SCRIEPTURE:
A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing" he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them." (Mathew 8:2–4, also told in Luke 5 and Mark 1)

Jesus healing lepers is also told in Luke 7, Matthew 11, and Luke 17. Luke 17 tells of Jesus healing ten men but only one returned to thank Jesus.

MEDITATION:
Scripture testifies that Jesus healed many with leprosy and other diseases. Today leprosy is largely controlled, but there are other diseases that aren't. The words "you have cancer" decimate many lives; it sounds like a death sentence. But God loves and God heals.

Like the leper in Matthew 8, I have the privilege to testify to God's love, God's grace, and God's willingness to heal...multiple times.

One Tuesday I picked up the phone and heard the words you never want to hear: "Mr. Woerner, you have cancer. It is a malignant melanoma; it is malevolent and aggressive. I made an appointment for you with a surgeon on Friday because I could not find a surgeon anywhere in the state sooner." That surgeon promised to attack the cancer with lethal injections, death rays, and to "slice and dice." The most likely prognosis was three to six months. There were numerous days of tests during which I was the calmest person there. I had assurance of survival. The cancer was removed from my hand, and lymph nodes were removed from my elbow and armpit, with inconclusive results.

The concern that it had metastasized was great and monthly checks were scheduled. After a month, I felt lumps; the doctor felt lumps. Apparently, the cancer had returned. Every morning cancer seemed to raise its head and snarl at me, taunt me, and haunt me. Driving to a monthly checkup, I felt the lumps, and it was more than I could bear. I pleaded with God for healing. Five minutes later the doctor could not find the lumps; I could not find the lumps. They ceased to exist —instantly, permanently.

Behind this simple story is another story of God's grace and curing. Months before the "you've got cancer" phone call, while I was walking the dog one night, I heard, "You have cancer"; but there was no one around. There was no noise; it was a message directly to my head. I stopped and pleaded with God for enough time to raise my children, then whatever happened, let God's will be done; and I would testify to God's grace. I felt that the request was accepted and that 15 years were granted. A month later a lump grew rapidly and a visit to a doctor ensued. It had none of the characteristics of melanoma. It seemed benign, totally harmless; a pyrogenic agglomerosa. We decided to cut it off and schedule an appointment, but with vacations and scheduling, the surgery was delayed for six weeks. At that time, the lump stopped growing; instead of continuing to expand, it totally stopped. God had stopped its growth. The surgery revealed it to be a melanoma, and I got the phone call.

Since then, there have been more skin cancers, 26 in all; but God has been gracious and each one has been removed. Every year there is no new cancer, I celebrate. When there is cancer, I
praise God for healing. I am blessed. I am thankful. God did not grant the requested 15 years; he has granted 26 years so far.

I testify that God cares, God cures, God is great. God is greater than the cancer in your life.

REFLECTION:
Hard times, the personal hurricanes in life, are special opportunities to see God in action. These hurricanes are difficult to live through and they test our faith. We need to be aware that they are part of the journey and the test of life; yes, life is a daily opportunity to bring glory to our Lord. Handle these hard times with grace and trust in God and grow from them. The test of life: if you follow Jesus, you have all the answers. Just live the life he wants you to live.

Take time to thank God for supporting you through your hurricanes. Tell others. It supports them through their hurricanes and honors God. Be the leper who came back to Jesus.

Because of my cancers I know that God cares, that God cures. It is real, not theoretical. Faith is extremely important but I have been blessed with knowledge that God is always there for me. His plan for me is eternal life in heaven. That is my goal. Cancer is just one of the ways he brought me closer to him. God is our salvation.

PRAYER:
Lord, creator of the universe and all that is in it. You are awesome. This life has many hurricanes. Let them help me continue to build faith in you, knowing that if life gets too tough and I cannot handle it, that you are there and your strength is sufficient.

Thank you for your graciousness, for healing, for loving and walking beside us in this world. Thank you for the limitless strength you provide. Holy Spirit, please live in my life, my heart, my soul, my mind. Help me be the man you want me to become. Help me and all humankind through the hurricanes in this life. May this bring glory to God.

Lord, I love you. Thanks for being in my life. Thank you for wanting me in heaven for eternity. Jesus, thank you for paying the price that opens heaven to me. Thank you for the invitation. I accept. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:
Graham A. Woerner has a BS in Chemistry and a SM in Chemical Engineering. He has developed or invented multiple new products in telecommunications, cables, food applications, and medical applications. Retired; he is a panelist for NSF, a SCORE mentor, and an adjunct professor at New Hampshire Technical Institute.
Graham was largely uninterested in religion for many years but loved natural science and mentally collected interesting science facts. Those facts accumulated until he could no longer deny that there had to be a creator. After accepting Christ into his life, God made his life much, much better.