



What Is Eternal Life?

And how can I be certain to have it?

Australia has a growing aging population. People are living longer. Most are striving to eat healthy food and exercise. They want to enjoy the life they possess for as long as possible. There's nothing wrong with that. Life as we know it is so precious. Prolonging it by proven ways is wise. We all want to see our grandchildren or even great-grandchildren grow up! But if we stand back and look at the big picture, these methods of prolonging life do not solve the problem of life.

The reality is that all life will eventually die. Whether you are a tree, an elephant or a human being, you must face death. It is not how, when or where you die that matters. It is whether you are ready to die.

This is where eternal life comes in. It is not a revival of the biological life you already have. It is not the same thing with a slight twist in it. It is not a sales gimmick. It is a totally different kind of life¹--a far superior kind of life. It is immortal, everlasting life. It is joyful, peaceful, powerful life. In fact it is God's very own life. If you have eternal life, you will never really die². At "death" you will walk out of your body and live with God forever³.

Mankind is born with a yearning for eternity⁴. Throughout history, the quest of many rich and powerful people has been the search for eternal life. Some have tried a diet of unusual substances and medicines. Others have experimented with bizarre methods such as special breathing or strange sexual practices. These all searched in vain because they were looking in the wrong places. The truth is that eternal life is the life of God, our Creator and Sustainer. He gave us the biological life that we have. This life is short, but His desire is to give us eternal life so we can live with Him forever.



The story goes back to the time of creation when God made man in His image and put him in charge of the world under His authority. He put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and planted the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil there. Man was given the free choice to love and obey God or to reject God's authority and go their own way. Sadly, they believed in the Devil's lie and ate from the forbidden tree and chose to declare autonomy from God⁵. Man wanted to be self-sufficient, self-legislating, self-governing and self-indulging. Man cut himself off from fellowship with God, thereby cutting himself off from the source of eternal life.

When humanity rules without God's truth and God's life, there are disastrous consequences. The results are death, destruction, deception and defilement which saturate our society today. But thankfully God has not finished with us yet. In love and mercy He designed and executed a rescue plan. He sent His eternally begotten Son Jesus into the world, born of the virgin Mary and clothed with both biological and eternal life. Jesus had biological life through His mother Mary but He also has eternal life because He is the Son of God. Being both perfect God and perfect Man, Jesus is God's answer for human sinfulness and the sinner's only hope.

With His first coming, the world for the first time in history had a close look at what eternal life was like⁶. It is abundant, powerful life. It is orderly, holy, sinless and loving life. It is everlasting life. But before He can offer us His life, He needed to do something about our sin first. He Himself committed no sin but He willingly died in our place of punishment. In love He died for us on the cruel cross. When the debt of sin was paid in full, God raised Him up from the dead with a brand new body that will never die again. Now Jesus offers his life to anyone who will repent from his own sin and put his faith and trust in Him. Symbolically, He is God's new "tree of life" offered freely to those who want it.



When Jesus was on earth, some believed in Him and admired His life. Others hated Him because of jealousy and His exposing of their sins. He promised all His followers that after He had ascended to heaven, He would send His Holy Spirit who would impart eternal life to them. This happened on the Day of Pentecost when 120 of Jesus' disciples were freely given the gift of eternal life. Instantly, their lives were changed. From being fearful and cowardly, they now had confidence in God. From being anxious and weak, they were now full of peace and courage. From being self-centered, they were now God-centered. God was with them and they shared the good news of eternal life with anyone in contact with them. Even under severe persecution, they continued to proclaim this message of new life. Some were martyred for their faith but the good news spread through the Roman Empire. Thus began the story of Christianity.

Today, true Christianity consists of small groups of people here and there who are forgiven of their sin and who have received eternal life from the Lord Jesus. Their new lives are so radically different from their old lives that those who know them would readily testify that something exciting has happened to them. These are the only people in the world who are ready to go to meet their Maker who is also their Savior and Lord. They are the ones who know the one true God of creation. If you want eternal life and be like them, you must read the following passages carefully.

The good news of eternal life in Christ Jesus

1. **God's dilemma:** Because He is just, those who violate His laws must pay in full the penalty prescribed. Because God is love, He does not want any of us to perish. How can a just God be merciful to a sinner without violating the demands of His perfect justice?
2. **Our problems:**
 - a. **Sin.** By choosing autonomy⁷, men and women became sinners by birth and sinners by choice. We have rebelled against a loving and just God. We have broken⁸ His laws. If we are honest, we must admit that we have lied, stolen, blasphemed God's name or failed to love and worship God as we should. Over time, we accumulate a huge debt of sin to God. We provoke Him to wrath by our sins. We will be found guilty on that judgment day when the all knowing God will reveal all of our sins against Him without fear or favor.
 - b. **Imperfection.** Though Adam and Eve were made perfect by God, through their sin, they lost their perfection. We being their offsprings, were born with imperfections. Only perfect people can fellowship with a perfect God. We have no ability to make ourselves perfect, no matter how hard we try. All our good works are unacceptable to God⁹. So we have the problem of sin on the one hand, and imperfection on the other, neither of which we are able to overcome in our own strength. Without God's help, we face death, judgement¹⁰ and eternity in hell¹¹. This is the grim prospect that all of us must face one day.
3. **God's solution:** In love, He sent His only Son into the world to bear the penalty of our sins on the cross, the just for the unjust so as to bring us back to God. He substituted Himself for us and stood in our place of punishment. By His death, His precious shed blood has the power to wash away all the guilt of sin. He rose bodily from the death on the third day and after 40 days and many appearances to His disciples, He returned to heaven. God appointed Christ to be the Judge and Ruler of the universe. He will return one day to rule this world. Meantime, He invited all sinners to put their faith in Him. On the cross, Christ satisfied completely the justice of God over sin and on the same cross, He demonstrated a depth of love to sinners that is incredible. He offers you forgiveness of sin and His perfect life which is eternal life.
4. **Our response:** Humble yourself¹². Start fearing God. It is the beginning of true wisdom. See the reality of the judgment to come. Be convicted of your sin. Confess¹³ them before God and determine to turn away from them. (repentance¹⁴) Accept the love of Christ extended to you. Rely¹⁵ on what Christ has done on the cross for you. Believe that He rose again from the dead and is offering you eternal life. Ask Him to forgive you of all your sins and to give you eternal life. Promise to follow Him.

If God mercifully grants you forgiveness of sin and eternal life, you will know it! Start repenting and following Him now! Be baptized and join a Bible-believing church, read the Bible, pray and confess Him as your Lord.

A sinner's prayer

O God, I have sinned against You. I am willing to repent. For Jesus' sake, please forgive all my sins and grant me eternal life. I promise to follow Jesus from now on. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen.

1. John 10:10, 2. John 7:37-38, 3. John 11:25, 4. Ecclesiastes 3:11, 6. 1 John 1:1-4, 7. Genesis 3:1-24, 8. Isaiah 53:6, 1 John 3:4, 9. Ephesian 2:8-9 10. Hebrews 9:27, 11. Revelation 20:15, 12. Matthew 5:3, 13. 1 John 1:9, 14. Acts 2:38, 15. Romans 10:9-10

Contact us

If you want to find out more concerning eternal life, contact:

Pastor Frank Kwok
Fellowship Baptist Church
87 Frederick St, Blacktown
Phone: 9899 5727 or 0403 014 855
Email: office@fellowship.org.au
Web: www.fellowship.org.au

