

# THE BULWARK

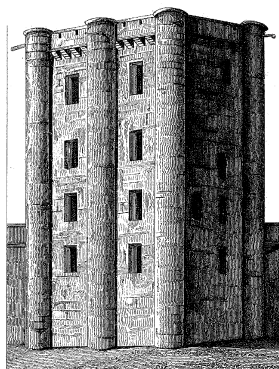
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*“Mark well her bulwarks,  
consider her palaces, that  
you may tell it to the  
generation following”*  
Psalms 48:13

## “PLEASE, JUST BE WITH ME...”

It is understandable that one’s heart sinks upon hearing the dread news that a beloved spouse has been diagnosed with cancer? There is a search for an answer, but soon there comes a reluctant acceptance that such is part and parcel of life. It is difficult to handle; doctors and caregivers state there is isn’t much that can be done, other than keep them comfortable. The once robust and lively person that you have known, is but a mere shell of their former self.



Some years ago while working in a hospital doing some counseling, the occasion would arise when such a scene as that described above would present itself to me to provide some guidance. Oft times entering the room, I would just listen and observe. More often than not what was said between the afflicted and spouse was “please, just stay with me.” Or at a least a variation thereof. The tenderness of the moment, the desire for the presence of a precious loved one; not some intruder. Sometimes nothing more needs to be said.

Knowing that a precious one is present, especially in times of extreme darkness provides a soothing balm; one is not alone. There is a line in a John Denver ballad entitled “Annie’s Song” that seems to fit, “let me drown in your laughter, let me die in your arms.” Good times and not so good times, always present. The author of Hebrews reminded his readers of the state-

ment made in the book of Deuteronomy, chapter thirty-one and verse six, where God asserted, *“I will never desert you nor will I ever forsake you.”* (Hebrews 13:6) That assurance remains true even today.

Praise be to our heavenly Father, who according to the pattern and plan designed before the foundation of the world (see Ephesians 1:3-4) sent His Son, who was made *“...like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest...”* (Hebrews 2:17) By so doing, there is relatability, as the author goes on to show in chapter four and verse fifteen. *“For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.”*

*“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear...”* (Psalms 46:1) *“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer. My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”* (Psalms 18:2)

In the most dire moments of life, there is the assurance that we are not alone and we have one who can *“sympathize with our weaknesses”* (Hebrews 4:15) How blessed it is to be able to cry forth, *“The Lord is my Helper, I will not be afraid...”* (Hebrews 13:6) A loving presence, that ushers in peace. Take some time to see what is found in Isaiah 41:10. *“Please, just be with me...”* (wbe)