

The Truth About Eternal Life

Al Danks

al@perfectingprayer.com
perfectingprayer.com

**Christian Life Series
Book #5**

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	5
Part One: Eternal Life.....	13
Part Two: Our Current Condition.....	23
Part Three: God's Provision Pertaining to Eternal Life.....	31
Part Four: What Does Jesus Say We Must Do to Receive Eternal Life?.....	39
Part Five: The Process By Which We Receive Eternal Life.....	49
Part Six: Hearing and Trust.....	55
Part Seven: Enter God's New Covenant.....	61
Part Eight: Repent – Become Free From Sin.....	69
Part Nine: Repent – Be Made Righteous.....	77
Part Ten: Live to Do God's Will.....	83
Part Eleven: Receive Eternal Life.....	89
Part Twelve: Measuring Our Alignment with Eternal Life.....	99
Part Thirteen: Enter Into Eternal Life.....	111
Part Fourteen: The Truth About Eternal Life and Making Disciples.....	121

Introduction

Table of Contents

I: Introduction	9
A: Eternal Life	10
B: Our Current Condition	10
C: God's Provision	11
D: What Must We do?	11
E: Recommended Reading	11

I: Introduction

The issue of eternal life – where and how we will spend eternity – is the most consequential issue we will face in life. The difference in the consequences to us, if we receive eternal life or fail to receive it, are as extreme as they could possibly be. Moreover, we will have to live with the consequences forever.

Jesus tells us that entering into eternal life is difficult: many will seek to enter and will not be able to.

Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. (Luke 13:24)

The cost of failing to enter eternal life is so great that we would be beyond foolish not to seek the truth about eternal life with commensurate diligence. *The Truth About Eternal Life* is written to help in that search.

Satan will intensely and persistently oppose those seeking eternal life. Paul warns us of this and instructs us to put on the whole armor of God so we can overcome in prayer.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the gospel of peace. In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, (Ephesians 6:10-18)

So, following God's instructions given through Paul, we put on God's armor.

Father, we thank you in the name of Jesus for your armor and we put on your armor: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation, and the sword of your Spirit.

One of Satan's favorite means of fighting against us is to lead us onto the path of leaning to our own understanding. Indeed, he uses this way to fight against all things that pertain to life and godliness.

In answer to Jesus' prayer, the Father sends the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth – onto the path where we trust in God to guide us and order our steps.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, (John 16:13)

If we ask God, he will send the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth – including the truth of eternal life and what we must do to receive it.

Father, we thank you in the name of Jesus that you send forth your Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth. We ask that you send your Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth and show us things to come. Fill us with the knowledge of your will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding so we live a life worthy of you, fully pleasing to you, and bearing fruit in every good work. Father, we also ask you to send your Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth of eternal life.

A: Eternal Life

We significantly help ourselves find the path leading to eternal life by seeking out what eternal life is. This simple step is easily overlooked. A good understanding of what eternal life is helps us find the path leading to it, perceive our status relative to that path, and perceive our status relative to eternal life itself.

There is a type of life available to us that we are not born with. This life is characterized by shalom – love, peace, truth, and freedom – including freedom from fear and anxiety. This is eternal life and we may partake of it now during our temporal life. God gives us eternal life through his Word.

B: Our Current Condition

We are born with a type of life characterized by corrupt desires. These desires bring forth death and are incompatible with eternal life. To receive eternal life we must remove the corrupt desires from our being.

C: God's Provision

God has given us provision to help us remove the corrupt desires, become compatible with eternal life, and receive it. God sends his Spirit of Truth to guide us into all truth. If we ask him he will send him to guide us into the truth of eternal life. God has also given truth to us in 1 John that helps us know if we have received eternal life.

D: What Must We do?

We must enter into a new covenant with God through which he helps us remove corrupt desires, become compatible with eternal life and receive it. We must be cleansed from the sin caused by the corrupt desires and sow God's Word into our hearts so it can produce eternal life in us.

