

# GOD HAS GIVEN ETERNAL LIFE

*“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”*

**1 John 5:11-12**

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”*

**John 10:27-28**

*“Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle. Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”*

**2 Thessalonians 2:15-17**

It is important to always use Biblical language when studying and teaching doctrinal truths. The doctrine of “*eternal security*” comes from those two Bible words we find in these verses, “eternal life.” We arrive at three wonderful truths concerning the doctrine of “eternal life.”

## **First, Eternal Life is a Present Possession.**

**1 John 5:11-12**, “...God hath given to us eternal life...”

We come to understand in those verses (1 John 5:11-12; John 10:27-28; 2 Thessalonians 2:15-17) that it is God that has given to the believer eternal life. This eternal life is a present possession.

## **Second, Eternal Life is a Preserved Possession.**

**John 10:27-28**, “...they shall never perish...”

We also see that eternal life is preserved through Jesus Christ. The believer will never come into condemnation, he will never perish. This eternal life is a preserved possession.

## **Third, Eternal Life is a Powerful Possession.**

**2 Thessalonians 2:15-17**, “...and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace, Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.”

This guaranteed gift from God is a powerful and transformational truth because of what happens within the person who has been justified by faith. This eternal life is a powerful possession.

The born-again Christian has a right to be confident in his salvation, because his salvation is entirely based upon the finished work of Christ as we saw in our first lesson, “The Gift of God.”

The doctrine of eternal life doesn't hinder Christian living, it enables or produces true Christian living.

**Illustration: Construction of The Golden Gate Bridge**

During the first part of construction on the Golden Gate Bridge, twenty-three men died falling to their deaths. In this first part, no safety devices had been installed to give the workers confidence. For the second part of the construction, a large net was used as a safety precaution. During that period, ten men fell into the net, and as a result were safe. Furthermore, this net resulted in twenty-five percent more work being accomplished after the net was installed. Why? Because the men had confidence in safety, and they were free to wholeheartedly serve the project.

The believer who has obtained eternal redemption will never come into condemnation. Jesus Christ saved us from dead works that we might serve the living God.

**Hebrews 9:12**, *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”*

## I. THE IRREVOCABLE CONFIDENCE OF THE BELIEVER

The Christian will never boast in himself, for he knows that salvation is not obtained by his works. The Christian only boasts in Christ! The confidence of our salvation is not rooted in ourselves, rather, it is rooted in the Person and Work of Christ.

The true believer has an irrevocable confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ!

**Galatians 6:14-15**, *“But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.”*

**Romans 3:26-27**, *“To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law.”*

For an individual to say, “I know that I am saved, and I know that I have eternal life, I know that my sins have been forgiven,” is not boasting. It is an unwavering confidence in the Person and Work of Christ!

## A. The Promises of God

In our study, we consider the promises of God that shed light on the believer's eternal life in Christ. God cannot lie, and His Word is truth.

**He that believeth shall not come into \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 5:24**, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

**He that comes to Christ will in no wise be \_\_\_\_\_ out.**

**John 6:37**, "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

**He that has been given eternal life shall never \_\_\_\_\_.**

**John 10:28**, "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand."

**Is there anything that can separate us from the love of God? \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Romans 8:38-39**, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

**He that has believed is \_\_\_\_\_ with that Holy Spirit of promise.**

**Ephesians 1:13**, "In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,"

## B. The Position of the Believer

We must also consider what is said about the believer in Christ. The Christian who has been born-again receives a new position. Paul is writing to the saints in Colosse and says, "And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled." (Colossians 1:21)

**Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**Those who have received the Spirit are the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.**

**Romans 8:14-16**, "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

We must always make a distinction between relationship and fellowship. The Christians who have the indwelling Holy Spirit are called the children of God.

**Illustration: A Father & Child**

When a child is born, he becomes part of that family. Nothing will ever change the relationship of a father and his child. We do understand that the fellowship can change. It is possible for a child to be out of fellowship with his father. However bad the fellowship might be, it never changes that fact that there is a relationship between the two.

**The believer has been sanctified through Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ for all.**

**Hebrews 10:10**, *“By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

**The believer has been perfected for \_\_\_\_\_ by one offering.**

**Hebrews 10:14**, *“For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.”*

**The believer has been made to sit in \_\_\_\_\_ places in Christ Jesus.**

**Ephesians 2:5-7**, *“Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”*

The promises of God and the position of believers is undeniable. **1 Peter 1:3-5** tells us, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

Our confidence is in the truth that God has given us. **Romans 3:4**, *“...let God be true, but every man a liar...”* If we did nothing to earn salvation, we can do nothing to lose it.

## II. THE INEVITABLE CONFIRMATION OF THE BELIEVER

Those who are critical of this wonderful doctrine are troubled that a person can say they are saved and yet live as they please. Such a claim is to miss the real issue

altogether. They neglect the truth that repentance toward God and faith in Christ always produces evidence.

There has never been, nor will there ever be a true Christian who says, “*Oh, now that I am saved, I can live as I please and sin all I want.*” Such a person has never truly been saved. We must always distinguish the professor with the possessor.

It is possible for a man to be a ‘*professor of salvation*’ without being a ‘*possessor of salvation*’, but it is impossible to be a ‘*possessor*’ without being a ‘*professor.*’ There is always evidence that accompanies the possessor of saving faith!

Consider the following Bible passage:

**Romans 6:1-7**, *“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.*”

Paul had just explained in Romans chapters four and five, that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Paul answers the question that would follow, “is this grace a license to sin?” The answer is an emphatic, “God forbid.” He goes on to explain that the believer has a new life in Christ. The person that claims that salvation by grace alone is a license to sin has not understood salvation at all! Paul declares that the person that is dead in Christ has been freed from sin.

