God Always Has a Next!

June 25, 2015 By Rae Lewis-Thornton

What I know for sure is that God always has a next! I have believed this since I was a little girl being told I was never gonna be shit. Even back then after every unjust beating, I continued to have hope for something better than my right now.

In time I learned, if I just kept holding on, there was something new for me. Now, it didn't always amount to the the things I wanted most, for the abuse to stop, but there was always something to make life worth living. Like the black theatre company, Thunder and the choir, Project Advancement Gospel Ensemble in high school. Those things were a joy to my soul and gave me a place to be other than my home.

Now, for sure it wasn’t just about waiting on next, but putting myself in the right places at the right time. Sometimes we wait on next like it’s going to fall in our lap, when in fact you may need to get off your ass and get to next. For example, I had to at least go to the information meetings about the theatre company and choir when I was in high school. I had to act on my own behalf.

I could have allowed the pain of my home stop me from living, but I choose to keep moving, keep searching for a better life. I believed that I was better than what my mother said I was and I went searching for better. The choir and theatre company gave me not only a respite from the chaos at my home, but a place that could nurture my self-esteem.

What I’m saying is this, it’s about believing, but also about doing something in your right now. Why complain about something better, when you ain’t doing nothing better?

I’ve carried that belief into my adulthood, no matter how bad it may seem in my right now, I kept on pushing to see what God had next for me. At my lowest moments with AIDS, I kept this belief close to my heart. When my T-Cell Count was as low as 8, I was crisscrossing this country speaking and giving voice to the voiceless.

If I had allowed the hardship of my disease control my life, rather than continue on my life journey, I would have never met my BFF. I didn’t know then that the sixteen year old who introduced me at the Jack and Jill Event in Knoxville, TN would turn out to become my ride and die years later. But what I know for sure, if I had stop living my life purpose because my t-cell count was 8 and stayed home and withered away, I would have never crossed Luke’s path. God sent me someone from

an unlikely situation to have my back on this journey years later. ***You never know what is happening in your right now that will be a part of your next.*** This is way you have to keep pushing through the right now.

It’s like that with every single thing. You never know what tomorrow will bring. I understand that when you are going through, it seems like it’s never going to end. For those who have been following my story you know my ordeal with herpes and IV medication. It started out once a year, then every six months and then for almost two years I had to go on IV medication every three months. I was at the end of the road emotionally.

My doctor had exhausted every medical idea possible to control the herpes to no avail over a

seven years period. But I just kept on pushing through occluded veins and failed pic lines and extreme side-effects. I never stop living, there were times I took my IV medication on the road with me when I had to speak. I didn’t know what my future looked like, but as long as I woke up in the morning, I believed I was still a part of God’s earthly plan.

I continued to let God use me through speaking, blogging and social media. When I think about all the emails and private messages I have received from people who have been touched by my ministry. I understand, that living in the right now, isn't always about me, but about how God will use you. Even if it's simply to bring a smile to a stranger on the street with an hello. We all have a purpose.

Today, it's been an year since I've had herpes and needed to go on IV medication. The saying is true, man plans, then God laughs. My doctor had even concluded that there was nothing to be done and now we are both looking like WOW. I'm saying look at God. Baby, just keep on living and watch God blow your mind.

I know life gets hard sometimes for us all. Your issue may or may not be HIV. But I'm a living witness if you just keep on believing and keep doing, no matter how futile it may seem, God will always have a next. It may not be the next thing you want, but it's the next thing that will bless you. Let me pause and say, don't turn your nose up you what God has next for you. Our blessings come in many shapes and forms, but ***what I know for sure, is that God always has a next!***

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