



PAUL NEFF

paulslifelessons.com  
**Live Like You Were Dying**  
**Devotion**

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## **What Does It Mean To Live Like You Are Dying?**

This was a question I was forced to answer on December 7, 2013 when I received a call from my doctor and all I remember him saying was “Paul, I hate to tell you. You have cancer and you may only have three years to live.”

I’ll never forget the feeling after that call. It felt like I had been hit by a ton of bricks. I’ve been blessed to live a good life and I’m very thankful to God for it. But it’s unfortunate that it often takes life-threatening situations to get you re-thinking your priorities. Am I at the place I want to be? Am I on track with where God wants me to be?

Once the shock of the news had subsided, my mind moved to a place of Faith. And it occurred to me that three years to live was really the ideal time. If I had been told I have less than 12 months, then I wouldn’t really think through things but just make radically changes. Three years though was enough time for me to say “Okay, if I want to make the most of those three years, what are the things I should be doing differently?” Over my treatment period of 90 days, God literally gave me a list of thirty-five things I needed to focus on differently.

I understand, until you hear those words for yourself, it’s hard to imagine truly where your mind goes after that. We often think we will live to a good old age. This is natural and just the way we think.

What about you?

### **Question #1 Lean In**

What does the phrase 'Live like you're dying' mean to you?

### **James 4:13-14**

13Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

### **Question #2 Look Down**

What does the passage teach us about how we view time?

### **Question #3 Look Out**

What are some of the excuses people make when it comes to their time and focus?

### **Question #4 Look In**

What areas or plans in your life do you feel you need to seek God further?

### **Question #5 Live It Out**

What impact would you have if you changed one area in your life and lived it out differently?

I thank God for my cancer journey because it impacted and changed me. Living through that has taught me it is a very healthy way to live.