

## Saving the Life of Another

Bill and Tom were best friends. They enjoyed each other's company and had since they were children. They had grown up together. They loved to hunt and fish.

One Saturday morning, they went hunting and there was an accident. As Bill was climbing over a barbed-wire fence, he fell and his gun went off, shooting himself in the leg. He began bleeding profusely.

Tom rushed to him and made a tourniquet to slow the bleeding. Tom picked up Bill, put Bill on his back, and carried him more than two miles through rough terrain to get to their car. All the while, he was saying, "You hang in there, Bill. Don't you die on me. I'm going to get you to the hospital, and we are going to get you well."

Tom tenderly put Bill into the car and rushed him to a nearby hospital for emergency surgery. It went well, and afterward, the doctor told Bill that he would be all right and he would recover nicely. The doctor also told Bill what Bill already knew – Tom had saved his life.

Years later, Tom had to undergo heart surgery. Bill stayed with Tom and Tom's wife around the clock for days and days. He would not leave the hospital. He would not leave his best friend. The medical staff at the hospital took notice, and they told Bill not to worry, that everything was going great for Tom. He was recovering beautifully.

The medical team told Bill it was OK to leave and get some rest because he must be exhausted. Bill thanked them for their concern, and then he told them the story of how Tom had carried him on his back for more than two miles to save his life years before. And then he added: "After what Tom did for me, there is nothing I would not do for him. If it weren't for Tom, I wouldn't be here today. I owe him everything. I owe him my life."

That is precisely how we as Christians gratefully feel because that is what Jesus did for us. He saved our lives, so there is nothing we should not do for Him.

He is the one who has given us a new relationship with God, a new regard for others, and a new reason for living.

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them (John 3:36 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter