

Leslie Poindexter

Before cancer I was going down the highway of life doing a hundred miles per hour with no destination or hope, just lost. In the past year I had lost my grandmother, my mom, and had separated from my husband. I WAS STRESSED OUT! I was just working myself to death.

One day at work, I decided to go up front to get lunch, I never went up front, but this day for some reason, I felt I should. There was an older lady at my job that I had admired for the last twenty-five years. I always thought she was so sweet and beautiful. I had heard she was a survivor, so I would always look for her to check on her. I saw her that day and went up to speak to her. It is funny, but we had never known each other's names. She asked me, "How are your breasts?" This shocked me because I had a knot (lump) on my chest that had gotten bigger. She asked to feel it. She put her hand on it and began to pray and cry. She told me to go to the doctor right away. She said she had been looking for me because she had a dream about me. It scared me so bad that I dropped everything and went. I now call her my angel.

My mammogram was on 6/20/2011. While sitting in the waiting room I opened the newspaper and saw my mom's beautiful picture, realizing it was the anniversary of her death the year before. I was devastated. After I received my diagnosis I cried for days, I had too much to deal with too fast. I lost it and all I could do was pray and surrender myself to God. I totally gave up all my stress, my problems, and my worries. I've always loved God and believed in His strength or at least I thought I did.

Cancer was the best thing that could have happened to me at the time. Within a couple weeks after my cancer was diagnosed, I felt peace in the middle of it all. My time in treatment was the most peaceful time I can remember. I turned that steering wheel over to God. I learned not to stress. I know that I'm not in control of anything. No matter the struggle, you can find peace and the grace of God. I never want cancer again, but I've learned to love the cancer I did have. It slowed me down, made me accept God's navigation, and taught me to smell the roses of life. I am committed to advocating for the importance of yearly exams.