

Kingdom Moments – God is So Good



TC Vegas
April 9, 2023

Left: TC and Ben Vegas

At the end of July 2017, I was single and found a lump in my breast that was determined to be **breast cancer**. In the **first ten minutes**, a cold wave rushed over me as the blood probably drained from my face, and **I sat there stunned**. Then something rose up out of me and I began declaring the word of God over my life out loud and, just like that, the fear left.

TWO MIRACLE HEALINGS

After the diagnosis, Pastor Rob had the whole church lay hands on me along with another woman who was also dealing with cancer and who had been writing out her will because her cancer was aggressive. During the prayer I felt like I was wrapped up in a big cocoon of His love. Shortly after getting prayer, the other woman received a call from her doctor saying he might have to start coming to church with her because he could no longer find the cancer.

Around the same time, Pastor Rob had also prayed for another woman who was also dealing with breast cancer and was actually at the hospital when she called him. She was confused as the doctor had just told her that they couldn't find her cancer. She asked Pastor Rob what she should do and he told her go home!

A DIFFERENT PATH

As much as I was believing for God to do the same for me, I was allowed to walk through almost six years of it due to multiple reoccurrences. Two years ago, they also found out that the little spot on my lung was also lung cancer, on top of the breast cancer. To date I have had a single and double mastectomy, surgery to remove one third of the upper right lobe of my lung, sixteen rounds of chemo, sixty-nine rounds of radiation, three rib fractures and another five miscellaneous surgeries related to my journey.

GOD IS SO GOOD

Today, I am here to tell you that God is good! God is so good! That is who He is regardless of your circumstances and even when you cannot see the end from the beginning, He can. Here are just a few of the ways He has been good to me:

1. God's Perfect Timing: To say God's timing is perfect is an understatement. A few days after I had found the lump, I got a Facebook message from Benny who was a friend for over twenty years asking me out on a date. I thought someone was punking me, but as it turns out, it was really him. Right in the beginning stage of dating, I let him know what was going on and told him that if he wanted to exit stage left, now would be a good time. Benny looked at me and said God already told him that he was going to walk me through this season. I think he got more than he signed up for.

2. Church Ohana: God blessed me with extended ohana in my church family who have faithfully stood in the gap for me and Benny for these last six years. I know I was on the prayer list of many people, and many times I could literally feel the prayers of others and was strengthened through them. There were those who called, fed, prayed and even cried with me. Pastor Rob would check in with me weekly and he always had a knack for calling when I was ready to have some procedure. So, while it was going on, he would be praying on the other end. People often ask why they need to go to church when they can just stay home and have a relationship with Jesus. I always tell them that we were created for community; we were created for family. Just ask God who created Adam. In a family we are protected, nurtured and cared for as part of a flock. When we're alone, we are prey for the enemy and that is when we begin listening to lies and untruths. When you are in a church family, you are surrounded by people who can remind you what the word of God says, who you are, and more importantly, whose you are.

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3. God's Provision: As you can imagine walking through an illness like cancer can be financially devastating. Yet God has always made a way. **Not only did I get help from my family for much of it, my work provided good insurance. In the first six months of my journey I received a letter from my insurance company letting me know they had already paid \$175K of medical bills on my behalf.**

4. Generous Giving of Co-workers: The second time I had to go on leave from work for chemotherapy, I found out I didn't have enough sick leave left because of the earlier surgeries and I didn't qualify for TDI. **After a voluntary request letter that is available for persons in hardship was sent out by HR, my co-workers at the medical school donated their own vacation time and I was able to stay out at full pay. Although I was out for a little less than seven months, I actually had enough donations to stay out a year if I had to. They let me know that they had never seen someone receive that amount of donations ever in their history.**

5. God's Guidance and Confirmation: God began giving detailed and timely dreams about me to one of my co-workers who is a believer. They were dreams that would let me know some specifics about how He would be walking me through what was coming up. He also gave identical dreams regarding my future to two other co-workers, an unbeliever and a person that I had just led to the Lord. I believe this was not only encouragement for me but was an opportunity to show them His great love and that He is real.

