The Rainbow

I had successful lung surgery a little over a year ago. When we talk about how God often puts us through trials and tribulations for a reason, this was clearly an example of that for me. I have grown so much in my relationship with Him and I recognize His presence in my life so much more. I have become more grateful for all He has done in my life and continues to do.

A gray smudge on my lung had been noticed six years ago, when I had to have a test for something completely unrelated to my lungs. I was told to continue to check it for any change. After having it checked periodically, on the sixth year a tiny nodule had appeared. I was told by the radiologist I could continue to monitor it as it was so small. I got a clear message from God that it was time for it to be removed. Fortunately, a wonderful surgeon I went to see agreed. As it turned out, it was the smallest malignant nodule he had ever removed in his forty years of practice. He was able to remove it all with no need for further treatment.

The way this lung issue was discovered and how it played out was a miracle from God in and of itself. I am forever grateful to Him for that.

The following is one of many testimonies that came out of my surgery experience.

One afternoon a few weeks before my surgery I got a feeling that I should take a walk. I looked outside and there was a dark cloud looming. Normally, I would not have left for a walk because of that. After a couple of months preparing for my imminent lung surgery, my relationship with the Lord had really intensified. I could sense He wanted me to go for that walk and I said “Yes Lord.” I grabbed my umbrella and headed out.

As I was about 10 minutes into my walk it began to pour down rain. My walk is in an area with a couple of small strip centers on my left, and condo buildings that are on the beach on my right. As it kept raining harder and harder, I found a storefront overhang to stand under. As I was standing there this intense feeling came over me to pray for a rainbow. Rainbows have been a way that God has spoken to me in very timely and special moments over the years.

As I stood under the overhang I began to pray intensely for a rainbow. I prayed about my upcoming surgery and continued to repeat over and over again, Jesus please send me a rainbow, Jesus please sent me a rainbow. After about 30 or 40 seconds of this I opened my eyes and lo and behold there was a rainbow that was visible to me in the sky across the way between two apartment buildings.

Oh my goodness!! I stood there in awe as tears of gratitude streamed down my face. I pulled out my phone and took photos as I know from my past that rainbows can disappears quickly. I had to have this rainbow with me for the rest of my life. I did a short recording of how I was feeling at that very moment. I had to capture all of this because I wanted to stay in gratitude and continue to relive those moments.

A few weeks after my surgery, I was taking the same walk to get my strength back. I noticed something I had never noticed on that walk that I had taken quite often. The covering I was standing under in the pouring rain that day was a storefront for a company that supplies emergency helicopters for transporting medical patients. The name of the company was above my head in big, bold letters and it read Trinity. I was standing under a sign that said Trinity praying to Jesus for a rainbow. Oh my goodness! Another moment of praise and joy as God gave me even more of His glory for my story.

I took my photo into surgery with me and had it close by my side during my hospital stay, where God’s presence continued to be felt. I still look at that photo and praise God for that rainbow.

The other message God gave me fairly recently is that when we are going through something that we could call a dark cloud in our lives, never assume what that darkness means. Do not let the enemy or our minds take over. Refuse to surrender to the what ifs and the doubts. Stay the course, push through, and focus on God. Stay grateful, stay righteous, and stay obedient. We must do our best to give God the time He deserves each day.

Only God knows the plans He has for us, and He tells us they are for good and not for evil. Dark clouds don’t always mean storms. I could have very easily stayed home that day because of that cloud. That is what my mind was telling me to do. But thank God I heard His voice and in obedience I ventured out to receive the blessing He had for me. I give all glory to God.