The Word of God is clear on this subject:

**The believer who is in Christ is a new \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2 Corinthians 5:17**, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

### **Illustration: Dirt Floor**

A young missionary wife moved to another country with her husband. She looked at the dirty floor in their new house, and promptly grabbed a brush and pail, and got down on her hands and knees and began to scrub. She scrubbed and scrubbed and mopped and rinsed, but she could not get the dirt off the floor. One of the locals revealed the reason for her problem by telling her, “The reason you can’t get the dirt off the floor is because it’s a dirt floor!”

Some people try to live the same way. They endeavor to clean up their life hoping they will be more acceptable to God. But it is only after salvation that the old man becomes a new man in Jesus Christ.

## A. The Possession of the Believer

At the new birth, the believer has been given things that accompany salvation. Consider the following truths:

**The Holy Ghost has been \_\_\_\_\_ unto us.**

**Romans 5:5**, *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

**1 John 4:13**, *“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.”* (see also 1 John 3:24)

**The believer has been given all things that pertain unto \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.**

**2 Peter 1:3**, *“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”*

**The believer has been given \_\_\_\_\_, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true.**

**1 John 5:20**, *“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath 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.”*

**The believer has been given the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_, and the spirit of a sound mind.**

**2 Timothy 1:7**, *“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”*

## B. The Proof of the Believer

Good works cannot save a man; good works only reveal that a man has been saved by the grace of God.

**The believer who is saved by grace through faith has been created in Christ Jesus unto good \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Ephesians 2:8-10**, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we*

are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

**The unbelievers may profess to know God, but in \_\_\_\_\_ they deny Him.**

**Titus 1:15-16**, *“Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”*

**The person who declares to know Christ with no proof is declared to be a \_\_\_\_\_.**

**1 John 2:4**, *“He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”*

**Those who do righteousness do not become the children of God, they simply \_\_\_\_\_ that they are the children of God.**

**1 John 3:10**, *“In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.”*

**We do not become disciples of Christ by loving one another. We prove that we are disciples by our love for one another.**

**John 13:35**, *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

It is always important to understand the language of the Bible.

The born-again Christian cannot lose his salvation. There is the Judgment Seat of Christ for the believer. However, this judgment is about rewards gained or rewards lost. We see that the teaching of first Corinthians chapter three is about a reward received or a reward lost.

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15**, *“For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.”*

The salvation of the Christian is never a concern. Eternal life is a present possession, but a reward is a future possession.

### III. THE INTERPRETATION CONFUSION

As we consider the doctrine of eternal life we must ask ourselves the following question, “Can a person lose the gift of eternal life?”

Many people will claim that certain passages of Scripture teach that a man can lose his salvation. However, those who make those claims never consider the context of those verses.

When studying a passage, it is important to always interpret words in light of the immediate context. When the context of a Bible passage is plainly directed to the subject of salvation, there is never a question about the security of the believer.

There are two main passages that are used by those who teach that a Christian can lose his salvation; **James 2:24** and **Hebrews 6:4-9**. We will consider the first reference in our study.

#### **The Proper Interpretation of James 2:24**

Many religious teachers who deny the Gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ will often use James 2:24 to “prove” that salvation is not by Christ’s grace alone through faith alone.

**James 2:24**, *“Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.”*

When a Bible student ignores the context, he fills the Bible with unwarranted contradictions.

**IMPORTANT Context of the Book:** James is not addressing salvation; he is addressing the Christian life. James calls them, “my brethren” in verse 14. James is contrasting dead faith with true biblical faith, *“Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”* He is saying that true faith is evident by works. Those who live in rebellion and who ignore the Word of God demonstrate that they do not possess true faith, they are deceiving themselves.

**IMPORTANT Context of the Bible:** James and Paul are addressing two different events in Abraham’s life. Paul, in **Romans 4:1-4**, refers to Abraham’s salvation which occurred early in his life and which is recorded in **Genesis 15:5-6**. James, on the other hand, refers to Abraham’s testing which occurred 20 years later (**James 2:21-24; Genesis 22:1-18**). Abraham was saved by faith without works, but his salvation and his faith were evidenced and demonstrated by his obedience.



**IMPORTANT Context of the New Testament:** The teaching of James is no different from that of the other apostles. All apostles taught that true faith produces works. **Ephesians 2:8-10** makes it clear, *“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* It is faith alone which connects us with the free salvation offered in Jesus Christ. This salvation is a gift. Our works have nothing to do with it and cannot add to the completed work of Christ. Works, rather, follow after salvation and is the product of it, being created by God in the believing sinner.

Consider the following passage that clearly separates justification before God by grace, and the conduct that is expected of those who have believed.

**Titus 3:4-8**, *“But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.”*

Jesus taught his disciples this important truth in **Matthew 5:16**, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”* Faith is how a man is justified before God. Works is the proof to men that a believer has been justified.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

Circle the correct statement:

Eternal life is given by God.

Eternal life is earned by man.

How can a Christian be confident in his salvation?

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Will a believer ever come into condemnation? \_\_\_\_\_

What is our relationship to God the Heavenly Father?

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According to **1 Peter 1:3-5**, what expressions are used to speak of the believer's inheritance?

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Is salvation by grace through faith a license to sin? \_\_\_\_\_

What has a believer received from the Lord? *(Page 36)*

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When studying a Bible verse, what is always important to consider in our interpretation?

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Can a man be justified by works before God?

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What do good works reveal?

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