E: Recommended Reading

My first book, *The Guiding Into Truth Work of the Holy Spirit* covers the work of the Spirit of Truth: how he guides us and how we hear him. It lays the foundation for following the guiding of the Spirit rather than leaning to our own understanding to discern what is true. That foundation is highly recommended for discerning the truth in this book. Reading this book without the foundation provided by *The Guiding Into Truth Work of the Holy Spirit* significantly increases the risks of rejecting the truth of this book as error and accepting error and deception as truth.

My third book, *Ceased from Sin: Living to Do God's Will* includes a discussion on the flesh and repentance. It will also be helpful in understanding some of the discussion in this book.

Part One: Eternal Life

Table of Contents

I: Eternal Life.....	17
A: What Eternal Life Is.....	17
1: Unending, Absolute Shalom.....	17
B: Life Flowing From Our Being.....	18
C: Three Aspects of Life.....	18
1: Bios.....	18
2: Psuche.....	19
3: Zoe.....	19
D: Where Do We Get Zoe Life?.....	20

I: Eternal Life

A: What Eternal Life Is

The truth about eternal life – a sufficiently accurate and complete representation of eternal life – includes what eternal life is. This is a good starting point for understanding the truth about eternal life. Eternal life is our goal. Knowing what it is will help us understand the process by which we receive and enter into eternal life and helps us measure whether we have eternal life.

1: Unending, Absolute Shalom

Jesus says that there are two outcomes to our temporal life: one is eternal life and the other is eternal punishment.

These (the unrighteous) will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)

If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to **enter life** crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the **eternal fire**. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. (Matthew 18:8-9)

If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:15)

In both outcomes we “live” forever in the sense of existing forever. The difference is the nature of our existence – the type of life we will have.

Eternal punishment is unending misery, anguish, pain, sorrow, torment, and suffering. Eternal life is the opposite of eternal punishment. Eternal life is unending, absolute shalom-life. Shalom is a Hebrew word for peace, tranquility, safety, well-being, welfare, health, contentment, success, comfort, wholeness and integrity, truth, joy, prosperity, right relationships between ourselves, God, our neighbors, and creation. Eternal life is blessedness in every facet of life. The blessings promised in Deuteronomy 28:1-14 give us a glimpse of the blessedness nature of eternal life.

B: Life Flowing From Our Being

Jesus says that eternal life flows from our being.

The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life. (John 4:14)

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. (John 6:53)

No murderer has eternal life abiding in him. (1 John 3:15)

We know from Proverbs that the springs of life flow from our hearts.

Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life. (Proverbs 4:23)

We have, however, a very large problem. Jesus tells us that we do not have life in our hearts: we have no life in us (John 6:53). Eternal life must flow from our hearts, but we don't have it in our hearts. Eternal life must be added to our beings – put into our hearts.

C: Three Aspects of Life

Jesus tells us of three types of life. There is a different Greek word related to each type: bios, psuche, and zoe. Unfortunately, these three Greek words have all been translated to a single English word: life. As a result, we lose much of what Jesus is telling us about eternal life.

1: Bios

Bios refers to life on earth in its functions and duration, then also basic essentials of life, "livelihood," "property."¹

The widow who offered two coins put in all she had to live on – her bios.

Indeed, they cast in out of all of their abundance, however out of her poverty she cast in as much as she had, all of her **livelihood** (bios). (Mark 12:44)

¹ Haas, C., M. De Jonge, and J.L. Swellengrebel. A Translator's Handbook on the Letters of John. London: United Bible Societies, 1972. (1 John 1:1)

The woman with the issue of blood spent all her bios on physicians.

And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, and though she had spent all her **living** (bios) on physicians, she could not be healed by anyone. (Luke 8:43)

Bios deals with the part of life that pertains to sustaining the life of our physical body: what we shall eat, what we shall drink, with what we shall be clothed.

2: Psuche

Psuche refers to the life of the soul, the seat and center of man's inner life.²

Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both **soul** (psuche) and body (soma) in hell. (Matthew 10:28)

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your **soul** (psuche) and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

For whoever wishes to save his **life** (psuche) will lose it, but whoever loses his **life** (psuche) for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his **soul** (psuche)? For what will a man give in exchange for his **soul** (psuche)? (Mark 8:35-37)

He who loves his **life** (psuche) loses it, and he who hates his **life** (psuche) in this world will keep it to life (zoe) eternal. (John 12:25)

3: Zoe

Zoe refers to true life: life that man does not possess. All verses referring to eternal life refer to zoe life. Eternal life is zoe life.

