

There is a great difference between *life* and *eternal life*.

Every human being has life, and not only humans but also animals, birds, and even plants possess life. Yet, while many creatures share in life, not all have *eternal life*.

Eternal life is something altogether different—it is a gift that one must seek and receive. Without it, a person will only have temporary life, which soon passes away. Those who do not have eternal life will perish after death, being cast into the lake of fire.

Eternal life—also called *abundant life*—is found in only one Person: Jesus Christ.

John 10:10

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

Do you see? The Lord Jesus came not only that we might have *life*—meaning health and blessing in this world—but also that we might have it in *abundance*, which points to eternal life in Him.

HOW CAN WE RECEIVE ETERNAL LIFE?

Many people are confused, thinking that good morals, belonging to a certain religion, or keeping the Ten Commandments is enough to inherit eternal life. But the Scriptures make it clear: without denying oneself and following Jesus Christ, such things will never lead to eternal life. A good religion, upright morals, or a respected reputation may grant temporary blessings, but they cannot give eternal life.

Consider the story of the rich young ruler:

Matthew 19:16-21

“And behold, a man came up to him, saying, ‘Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?’

And he said to him, ‘Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.’

He said to him, ‘Which ones?’ And Jesus said, ‘You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

The young man said to him, 'All these I have kept. What do I still lack?'

Jesus said to him, 'If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.'

Notice carefully: when the young man asked about eternal life, Jesus first spoke of simply entering *life* through obedience to the commandments. This refers to enjoying long days and blessing in this world, as God promised:

Leviticus 18:5

"You shall therefore keep my statutes and my rules; if a person does them, he shall live by them: I am the LORD."

But when the man pressed further, Jesus pointed him beyond mere life to the deeper requirement for eternal life: surrender all, deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Him.

Sadly, the young man chose to walk away. He preferred temporary life with wealth and blessings over eternal life in Christ.

THE COST OF ETERNAL LIFE

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). The same demand He made to the young ruler, He makes to us today:

Luke 14:33

“So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple.”

Renouncing all does not merely mean physically giving away possessions. It begins in the heart. Whatever competes with God—whether wealth, relationships, reputation, or comfort—must be surrendered inwardly. If Christ truly reigns in your heart, then whether you possess much or little, it no longer binds you.

Eternal life is costly. It requires true self-denial and daily carrying the cross (Luke 9:23). Yet, the reward far outweighs the cost:

Matthew 19:28-29

“Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold and will inherit eternal life.”

A FINAL APPEAL

Friend, what are you trusting in today? Your religion? Your denomination? Your good works? Remember, the rich young ruler kept the commandments, yet he lacked eternal life.

Good morals may grant you *life* in this world, but only Jesus grants *eternal life*. If you desire eternal life, lay aside your denomination, your pride, your wealth, your achievements, and come to Jesus with the heart of a child—humble, willing, and surrendered.

John 17:3

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

Do not let today pass without surrendering to Christ. You do not know what tomorrow holds. If you have not yet received Jesus as Lord and Savior, repent of your sins and invite Him into your life. Pray with a sincere heart, or seek a faithful Christian who can pray with you.

Only Jesus Christ gives eternal life.

1 John 5:11-12

“And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

May the Lord bless you as you seek not just life, but eternal life in Christ.

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SEEK ETERNAL LIFE, NOT JUST LIFE!

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