

ETERNAL LIFE: THE FREE GIFT OF GOD

Eternal life is the life of God the Father – the life of Jesus Christ

Eternal means timeless. It has no beginning and it has no end. Time always has a starting point and an ending point. God is absolute existence. God is the self-existing one, the great "I AM" (Exodus 3:14), who has neither beginning nor end (Psalm 90:2, 102:27). The self-existing life of God means His existence is entirely self-contained and does not depend on anything external to Himself.

The "beginning" of Genesis 1:1 refers to the beginning of the work of creation not to beginning of God. God the Father and God the Son existed eternally prior to creation (John 1:1). Eternal life was with the Father (1 John 1:2) and with the His Son (1 John 5:11).

Jesus Christ is the "Alpha and Omega". "Alpha" the first letter of the Greek alphabet refers to the eternal preexistence of Jesus Christ, and "Omega" the last letter of the Greek alphabet refers to Jesus Christ perfect humanity - His First Advent. He is the eternal Son of God and the only perfect humanity - the Son of David, who will return as the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

God created time for man. God is not in time but time is in God. Man thinks in terms of present, future, past, short or long periods of seconds, minutes, hours, days, months or years. God thinks outside of time. God is life (Jeremiah 10:10, John 1:4). God lives. He does not possess life as we do which began at some point and has a termination. There was never a time when God did not live. He has always existed. His life is called eternal life.

The eternal life of God imparted to all who believe in Christ (John 3:16, 18, 36) is called EVERLASTING LIFE which has no end but began at the moment of faith in Christ. Jesus Christ is the LIFE (John 14:6).

He is life, never was there a time when He, in His deity, did not exist. Eternal life has always resided in Him (1 John 5:11-13, 20).

"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 unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and you may believe on the name of the Son of God". "And we know that the Son of God is come, and had given us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life."

As the Creator, Jesus Christ is the Source of all life (Hebrews 1:2). God the Father is the Source of life as the One who breathes the spark of life when the fetus emerges from the womb. God the Holy Spirit is the Source of Life as the Agent of spiritual birth as the One who places each person into union with Christ at the moment of faith in the Gospel of Christ. Outside time, He thinks eternally.

Eternal life imparted everlasting life

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Eternal life is made possible through Christ

At the moment of faith in Christ, the Holy Spirit places the believer in union with Christ. This union is created by baptism of the Holy Spirit. The believer's union with Christ qualifies the believer to live with God forever, making him a new spiritual species (2 Corinthians 5:17) and guarantees the eternal security (Romans 8:38-39).

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that being justified by His grace we might be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life". (Titus 3:5-7)

"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)

"For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Everlasting life is a gift to all

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus" (Romans 3:23-24).

"But the free gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, much more did the grace of God and the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abound to the many. For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:15, 17) "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). There is nothing we can add or subtract from the gift of God. The Lord Jesus Christ died for all the sins of every member of the human race.

"Having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. And through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death" (Colossians 2:14, 1:20-21).

Believe to receive everlasting life

"Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins" (Acts 10:43)

And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you shall be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31)

For what does the Scripture say? "And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness" (Romans 4:3)

But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness (Romans 4:5)

For with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation (Romans 10:10)

Nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we may be justified by faith in Christ, and not by the works of the Law; since by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified (Galatians 2:16)

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