

End of Life

May 17, 2024

Wilton woke up and realized how tired he felt even though he slept through the night. He had worked more than normal in his house and yard yesterday to catch up on how untidy the house and yard were. His wife had died five years ago and as he became older and older, he realized how much the two of them took care of their house and yard but that being the one person made him more tired.

Wilton was now 84 years old and though he had several children to help him with some of life, like paying his bills and helping him get groceries from the market but was still getting slower and slower and more and more tired each day. He knew that and did know that since he retired ten years ago, he was not able to get as much done each day. In fact, the reason that he retired at 74 years old was that he was getting so tired each week he had to sleep Saturday and Sunday to rest for the next week of work.

His children had noted not only was he slower and slept more but he did things slower and thus he could do less tasks than before. As his children talked with each other they noted he had trouble both cooking something to eat and clean the dishes and put up. He could not do cooking and cleaning daily and after breakfast, lunch and supper. Now he had to wait several days and even then, could not do everything so his children would come over and help him clean his house and especially his kitchen.

Over time it became clear than Wilton was asked more and more questions by his children. Not just that he was slower in going to the grocery store but cooking at home and cleaning up. Further the children noted also that Wilton's driving not only was slower, but he had trouble arriving at an intersection as he could not decide where to go at that time. He did have two small car wrecks over the past year and did not have a wreck before and his children wanted him to stop driving.

Though Wilton did not want to stop driving he was beginning to wonder if that was the right thing to do. He was afraid he would kill someone driving his car as his eyesight, hearing and reflexes were declining or slowing down. He also was concerned he would have a car wreck and hurt himself or others. His children also were thinking the same thing and wanted him to stop driving as well.

Wilton's children were also concerned not just about his hearing and seeing or reflexes, but he could not walk very well and was having to use a cane to help him walk, which even several months ago did not have the need for walking assistance. In addition to trouble walking, he was having trouble with falling, which he did not have before even several months ago. He fell recently at home and broke one arm bone and is slowly getting better but that also limited him to getting dressed and also getting things done at all.

Wilton asked his children if they would do more driving for him and even get rid of his car and allow his children to do all his driving. His children said that they would sell his car and use the money for his grocery and house bills and drive him to get whatever he needed. Mostly he needed to go to the grocery store to get fresh food to fix. This was important as he was getting slower cooking at home, and he was afraid one day he would start a fire with cooking on the oven. His children were also concerned with this same issue that he would start a fire with cooking at home.

As a result of his children driving him to the grocery store, he was more alone during the day as other than going to the grocery store, he was having to be at home. He watched television or listen to the radio or read some but still lonely by himself. His wife had died ten years ago and since then the loneliness was growing over time as he and his wife could not interact daily.

One day a friend of Wilton's came by to see how Wilton was doing. Wilton told him that he was having trouble with some depression even though his kids came by at some time and he was having some depression even with reading, listening to the radio or watching television. Wilton's friend said he could understand as his wife had died also in the past and he had trouble at times with depression. However, Wilton's friend was much younger and also did not have many health problems as Wilton did. Wilton's friend noted he had trouble getting and walking.

Wilton's friend asked how he was doing, and Wilton said somewhat down and even depressed and he did not have near as much energy as in the past and had trouble driving, worsened hearing, seeing and just getting things done in his house like cooking and cleaning. Much of the problems was not just depression but Wilton just could not get things done and his fatigue was getting worse and worse.

Wilton's friend did know about Wilton's children and how much they helped. Wilton's friend did have children and grown but he also had just finished work and was doing work to help people in his neighborhood and build things for them and his house, like furniture, which he could do, and this kept him busy and not focused on being alone or depression. Wilton was too weak to help others.

Wilton's friend also noted that Wilton was much slower to talk and understand and much slower in getting up and walking and this had been happening over the past year to where his friend wonders if he was not going to be able to walk in the next several months. Though not mentioning this to Wilton he did note these dramatic changes of Wilton, which brought a significant health decline rapidly.

When asked about depression, Wilton's friend asked him if he was depressed now and though he said a little, Wilton's friend said that he thought he was much more depressed than before even a few months ago. As a result, Wilton's friend asked him if he would die soon, and Wilton said that he had thought about that point and glad he was asked about that issue. Wilton said he wondered with the rate of decline if he would die in a few months if now weeks or days. Wilton's friend asked him what he thought about death and its results.

Wilton really appreciated that question from his friend. He said he had thought about the results of death. For example, like his children being without him, the loss of friends he had now and what does death mean to him. Wilton's friend asked him about the difference between heaven and hell and death and though Wilton had thought about this he was not clear about the days or hours or minutes before death he did not what he would think about or do.

Wilton's friend said that death is explained in the Bible that there is a location at death of our soul, that is heaven or hell. Wilton asked why the difference between the two and his friend mentioned that is different based on what we believe here in this world. That belief was in the person of Jesus Christ. Wilton's friend told Wilton and Wilton asked his friend why Jesus Christ would make a difference between heaven or hell. Wilton's friend said he wanted to address that as with his health decline he did not Wilton to fear death now.

Wilton answered that question by saying in once sense he was scared as he was glad if he could go to heaven but had some fear of the end of life going nowhere or to hell though he doesn't know much about either. When Wilton's friend asked why he has some level of fear of death going nowhere or going to hell Wilton had no good answer. Wilton's friend said that there should not be fear of death at the end of life and Wilton asked why.

Wilton's friend said that our hope is in Jesus Christ because he is the Son of God and took the sins we did and all of mankind the same onto him on the Cross in Jerusalem, 2000 years ago and three days later rose again from dead. Then Jesus appeared to over 500 people to show he had conquered death forever and ascended to heaven to be with the Father God. It is through Jesus we have hope in this world and after death. Wilton went onto ask how he can have this hope of eternal life.

Wilton's friend said 'If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved. For, it is with the heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.' It is this faith that we need to have, which as a result gives up hope both now and after death.

Wilton was so excited to have hope both now and forevermore. Wilton told his friend that he knew that he was at the end of life and that he probably would die in either days or weeks before he died. But he was so glad to know that when he died, he would be in heaven with Jesus for ever more. Wilton asked his friend how to believe in Jesus.

Wilton's friend asked him to pray to Jesus after him. 'Dear Lord Jesus, I know that you are God and I know that you are perfect and that you died on the Cross for my sins and took my sins forever. Then after you died you were buried, and three days rose again from dead to give me new life. I believe and want salvation through you and have eternal life.'

Wilton told his friend he was so excited to have Jesus as his savior and though he would die soon he would now have the hope of eternal life.