOU HAVE CANCER"
- I was SENT to a SPECIALIST who PERFORMED MORE TESTS... and WAS TOLD...
 - o | HAD... SINO-NASAL UNDIFFERENTIATED CARCINOMA
 - o I WAS TOLD... it is a VERY RARE... AGGRESSIVE... DEADLY... CANCER

- o I HAD... a TUMOR the SIZE of a BASEBALL in my SINUS CAVITY
 - It HAD... DESTROYED... the WALL BETWEEN SINUSES and EYE SOCKET
 - WRAPPED AROUND... my OPTIC NERVE... BEHIND my EYE
 - PUSHING my EYE... OFF to the SIDE
 - It WAS... DESTROYING... the DURAL LINING to MY BRAIN
 - GROWING INTO my BRAIN
 - It WAS... TOUCHING... my CORTEX... and my CAROTID ARTERY
- The SPECIALIST TOLD ME... they HAD... NO IDEA... HOW to STOP THIS CANCER
 - o And SHE NEEDED to DISCUSS IT with OTHER SPECIALISTS
- WHEN I LEFT... I SAT in MY CAR... in the PARKING LOT... and I PRAYED...
 - o I DID NOT PRAY... that I WOULD SURVIVE... that LOOKED UNLIKELY
 - o I PRAYED... that GOD would CARE FOR my WIFE and CHILDREN
 - It was the DAY BEFORE my OLDEST SON'S BIRTHDAY
 - o I PRAYED... that GOD would HELP my FAMILY HANDLE the NEWS
- GOD ANSWERED that PRAYER...
 - o MY FAMILY was STRONG and we PREPARED to FACE THIS BATTLE
- The DOCTOR SUGGESTED | GO HOME and "GOOGLE IT" to LEARN MORE...
- I GOOGLED IT... and DISCOVERED THESE THINGS...
 - There was ONLY... a 7% CHANCE of SURVIVAL
 - PEOPLE LIVED an AVERAGE of 10 MONTHS... from TIME of DIAGNOSIS
 - **JOURNAL of NATURAL SCIENCE, BIOLOGY and MEDICINE...
 - "Despite aggressive therapy... surgery, radiation, and chemotherapy... outcome has remained dismal, with the average survival time being less than one year after diagnosis."
 - LATER that NIGHT... my DOCTOR CALLED... and CONFIRMED THESE FACTS
- PASTOR SANDY... was ONE OF the FIRST PEOPLE I CALLED...
 - o He ... WEPT WITH ME... and PRAYED WITH ME
 - o He... COMMITTED to STAND WITH US and DO WHATEVER WE NEEDED
 - He... WAS such a HUGE HELP and SUPPORT

- A FEW DAYS LATER... WE MET WITH a SURGEON... HE LAID OUT the SURGERY...
 - He WOULD ATTEMPT to PERFORM the SURGERY... ENDOSCOPICALLY
 - But HE MIGHT NEED TO ... "LIFT THE HOOD"
 - The TUMOR had WRAPPED AROUND my LEFT OPTIC NERVE
 - Which MEANT he would NEED to REMOVE my LEFT EYE
 - o The TUMOR was TOUCHING my CORTEX and CAROTID ARTERY...
 - Which MEANT... it WOULD BE... a VERY TOUCHY PROCEDURE
 - ANY SLIGHT MISTAKE... would CERTAINLY KILL ME
 - HE WANTED a NUERO-SURGEON to PERFORM THIS PART of the SURGERY
- So WE MET WITH the BEST NUERO-SURGEON... in OUR AREA...
 - He TOLD US the SURGERY could NOT BE PERFORMED without KILLING ME
 - o He CALLED my OTHER SURGEON on his CELL and REFUSED TO HELP
 - ACCORDING TO this NEURO-SURGEON... | WAS CERTAINLY GOING TO DIE
- We WENT HOME and SHARED the NEWS with our CHILDREN...
 - o My OLDEST SON... QUIETLY... WENT INTO his BEDROOM
 - I could **HEAR HIM SOBBING**...
 - I WENT IN and SAT WITH HIM... WEPT... and PRAYED WITH HIM
- We WENT BACK and SAW the ORIGINAL SURGEON...
 - HE REMAINED POSITIVE... and TOLD ME...
 - "If the NEURO-SURGEON won't do it... I'll do it all MYSELF!"
 - My SURGEON... LINED OUT the TREATMENT PLAN...
 - FIRST SURGERY... THEN RADIATION and CHEMOTHERAPY
 - AGAIN... he MADE IT CLEAR...
 - They DIDN'T KNOW HOW to STOP THIS CANCER... SO...
 - They were COMING OUT with "ALL GUNS BLAZING"
 - He SAID THEY WOULD...
 - "HANG ME OVER the EDGE of DEATH... then BRING ME BACK."
 - He TOLD ME...
 - "It's going to HURT SO BAD... you'll WISH you WERE DEAD."
 - The ATTITUDE WAS...
 - I had LITTLE CHANCE of SURVIVAL... so they would TRY EVERYTHING

