

The Hope of Eternal Life

Eternal life – as presented in the Bible – is holistic. It embraces past, present and future. It promises both hope of forgiveness of sin and everlasting blessedness. However, it is not just about the past or future. Eternal life does not start when you die. It starts when you are born again. The Holy Spirit generates eternal life within us. Eternal life is received as a seed – “we are born again of incorruptible seed.” That life must be cultivated and cared for like any other seed. And just like any other seed, it has the ability within itself to reproduce the nature of the original.

Eternal life is found in and through the Kingdom of God – which we enter through the born-again experience. Eternal Life has both quantity and quality. It entails abundant life – here and in eternity. It is summed up in the definition of the Kingdom of God. “The Kingdom of God is not religious rituals, but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

The present expression of eternal life is found in a spiritual journey that includes a transformed life and Christian community. It is a shared experience – we are members one of another. To neglect transformation or community is to short-circuit the power of Eternal Life.

1. The hope of eternal Life Titus 1:1
 - a. Promise = determination
 - b. 1 Peter 1:20 eternal Life was foreordained
 - c. Rev.13:8 Jesus slain from foundation of the world
 - d. Eternal life is not plan B, it is not an afterthought. It is a significant part of Gods eternal purposes.
2. Eternal life has both quantity and quality
 - a. “I came that you might have life and that more abundantly.” John 10:10
 - b. GR: beyond, super abundantly in quantity and superior in quality.
 - c. We often focus on quantity, but neglect or downplay quality.
 - d. Eternal life doesn’t start when you die, it starts when you are born again.
 - e. Jesus came and died that you might have an abundant life.
 - f. Salvation is the process of Eternal Life, not the Life itself. Eternal Life is to be experienced
3. The definition of Eternal Life: John 17:3
 - a. Knowing God in an ever-increasing way.
 - b. It is not believing the correct doctrine, living a moral life, or practicing a religion.
4. The dichotomy of Eternal life. The Bible presents a dichotomy, an oxymoron: eternal life is a gift and yet something that must be grasped and lived out. We see this in the

statements of Paul and James. Paul says we are saved by faith, James asserts that we are saved by faith demonstrated by good works, thus concluding we are saved by works.

- a. Ephesians 2:8-10 explain this perfectly. Saved for good works.
 - b. The gift:
 - i. John 10:27 sheep are given Eternal Life
 - ii. Romans 6:23 gift Eternal Life
 - iii. A gift must be received and used.
 - c. Lay Hold of Eternal Life
 - i. Twice Paul tells Timothy to “Lay hold of eternal life.”
 - ii. We must grasp onto Eternal Life with both hands. It must be lived out practically. It must be ingrained into our everyday lives for it to truly impact us as God intends.
 - iii. Eternal life comes as a seed with the ability to reproduce, but must be cultivated and nurtured.
5. We do run the risk of losing Eternal Life if we do not take it seriously.
- a. Matthew 24:12-13 love grows cold
 - b. Matthew 13 seed
 - c. 2 Thessalonians 2:3 falling away
6. The reward of Eternal life:
- a. Revelation 21:1
 - b. Revelation 5:10
 - c. 1Corinthians 6:2-3

March 9, 2025 CFC