6. Serving in the Midst of the Storm: God has given Benny and I the privilege of leading worship while sharing testimonies of His goodness at several different churches. He has also allowed me to minister to countless others who have faced storms of their own and share the love of God with them. Many have received His peace in their time of need and/or received answered prayers because He is so good.

MORE SURGERY

This past November I had surgery to remove the lung cancer. Prior to the surgery, a scan had showed there were a few more areas of concern aside from the cancer on the right lung. The surgeon removed the lung cancer. Praise God, she did not see the hole in my rib that the scan had shown the day prior, but she did see another spot on the opposite lung that the scan picked up but did not touch it.

At the followup appointment, the surgeon let us know that they tested the tissue samples taken from the surgery and found out that the **breast cancer had metastasized and reached the lung.** Going home after that visit wasn't easy as I was so disappointed. I shed a few tears because I was tired. But what I love about my relationship with God is that even when I get knocked down, I am always able to crawl back into His lap for comfort. There are many days I sit in my prayer room above the stream in my back yard and He will minister to me with the sounds of His waters washing over me. There are many times I am comforted just by singing worship songs to Him and then joy returns in the morning.

PRAYER AND REST

A few days later I got a text from my friend Mae who thought she heard the Lord say to have the elders pray for me. Ben also said he got the same word. So, we called Pastor Rob and he gathered the elders who came to pray over me and it was a powerful time.

Pastor Barb had a word that it was my turn to rest. In fact Pastor Rob later shared with me that while there are definitely times for prayer and petition, even fasting; there are other times when we say, "Lord, I've done what you asked us to do and so now I simply rest in you" and leave it at His feet. So that is exactly what I did. **It was easier said than done, but I knew that was from Him.** Although it is human nature many times to want to be doing something, this wasn't one of those times.

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ALL CLEAR

About a month later, they sent me for another scan and this time the scan was clear for the first time in several years. I was also given a special blood test where they are able to search your blood for dead cancer cells and obviously if they find them, they know there was active cancer at some point. We found out a few weeks ago that my blood is also clear. God is and always will be good.

I believe that we truly are in a season where we will start to see accelerated miracles. It has already begun. Pastor Rob always refers to it as the dinner bell to call people to Jesus. It is one of the most exciting times in history.

BLESSINGS IN THE PROCESS

But I also want to encourage those of you who are still waiting for your miracle to not lose hope. So many times we try to bypass the process and want the miracle which is awesome. But I always say that God loves us too much to leave us the same and perhaps the greater miracle is in the process — the things that God can only give to you by walking you through your storm, such as the revelation, wisdom, humility, greater faith, trust, compassion, authority, forgiveness, and perseverance. The list is endless.

I wouldn't wish cancer on anyone, but the blessings that I have received during this season far exceed anything that I could ever walk through. Yes, I wish healing manifested in the natural like those other ladies who got instantly healed. Am I eternally grateful for the season I have been allowed to walk through with Him? The answer is also YES!

We have to want the Healer more than the healing, the Deliverer more than the deliverance, and the God of the breakthrough more than the breakthrough. But the bottom line is that we can trust Him because He is faithful. I have learned more than ever that His timing is perfect. I often quote one of my favorite verses: He works all things out for the good of those who love Him.

A NED BRIDE WITHOUT SPOT OR BLEMISH

Although according to the medical community, a person is not cancer free until they reach the five-year, all-clear mark; I am NED, which stands for No Evidence Detected. As I wrote out this testimony, I realized that NED is actually the message of Resurrection Sunday: Jesus took our place on the cross. He became sin and paid the price for our sin. Now if we are truly in Christ and if we have made Him Lord over our lives; then God no longer sees us or the spots on us. Instead, He sees the righteousness of His Son.

That is the eternal diagnosis of NED that was handed down 2000 years ago for you and me. As His sons and daughters, He reminds us that He is coming back for a Bride that is NED — without spot or blemish. So, Father today as we commemorate the risen Christ, may the Lamb who was slain receive every bit of reward for His suffering in and through every area of our lives, in Jesus's name.