- The SURGERY DATE ARRIVED...
 - o As I LAY THERE... WAITING for the ANESTHESIA to KICK IN... I THOUGHT...
 - These are PROBABLY... the LAST FEW MINUTES of MY LIFE
 - There was a GREAT PROBABILITY... I WOULD... DIE in SURGERY
- BUT GOD... HAD A DIFFERENT PLAN!
- When I WOKE UP... AFTER SURGERY... I DISCOVERED... 3 THINGS...
 - 1) | **WAS...** <u>ALIVE!</u>
 - He REMOVED the TUMOR...
 - WITHOUT DAMAGING my CORTEX or CAROTID ARTERY
 - 2) | **STILL HAD... 2 EYES**
 - He REMOVED the TUMOR... WITHOUT HAVING to TAKE MY LEFT EYE
 - 3) He was ABLE to PERFORM the SURGERY... ENDOSCOPICALLY
 - 8 HOURS of... SLICING the TUMOR... and REMOVING IT
 - FIRST TIME in MY LIFE... I was THANKFUL... for MY... BIG NOSE!
- GOD is STILL DOING MIRACLES... and SOMETIMES... HE USES DOCTORS!
- That COMPLETED... ONE HUGE PART of the PROCESS... the SURGERY
 - BUT... there was STILL a LONG ROAD to GO
- NEXT... came RADIATION and CHEMOTHERAPY... AT the SAME TIME
 - AGAIN... there was LITTLE HOPE for SURVIVAL so they TRIED EVERYTHING
- WE MET with the RADIATION SPECIALIST... HE INFORMED US...
 - o The RADIATION... WOULD DESTROY... my LEFT EYE... the SURGEON SAVED
 - o RADIATION... would ALSO... PROBABLY DESTROY my RIGHT EYE
 - o There was a **BIG CHANCE... FOLLOWING RADIATION...** I would **BE BLIND**
 - o However, he TOLD US of a REMOTE POSSIBILITY... PROTON RADIATION
 - It was MORE PRECISE and it MIGHT SAVE my RIGHT EYE
 - ONLY a FEW PLACES PERFORMED this NEW FORM of RADIATION
 - And it was DIFFICULT to GET INSURANCE to APPROVE IT
- So... we SENT OUT the PRAYER REQUESTS...

- o The INSURANCE DENIED US TWICE
- o "BUT GOD"... the 3RD TIME... we WERE APPROVED!
- So the NEXT PART of the TREATMENT was IN PLACE...
 - o TRAVELING EVERY WEEK to M.D. ANDERSON for RADIATION and CHEMO
- FIRST... the CHEMO...
 - o The DOCTORS were HONEST... they CAME OUT with "ALL GUNS BLAZING"
 - They GAVE ME the MOST POTENT CHEMO AVAILABLE
 - I EXPERIENCED... HEAVY SIDE EFFECTS...
 - I LOST MY HAIR...
 - BECAME ANEMIC... MASSIVE FATIGUE... COULDN'T GET OUT of BED
 - I COULDN'T EAT... LOST 50 LBS. WENT FROM... 215 to 165
- NEXT... the RADIATION...
 - o CREATED NUMEROUS... PAINFUL... ISSUES...
 - BURNED the SKIN... on my NECK and HEAD
 - MY EYES... STOPPED PRODUCING TEARS
 - SCRATCHING my CORNEAS... BURNING EYES and POOR SIGHT
 - MY SALIVA GLANDS... QUIT WORKING...
 - CONSTANT DRY MOUTH... WHICH CREATED... MOUTH SORES
 - CANKER SORES... ALL OVER my MOUTH and THROAT
- DUE to ALL these PAINFUL SIDE EFFECTS...
 - o The DOCTORS... PLACED ME ON a MASSIVE AMOUNT of PAIN MEDICINE
 - The PAIN MEDICINE... MESSED WITH MY HEAD
- DURING THIS TIME... | REMEMBER... EXPERIENCING...
 - INCREDIBLE FATIGUE
 - For MANY MONTHS... I could ONLY LAY in BED
 - EXCRUCIATING PAIN
 - EVEN the MASSIVE AMOUNT of PAIN MEDS were NOT ENOUGH
 - MENTAL INSTABILITY
 - UNCONTROLLABLE SADNESS... WEEPING for HOURS ON END
 - TIMES of... GREAT FEAR
- AFTER 6 MONTHS... the TREATMENT was COMPLETED
 - o They **DID MULTIPLE SCANS...** and we **RECEIVED THE INCREDIBLE NEWS...**
 - I WAS COMPLETELY CANCER FREE!!

