

ETERNAL LIFE

Indestructible life (Hebrews 7:16)
Imperishable inheritance (1 Peter 1:4)

And the witness is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, in order that you may know that you have eternal life.

(1 John 5:11–13)

Beloved, read the above verses one more time. Then ask yourself this question: What do they mean? Before you continue, pray for deep understanding of what the writer is saying. (Do it with all Scripture as well.) Why does the apostle John want us to know that in Christ Jesus we have eternal life?

The answer is simple. Until we are convinced of this important truth in our heart and our mind, we will be double-minded at times, even to the point of questioning our salvation. That is not of God; that is not of faith.

How we *feel* at times is irrelevant; the only thing that counts is what God has said. God told us that if we have His Son, we have eternal life. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the true God and eternal life (1 John 5:20); also, that all true believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13, 14), and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand (John 10:27–30) or separate them from the love of Christ (Romans 8: 35–39).

We have to cement these truths in our mind, and step out in faith. In other words, *we have to believe it, and act upon it*. God says so and that should settle the matter. New believers, who are not yet established in the Word of God, may doubt their salvation sometimes, especially when they do something wrong. Also in the Scriptures we may come across verses that sound like we could lose our salvation. Sadly, these verses are often misunderstood and/or taken out of context.

The vastly erroneous teachings on this subject don't help to clarify this most important truth either. Brothers and sisters, just keep in mind that God Himself abides in you and He will lead you to all truth. Go to Him. Anybody teaching that genuine believers can lose their salvation doesn't understand salvation and eternal life. In order to understand these truths we must understand the Cross and the Resurrection.

Why Do We Need Life?

We find the answer in reflecting on the Garden of Eden in the book of Genesis. God created Adam and Eve in His image—with His Spirit in them. He wanted them to live in total dependency upon Him. God alone knows what is right and what is wrong. The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was the point of obedience. God gave man free will, for without the free will we would be robots. God wants us to love Him and to obey Him willingly. Adam and Eve, being deceived by Satan, chose to disobey God. Their sin was unbelief.

Unbelief is the root of all sins.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

(Genesis 2:16, 17)

Note again God’s words: “In the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.” Adam and Eve died on that day. God withdrew His Spirit from them. They died spiritually, and many years later they died physically.

Only Adam and Eve were created in the image of God. Ever since then, all people have been *born* in the image of Adam, with a sinful nature and the wrath of God upon them.

When Adam had lived one hundred and thirty years, he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image and named him Seth.

(Genesis 5:3)

Such is the fate of all people: born without the Spirit of God—dead and in need of life. It was sin that caused the separation—death, and a dead person needs life. Jesus became the Source of Life. Before God could impart life to us, He had to deal with sin. If He would impart life without settling the sin issue once and for all, what would happen after someone sinned, since we know that the wages of sin is death? Well, the same thing would happen that happened in the Garden of Eden. The Spirit of God would depart.

But God had a plan. Until the Cross, His system for forgiveness of sins was the blood of bulls and goats. But that was only a shadow of things to come. The blood of bulls and goats could not take away sins; it could only cover them.

At the appointed time in history came the Real Sacrifice—Jesus, and He didn’t just cover the sins. He took them away.

Behold, the Lamb of God who *takes away* the sin of the world!

(John 1:29)

On the cross, God dealt with sin. Man was found guilty, a sinner.

There is no one who does good, not even one.

(Psalm 53:3)

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

(Romans 3:23)

Punishment was death, for the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). Jesus was the only acceptable sacrifice on our behalf in the eyes of the righteous and just God. He did it all. It is done! It is finished! Now the path has been made clear to impart life, because next time we sin (keep in mind that whatever is not from faith is sin (Romans 14:23), that sin is already under the blood of Jesus, forgiven. And life goes on . . . that is why it is called eternal life. Of course, you have to have the life of Christ within you, because the forgiveness of sins is in Him. If you don't have Jesus, you are still under the wrath of God and you will die in your sins (John 8:24). The sin under the New Testament, according to Jesus, is unbelief in Him (John 16:9). We have to receive the gift—Jesus.

The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:23)

We Come to Jesus for Life—Eternal, Indestructible Life

Once you have Jesus, you have eternal life. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise. God will show you the truth. The "Christian dome" is preoccupied with sins, instead of the life of Christ. According to the Scriptures:

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.

(Galatians 2:20)

We died with Christ and He—Jesus—is our life now. Beloved, shouldn't we be concentrating on Him and His life, instead of self? Now I will let the Word of God speak for itself.

Enter by the narrow gate: for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

(Matthew 7:13, 14)

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes may in Him have eternal life.

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

(John 3:14–16)

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.
(John 5:24)

For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.
(John 6:40)

The following verse is often misunderstood:

He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.
(John 3:36)

The wrath of God abides on unbelievers. It is an unbeliever who does not obey the Son, because the Son said: “Believe in Me and you shall have eternal life.”

The following verses are often misunderstood:

Jesus said,

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life.

“I am the bread of life.

“Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

“This is the bread which comes down out of heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die.

“I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh.”

The Jews therefore began to argue with one another, saying, “How can this man give us His flesh to eat?”

Jesus therefore said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.

“He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. . . .

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; *the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.*”

(John 6:47–54, 63)

These verses are a picture of salvation, and the terminology Jesus is using has to be discerned spiritually, just as verse 63 indicates. In other words, Jesus is saying: “Get Me in; receive Me.”

The following verses are often misunderstood:

The Parable of the Sower: (Matthew 13:3–9 and 13:18–23; Mark 4:3–8 and 4:14–20; Luke 8:5–8 and 8:11–15)

Four groups of people are described in this parable. Only the last group accepted the Word, resulting in eternal life. Only the last group abides in God.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God
abides in him, and he in God.

(1 John 4:15)

The first three groups’ beliefs were only temporal. Before uniting what they heard with faith and acting upon it, the Word was taken away, immediately, from the first group. The second group received the Word with joy, but it was only for a while. In the third group, the Word was choked and nothing came out of it either. Only the last group hears the Word, accepts it, and bears fruit.

Head knowledge doesn’t save anyone, even the demons know and believe (James 2:19).

As a new believer, I used to wonder whether—after I received Jesus Christ and in Him eternal life—there could be anything in my future that would cause me to lose my eternal life. If that were the case, I am sure the Lord would take me home to heaven immediately after I became saved. I know that nothing can snatch me out of His hands, and nothing can separate me from His love. *I know whom I have believed.*

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they
follow Me;

and I give eternal life to them, and they shall never
perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all;
and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.

I and the Father are one.

(John 10:27–30)

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he
who believes in Me shall live even if he dies,

and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never
die. Do you believe this?”

(John 11:25, 26)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me."

(John 14:6)

And this is eternal life, that they may know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent.

(John 17:3)

But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

(John 20:31)

For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.

(Romans 5:10)

. . . so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Romans 5:21)

But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

(Romans 6:22, 23)