

## ETERNAL LIFE

I. Many Christians think of eternal life as merely something experienced in the future, as Jesus mentions in Mark 10:30. There will be a fullness to the experience of eternal life in the future. However, the Bible shows that we can experience eternal life now.

II. God's original intention was for the sinless Adam and Eve to partake of the tree of life and thus enjoy eternal life

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." <sup>27</sup> God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Genesis 1:26–27*

*<sup>9</sup> Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Genesis 2:9*

*<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— <sup>23</sup> therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup> So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life. Genesis 3:22–24*

III. Although man's sinfulness delayed his receiving of God's eternal life, now, God has restored access to eternal life through faith in Christ

*<sup>11</sup> And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. <sup>12</sup> He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. 1 John 5:11–12*

*<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16*

*<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves; 2 Corinthians 4:7*

IV. Eternal life is not merely an abstract force. It is the life of God Himself, the same life that is in the Father and Son, and the same life the Holy Spirit gives. Eternal life is actually Christ Himself.

*<sup>26</sup> "For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself; John 5:26*

*<sup>63</sup> "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 6:63*

*<sup>6</sup> 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*

V. Receiving eternal life happens when we are born again and gives us the right to be called children of God. Eternal life begins within us when we receive the incorruptible seed through the word of God.

*<sup>23</sup> for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. 1 Peter 1:23*

<sup>12</sup> But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. John 1:12–13

VI. As God's eternal life grows and spreads within us, Christ is formed in us, just as a tree grows from the planted seed

<sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. Colossians 3:4

<sup>19</sup> My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you— Galatians 4:19

VII. Eternal life is central to our Christian existence, walk, and experience.

<sup>3</sup> "This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. John 17:3

VIII. For us to have life abundantly, we must learn to follow the sense of life

a. Not only does Christ wish us to have life: He wishes that we have it abundantly

<sup>10</sup> "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. John 10:10

b. We increase our experience of life as we follow the sense of life, which includes a sense spiritual strength and vitality in the living presence of the Lord, the sense of spiritual food, drink, and light

i. We should learn the "sense of life" and the "sense of death"

<sup>6</sup> For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, Romans 8:6

ii. Knowing life is to know the sense of spiritual food and drink

<sup>57</sup> "As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. John 6:57

<sup>14</sup> but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life." John 4:14

iii. Knowing life is to live in the light

<sup>4</sup> In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. John 1:4

IX. The church life is the product of life, as living stones are being built into God's spiritual house

<sup>4</sup> And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup> you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:4–5

X. As we grow in life, we know Him who is the word of life and look forward to the day when we receive the crown of life

<sup>1</sup> What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life—1 John 1:1

<sup>10</sup> "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life. Revelation 2:10

<sup>8</sup> For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. Galatians 6:8