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REMAIN HOPEFUL

Come in, you're invited to enter my world of thought today. It is difficult for many today who are caregivers to those in their life who are afflicted with various ailments that affect one's mind. It brings tears to many adult children or a spouse who cares for their loved one suffering from Alzheimer or it pains a parent (s) to see their offspring who is developmentally disabled or physically disabled be challenged in life. All one can do is wait on the Lord for deliverance.

There is hope, though, if you know that the one you care for has given their life to Jesus Christ. Often that knowledge is the main frame on which one clings to remain hopeful about your loved one's life. I remember many years ago watching a dear family friend who was perplexed as she saw her husband's behavior appear out of character because a stroke had done brain damage. She was concerned about the husband's spiritual condition as the comments he made did not reflect the way he spoke prior to the stroke. John 14:17 reveals that the Holy Ghost (the Comforter sent to never leave us) is The Spirit of Truth and He lives within us. That Spirit dwells within a born again believer and will never leave. The afflicted person may sometimes feel alone, defeated and discouraged and even act out of character. We should remind him/her, as well as, ourselves that the Spirit of the living God dwells inside and He promised never to leave.

These natural bodies are attacked in many different ways which reveals that these bodies are mortal, fragile, and will become extinct. It is important to remember that "greater is He that is in us..." Our enemy, Satan wants us to be fooled by the weaknesses of our human flesh, which can be maligned with disease and sickness. He hopes we are deceived into thinking God has abandoned someone who struggles with certain physical ailments that affect the mind. However, the mind is part of our body and is subject to being attacked by ailments. We all must remember that this body of flesh will not enter into heaven as we have a new body (all parts see and unseen will be new) that God has prepared for us that will function flawlessly.

One day we will not struggle with Alzheimer or other incapacities that affect the brain. One day, those who are in Christ will never again suffer from any form of human disease and sickness because when we see Jesus in glory, all tears will be dried, and there will be no more sickness and death. Although we struggle here, we must remain hopeful that our time of deliverance is at hand. If not now, then surely when Jesus returns for the church and we are all changed from mortal to immortality. We must **keep hope alive**, and we can **remain hopeful** if we remember we are just passing through down here. *Our time here is far shorter than eternity!*

Residing in Fort Worth, TX, Dr. Vanessa Dantzer Ussery is the Emeritus Pastor of Home Assembly Church in Los Angeles and currently serves as its Chief Executive Officer. She is also the founder of "Celebrate Change Ministries" and the author of "My Be Attitude: Who Be You?", which is available online in softcover or eBook at MyBeAttitude.org, Xulon Press, Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Dr. Ussery is available for national speaking engagements, empowerment seminars, and lectures.

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