

# Joanie Shawhan



## Speaker

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As an RN, I had observed the ravages of cancer and chemotherapy inflicted upon my oncology patients. I never expected to join their ranks.

But in September of 2006, I rolled over in bed and felt a grapefruit-size mass in my abdomen. I thought it was a fibroid, as did my doctor until the ultrasound revealed ovarian cancer. My doctor removed a volleyball-size mass.

By God's grace, I survived the emotional roller coaster spinning to the tune of "What if...?" I endured the ravages of chemotherapy: baldness, crushing chest pain, nausea and brain fog as well as the fatigue that siphoned my strength and left me winded.

Several months later, I donned my scrubs and resumed

my nursing career. I retired after 34 years of nursing that included oncology, dialysis and critical care.

I now write encouraging articles for women undergoing chemotherapy. My publishing credits include *Coping with Cancer* magazine, *God Still Meets Needs* and *The Upper Room*. I also speak to medical students about ovarian cancer in the Survivors Teaching Students program sponsored by the Wisconsin Ovarian Cancer Alliance.

Coming soon! Look for my book *In Her Shoes: Dancing in the Shadow of Cancer* scheduled to be released in 2019 by Elk Lake Publishing, Inc.

You can follow my blog posts on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram or my website: [joanieshawhan.com](http://joanieshawhan.com)

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## Speaking Topics

**Torn, Tattered, Woven.** Life events can tear us apart and we wonder if we will ever be whole again. But God can gather the frayed pieces of our lives and weave them into a beautiful tapestry reflecting His glory.

**Help! The World is Spiraling Out of Control!** How are we to respond when the culture around us seems to be spinning toward a downward trajectory? God has revealed a pattern for us in the Psalms.

**Firestorm!** Fires often roar around us with no warning, leaving a wake of devastation and debris. How do we come through the trials by fire in our lives without smelling like smoke?

**Dancing in the Shadow of Cancer.** My journey through ovarian cancer and what I have learned to encourage others whether you are a cancer survivor or standing with a loved one in the shadow of cancer.

**The Elusive Mr. Happiness.** Compared to many in the world, we have more than enough, so why are we unhappy?

**His Eye Is On the Sparrow.** But what does God really see when he looks at us? Who are we under is loving gaze?

**If Joy Is the Language of Heaven, Then Why Do I Feel Like a Foreigner?** Jesus said that He came so our joy may be full (John 15:11) What is joy and how can we experience joy in our everyday lives?

This talk works well as a three-part presentation or retreat format.

**Help, I'm Sinking! Where is My Life Preserver?** Sometimes our baggage prevents us from experiencing the presence of the Lord in our lives. What do we need to toss overboard?

Other topics available upon request.