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## BIBLE STUDY: ETERNAL LIFE

Many people, both believers and unbelievers, have heard the expressions *everlasting life* and *eternal life*. The favorite verse of millions of Christians is John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that everyone who believes into Him would not perish, but would have eternal life."

Eternal life in His Son is God's ultimate gift to mankind, but what is this great gift? Is it heaven? An endless extension of our own human life? Something only for the future, after we die?

Thank God, He didn't leave us to our own understanding. His Word tells us clearly what this life is and what it can do in us and for us. By studying the subject of eternal life in the Bible, we can see eternal life is much more than we might think. Furthermore, the Bible shows us we can know this life and experience it here and now, not just in the future.

### The Definition of Eternal Life

1. The uncreated, indestructible life of God, which is both everlasting in time and eternal and divine in nature and quality:  
[John 3:15](#) and note [15<sup>1</sup>](#); [John 17:3](#) and note [3<sup>1</sup>](#); [Acts 11:18](#) and note [18<sup>1</sup>](#); [Romans 6:23](#) and note [23<sup>3</sup>](#); [Ephesians 4:18](#) and note [18<sup>2</sup>](#); [1 Timothy 1:16](#) and note [16<sup>2</sup>](#); [1 Timothy 6:12](#) and notes [12<sup>2</sup>](#) and [12<sup>3</sup>](#); [2 Timothy 1:10](#) and notes [10<sup>3</sup>](#) and [10<sup>4</sup>](#); [1 John 1:2](#) and note [2<sup>3</sup>](#).
2. A living person, the Triune God Himself embodied in Christ and realized as the Spirit:  
[John 1:4](#) and note [4<sup>1</sup>](#); [John 14:6](#) and note [6<sup>1</sup>](#); [Romans 8:2](#) and note [2<sup>2</sup>](#), paragraph 2; [Romans 8:6](#) and note [6<sup>3</sup>](#); [1 John 1:2](#) and note [2<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 John 5:11-12](#) and notes [11<sup>1</sup>](#) and [12<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 John 2:25](#) and notes [25<sup>1</sup>](#) and [25<sup>3</sup>](#); [Colossians 3:4](#) and notes [4<sup>1</sup>](#) and [4<sup>2</sup>](#).
3. The life signified by the tree of life and the river of water of life ([Genesis 2:9](#); [John 4:10, 14](#)):  
[John 1:4](#) and note [4<sup>1</sup>](#); [Revelation 2:7](#) and note [7<sup>6</sup>](#); [Revelation 22:1-2](#) and notes [1<sup>3</sup>](#) and [2<sup>1</sup>](#); [Revelation 22:14](#) and note [14<sup>1</sup>](#).
4. Different from our physical life and our soulish life:  
[Romans 5:17](#) and note [17<sup>4</sup>](#); [John 10:10-11](#) and notes [10<sup>1</sup>](#) and [11<sup>1</sup>](#).

### The Functions of Eternal Life

1. It regenerates us and makes us children of God, who are born of God:  
[John 1:12-13](#) and note [12<sup>2</sup>](#); [John 3:3](#) and note [3<sup>3</sup>](#); [John 3:6](#) and note [6<sup>2</sup>](#); [1 John 3:1](#) and notes [1<sup>3</sup>](#) and [1<sup>4</sup>](#); [1 Peter 1:3](#) and note [3<sup>7</sup>](#).
2. It supplies us with all the divine riches:  
[John 6:35](#) and note [35<sup>1</sup>](#); [Revelation 22:1-2](#) and notes [1<sup>3</sup>](#) and [2<sup>1</sup>](#).
3. It becomes our life in our spirit, soul (mind), and body:  
[Romans 8:6](#), [10](#), and [11](#) and notes [6<sup>2</sup>](#), [10<sup>3</sup>](#), [10<sup>6</sup>](#), and [11<sup>4</sup>](#).
4. It accomplishes God's full salvation in us by sanctifying us, transforming us, conforming us to the image of God's firstborn Son, and glorifying us with the divine glory:  
[Romans 1:17](#) and note [17<sup>3</sup>](#); [Romans 5:10](#) and notes [10<sup>2</sup>](#) through [10<sup>5</sup>](#); [Romans 6:23](#) and note [23<sup>3</sup>](#); [Romans 8:29-30](#) and [29<sup>2</sup>](#), [29<sup>3</sup>](#), and [30<sup>2</sup>](#); [2 Corinthians 3:18](#) and notes [18<sup>6</sup>](#) through [18<sup>9</sup>](#); [Philippians 3:21](#) and notes [21<sup>1</sup>](#) and [21<sup>3</sup>](#).
5. It grows in us, with the result that we are built together with all God's children into a holy temple in the Lord and into a living Body to express Christ:  
[Ephesians 2:21](#) and note [21<sup>4</sup>](#); [Ephesians 4:16](#) and note [16<sup>9</sup>](#); [Colossians 2:19](#) and notes [19<sup>6</sup>](#) and [19<sup>7</sup>](#); [1 Peter 2:2](#) and notes [2<sup>4</sup>](#) and [2<sup>5</sup>](#); [1 Peter 2:5](#) and notes [5<sup>2</sup>](#) and [5<sup>4</sup>](#).
6. It causes us to reign as kings over all things, including Satan, sin, and death:  
[Romans 5:17](#) and notes [17<sup>1</sup>](#), [17<sup>3</sup>](#), and [17<sup>4</sup>](#).
7. It gives us a living hope, the hope of eternal life, the hope of an eternal inheritance, and the hope of bearing the likeness of the Triune God:  
[Titus 1:2](#) and note [2<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 Peter 1:3-4](#) and notes [3<sup>6</sup>](#) and [4<sup>1</sup>](#) through [4<sup>3</sup>](#); [1 John 3:2-3](#) and notes [2<sup>4</sup>](#) and [3<sup>1</sup>](#).

### **The Way for Us to Experience Eternal Life and Grow in This Life Today**

1. By drinking the guileless milk of the word of God and eating the Lord Jesus as the bread of life:  
[John 6:57](#) and [57<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 Peter 2:2](#) and note [2<sup>4</sup>](#).
2. By contacting the Spirit of life in our spirit:  
[Romans 8:2](#) and note [2<sup>2</sup>](#), paragraph 2; [Romans 8:16](#) and note [16<sup>2</sup>](#); [Galatians 3:2](#) and note [2<sup>2</sup>](#).
3. By walking according to the spirit, setting our mind on the spirit:  
[Romans 8:4](#) and notes [4<sup>2</sup>](#) and [4<sup>3</sup>](#); [Romans 8:6](#) and notes [6<sup>1</sup>](#) through [6<sup>3</sup>](#).
4. By pursuing faith and love:  
[Ephesians 3:17](#) and note [17<sup>4</sup>](#); [Luke 7:50](#) and note [50<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 Corinthians 13:4](#) and note [4<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 Corinthians 13:13](#) and note [13<sup>1</sup>](#); [1 Corinthians 14:1](#) and note [1<sup>3</sup>](#).
5. By living in the fellowship, the flow, of the eternal life through the cleansing of the blood of Jesus, God's Son:  
[1 John 1:3](#) and notes [3<sup>3</sup>](#) and [3<sup>4</sup>](#); [1 John 1:7](#) and notes [7<sup>2</sup>](#) through [7<sup>6</sup>](#).

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