

Dear Friend,

March 23, 2018

We thought we would write in order to share with you the wonderful provision that God has made for us to have eternal life. Such an amazing promise is indeed a great comfort. Perhaps you have heard of some or all of these verses before, but please allow us to share them with you again – they have made such a huge difference in our lives and we were excited to put this little devotional together for you.

We personally have found that many people are unsure about what eternal life is, how to obtain it, when it starts, if they can be assured of it, and many other related questions. The following paragraphs attempt to answer, from the Bible, these and other questions about eternal life. We hope you find comfort in these Bible passages!

First of all, one might ask, what is eternal life? The Bible says in John 17:3: “**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**” In other words, eternal life is all about knowing God. If you have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, then you have eternal life, and vice versa.

Second, someone could ask, when does eternal life start? Well, Jesus said in John 6:47: “**Truly, truly, I say unto you, He that believes on me has everlasting life.**” It is wonderful to notice the present tense **has** – not “may have” or “will have in the future” but “has it right now!” The person who believes in Jesus Christ has, from that very moment of salvation, eternal life. You may ask, how can this be—doesn’t eternal life start in heaven? Well, since eternal life is **knowing** God, the moment you come to know him by relying upon Jesus Christ for your salvation, you then know God. In other words, you can have the very beginnings of eternal life while you are here on earth!

A third question you may ask is, where do we get information about eternal life? In John 6:68, Jesus had asked His disciples if they would leave Him. “**Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.**” The apostle Peter recognized that he could not go anywhere else to get information about eternal life. Only Jesus has that information, and He is happy whenever anyone reads His words to find out about it!

Fourth, we might want to know why do we need eternal life? Romans 6:23 says “**For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**” Most everyone knows that all people sin; God has laid out the penalty for sin in this verse – it is **death**. However, he also says that eternal life is the alternative—what a choice we must make! We may obtain eternal life by receiving God’s gift.

Fifth, and very importantly, how do we get eternal life? There are many verses in the Bible that speak to this topic. We will quote several here. Jesus says in John 3:15-16: “**Whosoever believes in Him [Jesus] should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**” It is really very simple to receive eternal life – just **believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sixth, are there other ways to get eternal life? The simple answer is no, there are no other ways. Why? John 14:6 says: “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, **except by me.**” In 1 John 5:11, the apostle John says: “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is **in his Son.**” You cannot find eternal life anywhere else but in Jesus! And you cannot obtain it by any other way than faith. Galatians 2:16 says, “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.”

A seventh question that you might ask is, can eternal life be lost? Nope! Once you have eternal life, you are secure forever. Notice how Jesus says this in John 10:28-29: “And I give unto them eternal life; and **they shall never perish**, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them to me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father’s hand.” Did you see that this is a double guarantee? Jesus says that the one who has eternal life is in His hand, and on top of that, he is in God the Father’s hand. Jesus also said in John 6:37: “He that comes to me I will in no wise cast out.” God does not break His promises, and John says in 1 John 2:25: “And this is the promise that he has promised us, even eternal life.”

You might also wonder, will I be punished for my sins if I have eternal life? The simple answer to that question is no! 1 Thessalonians 5:9 says this: “For God has **not appointed us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.” Why? The Lord Jesus Christ took all the punishment for our sins. 1 Corinthians 15:3 says “Christ died for our sins.” He died in your place so that if you believe in Him, you have eternal life! There is not one sin that He did not die for. He died for them all! The only way that you ever could be punished for sins is if you do not believe in Jesus Christ. John 3:36 says: “He that **believeth on the Son hath everlasting life**; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.” Jesus himself said in John 5:24: “Truly, truly, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believeth on him that sent me, has everlasting life, and **shall not come into condemnation**; but is passed from death unto life.” Romans 8:1 says, “There is therefore now **no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.**” It is a wonderful comfort to know that God has made all the reservations for you once you trust in Jesus Christ as your Savior. For the believer in Christ, there are no stop-off points on the way from this life to heaven!

Finally, one more very important question, can I be absolutely certain that I have eternal life? The Bible answers that question affirmatively in 1 John 5:13: “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may **know** that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” The beloved apostle John wanted to ensure his readers that they could be certain about eternal life. Perhaps many of his readers did not understand that once a person places his full trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, he **has** eternal life, and he can **know** so. So can you! What a blessing from God!

We hope these words have been encouraging to you.

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