

"I am loved but weak and broken, a child of God waiting to be repaired. God help me, please, I give You myself and this mess. You are the one I trust.

-Kevin Matthews



My Little Story

by Judy Earl

In 2007 my MRI showed I had a brain tumor in my cerebellum.

Most of the ride home from the doctor's office was very quiet, then Mom's words (that before drove me crazy but were now the most beautiful, comforting, loving words) came to mind; "*Judy, turn it over to God, put yourself in His hands, and let it go!!!*"

I broke the silence. "By the grace of God, I'm going to beat this and see my grandchild grow up and get married, God willing."

I place myself into your hands, Lord, believing that before I was knitted in my mother's womb, God had a plan for me, and that's all I need to know.

I place my weak and broken, loving and trusting self into God's hands, completely letting go of myself, my control. I choose to rest and trust in You as I grow deeper into my relationship with Jesus.

I am nothing without Jesus who is always with me, always listens and talks to me, holding me in his loving arms, resting in his lap. I am never alone; my best, true, only friend is always with me. I just have to open the door to my heart and invite him in for a cup of tea and ...

March 2007: First MRI (27 and counting) showed a brain tumor in my cerebellum.

Friday, I had an MRA which showed my brain on a laptop, turned in any direction, sliced like a loaf of bread. It was really strange to see my brain that way. Dr Goodwin went over the plan of attack; first a biopsy to figure out the type of tumor. "No big deal, we will know by the time you wake up. Then we'll go from there, see you Monday morning."

Monday March 23 2007: My Brain Tumor Biopsy

When I woke up, Dr. Goodwin, Dr. Keller, and Tom where all looking at me; *I made it, hair intact, thank you, God!!* They were not sure what kind of tumor it was but soon they sent it to various labs around Oregon. A tech in Medford was frustrated, knowing it couldn't be a medulloblastoma, a childhood tumor mostly found in boys. They tested it anyway, and that's what it was—a Grade 4 tumor in my cerebellum.

Monday April 23, 2007: Brain Resection

Dr. Goodman refered me to San Francisco, to one of the top Brain Surgeons in the country, Dr. Presdos, who oversaw my case. The tumor was resected by neurosurgeon, Dr. Parsa, who we met the Friday before my second surgery, for about 5 minutes, at the end of a hallway. He looked where Dr. Goodwin entered and said, "Oh good I can go in through the same spot; see you Monday morning." I was resting in God's loving arms.

Some of the tumor was attached to the sack where the spinal fluid is held, so I went through six weeks of radiation, ten months of heavy chemotherapy, oral and intravenous. God sent me

Dr. Kenyon, the most kind, gentle, loving oncologist; *I'm cancer free, God willing!!!*

My life, post surgeries, was and still is a constant battle of staying in God's Light of Love and out of the darkness of anxiety, doubt, self-pity, and frustration that lead to anger and harsh words, that I don't even mean, directed at my loving husband and family. I keep my eyes on that speck of light, shining in the darkness, remembering Mary's words to Joseph who was worried, stressed about finding a place for Mary to have baby Jesus. She says so gently, "Don't worry, God will provide."

God sent me living saints who help me so much with their love, kindness, generosity, friendship; that keeps me in the light.

Through many prayers, talks, listening to Jesus, on the couch and favorite quiet spots, by reading, praying with Scripture, praying for the graces of spiritual freedom, I surrender. I have perfect trust, sensitive to how God touches me. I try to see everything through God's eyes, being open that at any moment might bring Jesus' true presence. I ask God what He wants me to do or where He wants to send me... *Yes, I will!*

This song helps me in those times of being in the darkness, by focusing on the speck of light: **Be not Afraid**; Isaiah 43:2-3 Luke 6:20

<https://genius.com/John-michael-talbot-be-not-afraid-lyrics>

God's Love is the great golden thread that connects us. It can never be broken or destroyed, for love is the only thing that endures. Love is forever.

My life, as I knew it, changed that day in the doctor's office. It took months, then one day, I heard God whisper in my ear, "My little one, you are a present-moment miracle—I preciously created and masterfully designed you unlike anyone else."

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Through it all (and still to come), God has always been with me every moment of every day. I know now that nothing can happen to me today that Jesus, my best, true, only friend and I can't handle together. No one can ever take away my faith, hope, trust, love of God; it's for me to give up, and I'll never let it go.

Thank you for my brain tumor—a blessing sent to me from my loving God, and a reminder that I can always draw strength from the beautiful comforting loving words of Jesus:

"I am with you always, until the end of the age."

"The power of prayer is so simple that it should be shared by all."
-Kevin Matthews