

## ETERNAL LIFE

The most amazing thing about Christianity is that it is *not* simply a supernatural religion! On the contrary, it claims that God, who is the Maker of all things, is also the God who came to earth, lived a human life, and died a human death. Christianity says there is a state of being beyond time and space where God dwells eternally.

### John 17:1-3

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give **eternal life** to as many as You have given Him. And this is **eternal life**, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

The most important aspect of eternal life is not the duration.

Brownlow North, a Puritan, wrote, "You will live as long as God lives, and you must live somewhere. Either with Christ, or separated from Christ."

Everyone will live forever. So then it is the quality of eternal life and not its duration that should interest us.

The New Age religion offers a version of eternal life through reincarnation. But the Bible teaches otherwise. Heb 9:27  
And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment ...

When does eternal life begin?

Eternal life is not something added on at the end of a believer's natural life.

I found 31 New Testament verses for **eternal life**: Among them:

Matthew 19:16 “Now behold; one came and said to Him, "Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?"”

Matthew 25:46 “And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

John 3:15 “... that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 5:39 “You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.”

John 10:28 “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.”

John 17:2-3 “...as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him.

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”

Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Titus 1:2 “... in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began,”

1 John 3:15 “Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.”

## ETERNAL LIFE

This is a priceless treasure, the gift of God. It is not to be confused with mere endless existence, which all possess, saved as well as unsaved. Christ said, "I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly" (John 10:10). This life is nothing less than "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Col 1:27). It is likened to a birth from above (John 3:3; 1:13) and is dependent upon receiving Christ as Savior. "He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life" (1 John 5:12). Eternal life must not be confused with natural life. This form of life is subject to death and is derived by human generation. Spiritual life has a beginning but no end. The difference is that one possessing mere natural life will be separated eternally from God in the lake of fire, whereas the one possessing eternal life will be united and in fellowship with God for all eternity. Thus, separation from God is eternal death; union with God is eternal life.

(from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary. Originally published by Moody Press of Chicago, Illinois. Copyright (c) 1988.)

**Do you have eternal life with Christ?**

**Jim Gunn**  
**January 22, 2014**