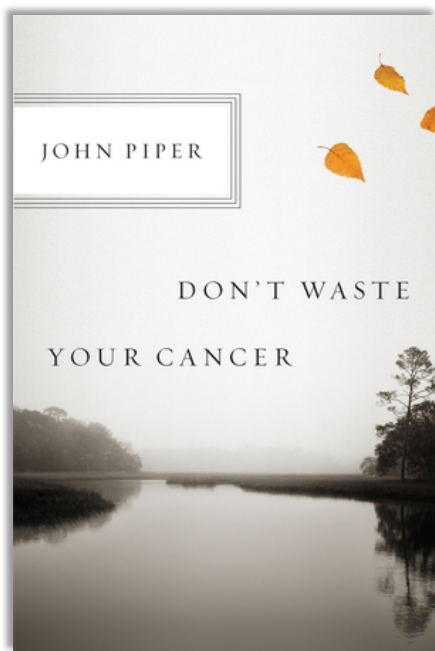


## book of the month *Don't Waste Your Cancer* by John Piper



*Don't Waste Your Cancer* by John Piper is a well-timed read for Grace Bible Church. This tiny booklet has proven its value time and time again as I have shepherded my own heart through four and a half years of my son's leukemia diagnosis and treatment. Then recently, as two more in our church body have had their bodies ravaged by cancer, I saw the pastoral wisdom of John Piper found in this booklet bear more fruit. Now in the face of a premature death, it feels like our church is surrounded by trials; it can feel overwhelming. Yet, God is still on His throne; not a single trial, blessing, or any experience in between happens apart from His sovereign will or outside of His purposes. He has brought us these trials (in love), and they all work together for our good and His glory.

Our trials are real, the pain hurts, the weariness is exhausting, and the suffering threatens to overwhelm. Nevertheless, these trials are real opportunities to live out our faith, to trust in God and His sovereign love and grace, to be sanctified, to show love, and ultimately to glorify God. The primary goal of the trial is not merely to get through it, to survive. So Piper's aim--and what we should all be aiming at in our trials be they cancer, sickness, the death of a loved one, or something seemingly much more mundane--is that we do not waste our cancer.

Cancer and other severe trials can overwhelm the mind and confuse the heart. This booklet is wisely incredibly short, just a few pages. But, on each page, you will be both challenged and encouraged. I have found much comfort in these pages, and I have found many opportunities for repentance. My heart is heavy with the weightiness of the trials God is bringing us through as a church, and I am excited to see what our Heavenly Father is accomplishing in us.

Though you could easily read this book in a single sitting in just a few minutes, I recommend that you consider reading each "chapter" separately combined with much prayer and journaling. It would be helpful to read with others as well with discussion. Prepare to be challenged and encouraged. Here are the ways that the book will challenge and encourage you to not waste your cancer (or other trials):

1. We waste our cancer if we don't hear in our own groaning the hope-filled labor pains of a fallen world.
2. We waste our cancer if we do not believe it is designed for us by God.
3. We waste our cancer if we believe it is a curse and not a gift.
4. We waste our cancer if we seek comfort from our odds rather than from God.
5. We waste our cancer if we refuse to think about death
6. We waste our cancer if we think that "beating" cancer means staying alive rather than cherishing Christ.
7. We waste our cancer if we spend too much time reading about cancer and not enough time reading about God.
8. We waste our cancer if we let it drive us into solitude instead of deepen our relationships with manifest affection.
9. We waste our cancer if we grieve as those who have no hope.
10. We waste our cancer if we treat sin as casually as before.
11. We waste our cancer if we fail to use it as a means of witness to the truth and glory of Christ.

The booklet can be downloaded for free in PDF format at <https://document.desiringgod.org/don-t-waste-your-cancer-en.pdf>. We also have it for sale in printed form at the Booktable.

*Jacob Hantla*