



# ***A Confident Faith When Facing a Crisis***

LifeCare Memos® - Messages of Compassion

When I met Tim, I learned that he was a man whose illness had taken all of his hopes and dreams away. What did he have left as he faced the end of his life?

## ***Not Alone***

Many others, when facing losses through health crisis or aging, struggle with loss of meaning and uncertainty in their faith.

Dr. Jane Thibault, a clinical gerontologist stated, *“In our concern with material well-being, we have not yet attended to the issues of meaning, despair, and fear that keep emerging.”* (“Ministering to an Aging Society”, J. M. Thibault, PhD, Oates Journal)

## ***Who Changed Tim?***

Tim’s inner struggle led him for the first time to consider a relationship with **GOD**—through his faith! His search for meaning eventually led him to discover the wonderful forgiving love of his heavenly Father.

*“Yet the **LORD** longs to be gracious to you...”* (Isaiah 30:18a).

Later he said to me, “Why didn’t I do this sooner?” When he died, he was a forgiven and grateful man, confident in his faith and certain of his destiny after death.

## ***Too Many Doubts***

Often when people are asked if they know they are going to heaven after they die, many times their responses reflect uncertainty and doubt:

*“I hope so. I hope I’ve done enough good.”*

*“I have done too many wrongs. I can never be forgiven.”*

An older religious leader, whom many would have expected to know the answers, came to Jesus. But Nicodemus had the same basic life questions that we have today: can we know for certain that we are loved and forgiven by **GOD**?

Jesus' answer is wonderful good news:

*“For **GOD** so loved the world, that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life”* (John 3:16).

The answers for our deepest questions are not a religion or a philosophy, but found in a person. It began with **GOD**'s love for the world—for all of us!

### ***Cure for a Fatal Disease***

Like a skilled physician, **GOD** knew fundamentally what caused our fatal spiritual condition—the Bible calls it “sin”. As an older liturgical confession states,

*“We all have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed.”*

**GOD** also knew that we could not provide the “cure” for this fatal condition. That's why He lovingly provided the cure and gave His one and only Son to bear our sins for us. That's why Jesus died on the cross.

The Apostle Paul later wrote,

*“But **GOD** demonstrates His own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Romans 5:8).

### ***Accepting the Gift***

**GOD** provided us the true diagnosis and the only possible cure for sin. But why do so many still struggling with the disease of despair and purposelessness? The answer is simple: The prescribed cure does not help unless we personally receive what **GOD** has provided for us. Jesus said,

*“Whoever believes in Him, will not perish but have everlasting life”* (John 3:16b).

### ***How can I be sure?***

- **Admit you need help** from **GOD** because of your sin.
- **Believe** that **GOD** can forgive you when you ask.
- **Confess your sins and accept** His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.

*“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12-13).*

*“For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved” (Romans 10:11).*

- **Thank GOD** for giving you His gifts of forgiveness and eternal life through Jesus Christ. Jesus took our sins upon Himself so we do not have face judgment.
- **Trust GOD’s promises** that you are now His child. Eternal life with Christ does not depend on your efforts, but is promised to you because of what He did.

*“This is love: not that we loved **GOD**, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (I John 4:10).*

- **Read your Bible** so you learn to know God’s heart.

*“I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life” (I John 5:13).*

- **Share your decision** with other believers so they can encourage you.
- **Live to serve GOD every day.**

*“Dear friends, since **GOD** so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (I John 4:11).*

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### **LifeCare Memos<sup>®</sup>**

When experiencing the stresses of life, people need support. The Psalmist needed that support and found it when he turned to **GOD**. He said, *“Look to my right and see; no one is concerned for me. I have no refuge; no one **cares for my life**. I cry to you, O **LORD**; I say, ‘You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living’” (Psalm 142:4-5).*

**LifeCare Memos** are designed as messages of compassion that integrate biblical guidelines for emotional and spiritual well-being. Topics focus on various life-care issues and address them from the perspective of Scripture.