

It was just an annual visit to my doctor, but a life-changing visit. Due to a simple test in the office, I was referred to a urologist and would see him in a few days. There was a possibility I could have cancer and since two of my siblings had died of it, I sat up and took note.

As I always do when facing or going through a tough time, I went to God and began to search my heart for anything displeasing to Him and would read the scriptures and pray. At the urologist's office, my doctor ran a test and found a mass. Being a person who would normally "freak out" at such news, I felt lifted above the circumstance as a spectator and not a participant. I knew God was there and in complete control. Much to my surprise, I was calm.

The doctor scheduled surgery and removed the mass and informed me that in a couple of weeks, I would have another surgery to see if he got it all or if it had gone into the muscle of the bladder. If it had, I would lose my bladder thereby drastically changing my lifestyle. This was of great concern to me and I asked my church to help me pray. The day before surgery, my pastor's wife, Debbie Daniels, a great prayer warrior, walked through the church office where I work and said that God had awakened her in the night and told her to pray for Johnnie. So she got up and prayed for an hour

and a half. This is a woman with 4 young children who has a very busy life, but she was obedient. I was blown away. She said God told her to tell me to read Romans 8:26-27.

That night as I was thinking and praying about surgery the next morning, I asked God how to pray. "Do I pray to be healed? Do I pray: please heal me if it is Your will?" God, You said, "the one who believes in me will do greater works than these...".

Why do we not see this? Then I remembered that Debbie said to read the passage from Romans. So I got out my Bible and read it. It says, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God."

I thought if the Spirit is interceding to the Father in line with His wishes, then it is a done deal. Even if I die, I'll go out on top.

That was 2 ½ years ago and I am still cancer free. I tell this story to my grandchildren because experiencing God is life changing. Absolutely nothing compares to being able to communicate with the Living God and have Him answer the cries of your heart.



BY JOHNIE GAYLE SLOAN

## **I want my grandkids to know the cry of my heart!**

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