

**Aaron Auiler**

### **Cancer and Its Affect on My Life Values and Goals**

I have been blessed to be raised in a Christian home and have parents that taught me the importance of seeking and knowing God's will and following it for everyday living. I learned biblical principles that have helped me to make good decisions; I determined early on in life to make choices ahead of time concerning specific activities I would not get involved in. Because I value God's Word and His plan for marriage, and my future wife, I have decided to remain chaste in mind and body. With all of this said, I want to make it very clear that I am not perfect, nor will I ever be here on this earth.

My main goal in life is to glorify God, which means that I follow His will for my life. He has put the desire in me heart to learn more and more about His word since I was a small child. I love God's Word so much and what to share it with others whenever I get the chance to. I believe God's specific will for me is to preach and teach the Word of God. He wants me to preach to the lost, but also, to edify the saints.

I graduated from High School in May of 2001 with 21 college credits from dual-enrollment classes. I was planning to attend Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia, Arkansas the following fall term. About a month and a half into out normally busy summer, I had noticed my right thigh muscle seemed a bit larger and a little more firm than the other. I mentioned it to my mom one day while in the car. I was in the back seat and it was not a good position for her to get a good look. She turned around and gave it her best shot, and also felt the difference in each, as I had pointed out for her to do. She agreed that there may have been a slight difference, but also thought since I had been helping her with so much gardening, (which entailed loading and pushing and unloading wheelbarrows of dirt) a big part of the summer, that I may have just worked one side more hard. Since I was not feeling any pain, I thought she may be right. We were busy getting ready for a mission trip and had just a few days after returning home to get ready for our vacation.

Almost a month later, after returning home from vacationing in Michigan, I was carrying my mother's luggage to her room and she was walking towards me the opposite way. She just happened to glance at my thigh, and in that position, she was able to see

how the tumor was so large that it was bulging in front of my other thigh! She was quite shocked at the size and that I had not really noticed it again.

Needless to say, we spend the next few weeks going from doctor to doctor, until I ended up in surgery having it removed. They removed it successfully and since it had not spread at all, there was only a 5% chance of it ever returning, so I didn't take the radiation. Although it was in a muscle, and a portion of that muscle had to be removed, I had my strength back and was walking on it the next day. The nurses were amazed, for the wound was over nine inches along my inner thigh! The Grisilis muscle is not needed for strength – it's almost like God designed us to have an extra muscle for times like these! Another amazing point is this: had it not been detected when it was, I would have been to college – 7 hours away, and would not have returned home until 4 months later. It very likely would have spread into a stage three cancer had I not noticed it myself.

I did not start college that fall semester, but I was able to add 2 video courses and a mission course to the 21 credits, starting at O.B.U. with 28 credits in January 2002 as a sophomore! Lord willing, I will graduate with a major in Biblical Studies and a triple Minor in Hebrew, Greek, and Philosophy. I want to preach the inerrant, infallible word of God and exhort people in the truth. After graduation I plan to go to seminary and get a Masters of Divinity and I may work toward a Doctorate in that study. God has called me – He will see me through. I do believe God has a plan for each of us, and though Satan may try to thwart them, God is always in control. My cancer experience has given me a firmer belief that God has called me to take his Word to a lost and hurting world.