

### Facing the Future without Fear

1. Some people feel that they are healthy, capable, have made good provision for life and are almost bullet proof . Read **Jeremiah 9:23** and discuss the things in life that we can put our trust in. *"Let not the wise man boast of his **wisdom** or the strong man boast of his **strength** or the rich man boast of his **riches**, (could add health here) but let him who boasts boast about this: that he **understands and knows me**, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,"*
2. Share with the group an occasion when you felt ambushed, when something unexpected and potentially life threatening happened in your life. When you look back on this incident can you see God's presence and provision?
3. Being incapacitated gives us a lot of time to think about the meaning and issues of life. We have the opportunity to become either bitter or better. What are some of the things that determine our response in these situations.
4. Psalm 23:1-3 *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He **makes me** to lie down in green pastures...* Has there been a time when the Lord has intervened to make you *lie down in green pastures so that your soul can be restored?*
5. The heart is more than just the pump that circulates the blood around our bodies. It is the seat of our emotions (Proverbs 4:23). God desires to give us a new heart *I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart"*(Ezekiel 23:13) Describe how the Lord has changed your heart.
6. Do you think that recovering from a heart attack or heart surgery, is just as much an emotional healing as it is a physical healing? Discuss
7. The first 6 verses of Psalm 103 list the benefits of knowing God. What are these? Which are the most important? Why?

8. Do you fear death? 2 Corinthians 5:8 tells us that for the believer, *to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord*. Do you take comfort from that?
9. In Exodus 4:6-7 God revealed his character to Moses. *"God passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, 'The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.* Does this description fit your image of God? If not, why not.
10. **1 Cor 12:17** *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.* All believers make up the body of Christ and have a key function and part to play in it. Obviously the body functions best when we are in unity with each other. Are you using your spiritual gifts and talents to serve this church? Would you say that TBC is a healthy united body.
11. Pray for each others physical and emotional needs. Ask the Lord to give each other a new, soft, tender heart. Pray that TBC will function as a healthy, united body.