- GOD HEALED ME!
 - o I am... SUPPOSED TO BE... DEAD... BUT I'M ALIVE
 - o I am... SUPPOSED TO BE... BLIND... BUT I CAN SEE
 - o I CAN'T... SMELL or TASTE anymore... BUT that COMES IN HANDY at TIMES
- YOUR PRAYERS... were PART OF... MY HEALING
- It was IMPORTANT TO ME... that I CAME HERE and TOLD YOU, "THANK YOU!"
 TO... YOU... YOUR CHURCH... and YOUR STAFF
- BUT... AS I SAID... | ALSO HOPE to BRING a WORD of ENCOURAGEMENT...
- I have HEARD IT SAID... the 2 GREATEST FEARS in the U.S. are...
 - 1) PUBLIC SPEAKING
 - 2) **HEARING** your **DOCTOR SAY**... "You have cancer."
- I HAVE EXPERIENCED BOTH... SO... | SUPPOSE...
 - That MAKES ME an ACCIDENTAL EXPERT on the SUBJECT of... FEAR
- It's IMPORTANT we UNDERSTAND... there are 2 TYPES of FEAR...
 - 1) A... <u>HEALTHY FEAR</u>... the FEAR OF... the LORD...

 <u>Job 28:28</u> the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom

 <u>Psalm 111:10</u> The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
 - FEARING the LORD... is a HEALTHY FEAR... that LEADS to WISDOM
 - 2) An... UNHEALTHY FEAR... the FEAR OF the UNKNOWN...
 - o ONE OF the BEST DESCRIPTIONS I have HEARD of this UNHEALTHY FEAR...
 - CAME FROM... a PRINCE... the FRESH PRINCE... of BEL AIR
 - WILL SMITH... in the MOVIE AFTER EARTH... TOLD HIS SON...
 "Fear is not real. The only place that fear can exist is in our thoughts of the future. It is a product of our imagination, causing us to fear things that do not at present and may not ever exist. That is near insanity. Do not misunderstand me danger is very real but fear is a choice."
 - There is a LOT of TRUTH in THAT STATEMENT...
 - UNHEALTHY FEAR is a... BELIEF... NOT... a REALITY

- WE'VE HEARD FROM... a PRINCE... NOW... LET'S HEAR FROM... a KING!
 - KING DAVID had some THOUGHTS on FEAR...
 Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear?
 The Lord is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid?
 - o The RESPONSES to the 2 QUESTIONS DAVID POSES are... "NO ONE"
- WOULDN'T IT BE GREAT to... HAVE... NO FEAR?!
- IMAGINE how DIFFERENT YOUR LIFE would BE if you... HAD... NO FEAR!
- HOW can WE LEARN... WHAT DAVID KNEW?
- HOW can WE LEARN to... CONQUER FEAR?
- is it as simple as... having a strong attitude... of "NO FEAR"??
 - **"NO FEAR" LINE of CLOTHING and GEAR
 - You can GET all the STICKERS and SHIRTS YOU WANT...
 - BUT... it WON'T HELP YOU... CONQUER... FEAR
- WHAT did DAVID KNOW that HELPED HIM... CONQUER FEAR?
- REMEMBER WHEN... DAVID MET a PHILISTINE GIANT... NAMED GOLIATH?

 1 Samuel 17: 45-47 David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the Lord does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands."
 - o FACING of GIANT... DAVID DISPLAYED... AMAZING... LACK of FEAR!
- WHAT... CAUSED DAVID... to... LACK FEAR?
 - DAVID... TOLD US... and GOLIATH...
 - "The LORD will DELIVER YOU INTO MY HAND"
 - "The **BATTLE** is **the LORD'S**"
 - "The LORD will GIVE YOU INTO OUR HANDS"
 - THE **LORD**... THE **LORD**... THE **LORD**

- o DAVID... was FEARLESS... because...
 - HIS FOCUS... was NOT ON... the GIANT
 - HIS FOCUS... was ON... the LORD... the LORD... the LORD!
- WHAT GIANT... are YOU FACING?
- WHAT is the THING... CREATING FEAR in YOUR HEART?
- AS I FACED... the GIANT of... CANCER...
 - WHENEVER... | FOCUSED ON... the GIANT... of CANCER
 - | BECAME... AFRAID
 - o BUT... WHENEVER... I FOCUSED ON... the LORD...
 - LACKED FEAR... and HAD... CONFIDENCE and COURAGE!
- The KEY to CONQUERING FEAR is...
 - THE LORD... THE LORD... THE LORD
 - Having... the LORD... as your... LIGHT
 - o Having... the LORD... as your... SALVATION
 - o Having... the LORD... as the... STRENGTH... of YOUR LIFE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to... HAVE the LORD as your... LIGHT?

- O LIGHT = ABILITY to SEE
- Having the LORD as your LIGHT means...
 - The LORD EFFECTS... the WAY... you SEE EVERYTHING
 - The LORD CAUSES YOU... to LOOK at LIFE... DIFFERENTLY
- NO LONGER... VIEWING LIFE... WITH... PHYSICAL EYES
- o INSTEAD... VIEWING LIFE... WITH... SPIRITUAL EYES... of FAITH
- LISTEN... with FRESH EARS... to WHAT the APOSTLE PAUL WROTE in...
 2 Corinthians 5:6-7 we are always confident... for we walk by faith, not by sight.
- O DID YOU CATCH IT?
 - ALWAYS CONFIDENT... FOR... WE WALK BY FAITH... NOT BY SIGHT
- WALKING BY FAITH... NOT... BY SIGHT CREATES... CONFIDENCE!
- o VIEWING LIFE... through EYES of FAITH CREATES... CONFIDENCE!

- WHEN I was BATTLING CANCER...there WERE TIMES... I WAS AFRAID
 - THOSE... were ALWAYS TIMES...
 - I was **NOT VIEWING**... MY **SITUATION**... **SPIRITUALLY**...
 - o THROUGH... EYES of FAITH
 - BUT... I was VIEWING... MY SITUATION ... PHYSICALLY...
 - THROUGH... EYES that LACKED FAITH
 - WHENEVER... I was able to... VIEW MY SITUATION... SPIRITUALLY...
 - THROUGH... EYES of FAITH... | HAD... NO FEAR
- WHEN the LORD is YOUR LIGHT... YOU... LACK FEAR

WHAT DOES IT MEAN to... HAVE the LORD as your... SALVATION?

- SALVATION = DELIVERANCE
- Having the LORD as your SALVATION means...
 - YOU KNOW... the LORD... WILL... DELIVER YOU
- o But it's CRITICAL... WE UNDERSTAND... WHAT... <u>DELIVER</u>... MEANS
- The APOSTLE PAUL... WROTE THESE WORDS to TIMOTHY...
 2 Timothy 3:10-11 But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions, which happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra—what persecutions I endured. And out of them all the Lord delivered me.
- O NOW... WAIT A SECOND!!
 - The AFFLICTION that HAPPENED to PAUL at LYSTRA was...
 - STONED... DRUG OUT of the CITY... and LEFT FOR DEAD!!
- HOW can PAUL SAY...

"And out of them all the Lord delivered me." ?!?!

