

SURRENDER

I was big on control. Always had been but many years ago, almost 40 years ago. I underwent a change. I had found a lump. I went to the doctor, and he could not extract fluid for testing but said he would recheck it in a couple of weeks. I was not overly concerned but when it persisted, I felt this one needed to be surgically removed. When I went back to the doctor a few weeks later and he walked into the room I said, "I think this one needs to be removed." He looked relieved and said he agreed. Surgery was scheduled and I prayed that it would have negative results, and I even bought an off one shoulder dress for my daughter's wedding because I believed my prayer would be answered and the dress would show my faith. When I was in the operating room the doctor came in and said my mammogram was negative and he did not expect any problems. Then he woke me up telling me it was cancerous. I told him I was surprised, and he said he was too. I told him I had bought a dress, and he told them to give me more oxygen because I was not awake yet. Surgery was scheduled for a few days later. I prayed that it would not be in the lymph nodes because then I could avoid chemotherapy. It was in the lymph nodes, and I had to have chemo for 9 months. I began to wonder about my relationship with God. My prayers were not being answered and I realized that I was using prayer to tell God what I wanted and not letting God take charge. I began to close my prayers with a prayer of surrender and saying, "not my will but thy will." I had surrendered my control. I no longer had to control the situation I would let God control, and I would accept. With my change in attitude and giving up what was going to happen I felt free from the worry and anxiety and let God take charge. I realized I could not influence what would or would not happen but that with God I would get through whatever happened. It was a lesson that helped to shape my relationship with a loving God that I trusted for my life and all the trials I would face in the future. By the way, I never wore the "good luck dress." I gave it to Goodwill and bought a dress that I liked much better.

Lord, may we remember that we cannot control things that happen but with you at our side we can get through the challenges that come with life and that you are there always, helping us and guiding us. Be with us in all things and in all of our days. Be with those that are ill and those that grieve, may they find you in their strength and may they be comforted. Be with us and guide us in all things. In Jesus name we pray always. Amen

Isaiah 40:28-31 Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary and young men stumble and fall but those that hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles, they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Grace Epperson