- BEING... STONED... DRUG OUT of the CITY... and LEFT FOR DEAD...
 - DOES NOT... SOUND LIKE... BEING DELIVERED... TO ME
- TO ME... BEING DELIVERED... SOUNDS LIKE...
 - CLINT EASTWOOD... RIDING IN... and SAVING the DAY!
- o PAUL... UNDERSTOOD... <u>BEING DELIVERED</u>... DIFFERENTLY

- o In the ORIGINAL GREEK... "DELIVERED" ... HAS the MEANING...
 - To DRAW TO... ONE'S SELF
- o THIS is the UNDERSTANDING... PAUL HAD... of "DELIVERED" ...
 - IN... ALL HIS AFFLICTIONS and PERSECUTIONS...
 - JESUS... DREW PAUL... CLOSER... to HIMSELF
- o This is the SPIRIT LED MOTIVATION... BEHIND... WHY PAUL WROTE... Romans 8:35, 37-39 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- o PAUL UNDERSTOOD... BEING DELIVERED/SALVATION... is EXPERIENCING...
 - The LOVE OF GOD... IN... CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD
- DAVID... UNDERSTOOD the SAME THING
 - The LORD... is MY SALVATION... WHOM SHALL I FEAR?
- WHEN YOU KNOW... NOTHING IN LIFE... CAN SEPARATE YOU FROM...
 - The LOVE OF GOD... IN... CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD
 - YOU LACK FEAR
- WHAT is the THING that is CAUSING YOU... FEAR... TODAY?
 - THAT THING... CAN NOT SEPARATE YOU... FROM...
 - The LOVE OF GOD... IN... CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD
 - SO THEN... there is NO NEED to FEAR... THAT THING!
- HAVING... the LORD... as YOUR SALVATION... DESTROYS FEAR
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN to... HAVE the LORD as the... STRENGTH of YOUR LIFE?
 - STRENGTH = FORTRESS or ROCK
 - o PSALM 91... is VERY SPECIAL to ME
 - I READ IT... the MORNING... BEFORE... | FOUND OUT | HAD CANCER

- PSALM 91... is ALL ABOUT... a PERSON FACING... a DEADLY DISEASE
 - BUT... NOT DYING.. of that DEADLY DISEASE
- It BEGINS...

<u>Psalm 91:1-2</u> - He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."

- Having... THE LORD... AS... our FORTRESS or ROCK...
 - Does NOT MEAN... NOTHING DIFFICULT will EVER HAPPEN
 - It MEANS... GOD can GIVE US the STRENGTH WE NEED to...
 - DEAL WITH... the DIFFICULTIES... WE FACE
- o AS PAUL DESCRIBED in...
 - <u>2 Corinthians 4:8-9</u> We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed
- WHEN... the LORD... is YOUR ROCK... YOU... LACK FEAR
- o OFTEN... OUR PROBLEM is... WE FORGET... the LORD... is OUR ROCK
- O ISAIAH DESCRIBED... PEOPLE who FORGOT... the LORD... is their ROCK... Isaiah 17:10-11 - Because you have turned from the God who can save you. You have forgotten the Rock who can hide you. So... your only harvest will be a load of grief and unrelieved pain.
- OUR CHOICE...
 - FORGET... the LORD... is OUR ROCK... and EXPERIENCE...
 - A LOAD of GRIEF... and... UNRELIEVED PAIN
 - REMEMBER... the LORD... is OUR ROCK... and EXPERIENCE...
 - CONFIDENCE... COURAGE... and a LACK of FEAR
- WHICH ONE... DESCRIBES YOUR LIFE MORE?
 - A LOAD of GRIEF... and... UNRELIEVED PAIN
 - CONFIDENCE... COURAGE... and a LACK of FEAR

- CONSIDER for YOURSELF THIS MORNING...
 - HOW MUCH of YOUR LIFE is... LED BY... FEAR
 - NOT ... the FEAR of the LORD... that LEADS to WISDOM
 - BUT ... an UNHEALTHY FEAR of... the UNKNOWN
 - a PERCEPTION of... WHAT YOU THINK... MIGHT HAPPEN
- IF YOU ARE WILLING...
 - GOD can DELIVER YOU... FROM FEAR... RIGHT NOW...
 1 John 4:18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love.
- The LOVE OF GOD... IN... CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD... DESTROYS FEAR
- GOD SPEAKING... TO YOU... THROUGH the PROPHET ISAIAH
 <u>Isaiah 41:10, 13</u> "Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand. For I am the LORD your God, who upholds your right hand, who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you."
- WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
- GOD is SPEAKING to YOU... THIS MORNING...
 - "Do not fear, for I am with you."
 - o "Do not fear, I will help you."
- FEAR THE LORD... and THEN... FEAR... NOTHING ELSE!

CALL PEOPLE FORWARD FOR PRAYER