Then He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not [even] when one has an abundance does his **life** (zoe) consist of his possessions." (Luke 12:15)

² Haas, C., M. De Jonge, and J.L. Swellengrebel. A Translator's Handbook on the Letters of John. London: United Bible Societies, 1972. (1 John 1:1)

Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, **has eternal life (zoe)**, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into **life (zoe)**. (John 5:24)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have **life (zoe)**, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no **life (zoe)** in yourselves. (John 6:53)

D: Where Do We Get Zoe Life?

There is only one place where we can get eternal life: Jesus, the Word of God.

And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life (zoe), and this life (zoe) is in his Son. (1 John 5:11)

The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word: the life (zoe) (1 John 1:1).

John 6:63 contains a figure of speech called a metonymy of the cause: where the cause is put for the effect – where a thing is put for the thing produced by it. It says that the words I speak to you give and produce spiritual and eternal life.³

It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life (give and produce spiritual and eternal life (zoe)). (John 6:63)

God has given us eternal life (zoe) and this life is in his Son. His Son, Jesus, is the Word of God made flesh. So God has given us eternal life in his Word. God's word produces eternal life and sown into our hearts it will produce eternal life within us.

Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

³ Bullinger, E. W. *Figures of Speech Used in the Bible*. London: Eyres and Spottiswoode, 1898. 538, 540. Print.

You have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. (1 Peter 1:23)

Part Two: Our Current Condition

Table of Contents

I: Our Current Condition	27
A: Do not Have Eternal Life (Zoe)	27
B: Have Corrupt Heart Producing Death	27
C: Excluded from Life (Zoe)	27
D: In Bondage to Satan	28
E: Hindered By A Deceiver	28

I: Our Current Condition

A: Do not Have Eternal Life (Zoe)

As we mentioned in the first chapter, we do not have eternal life.

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.
(John 6:53)

B: Have Corrupt Heart Producing Death

Not only do we not have eternal life, but we have a corrupt heart which is producing death.

Corrupt desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. (James 1:15)

Through the disobedience of the one individual (Adam) the mass of mankind were constituted (made) sinners. (Romans 5:19)

What comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this defiles a person. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person. (Matthew 15:18-20)

C: Excluded from Life (Zoe)

We are excluded from the zoe life of God because of our corrupt hearts. We don't have eternal life, we have corrupt hearts bringing forth death, and we are excluded from access to eternal life because of our corrupt hearts.

So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart; (Ephesians 4:17-18)

The corrupt desires in our hearts make us incompatible with eternal life. They bring forth death and work to choke the seed of the Word of God from which we receive eternal life.

The ones sown among thorns are those who hear the word, but the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. (Mark 4:18-19)

D: In Bondage to Satan

The corrupt desires in our heart work in us to will and to do what Satan desires: to steal, kill, and to destroy – to work against shalom and eternal life.

Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil's trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. (2 Timothy 2:26)

Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. (John 8:34)

You were slaves of sin. (Romans 6:17, 19, 20)

You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. (John 8:44)

E: Hindered By A Deceiver

We are hindered from perceiving and accepting the truth about eternal life by Satan – the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Satan sows cares of this world, desires for other things, pleasures of this life, and trust in false riches into our hearts. Then he uses these things to cause us to accept error about eternal life and reject the truth about eternal life. He uses deceptions that are representations of eternal life that have enough truth to be convincing, but are not accurate or complete enough to actually receive and enter into eternal life.

His strategy is well stated in Exodus 5:9 – keep us too busy to pay attention to the truth about eternal life.

Let the labor be heavier on them, and let them work at it that they may pay no attention to false words. (Exodus 5:9)

As a result of Satan's work to deceive, many seek to receive and enter into eternal life, but few find the truth about eternal life, accept it, receive it, and enter into it.

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way leading to destruction is easy, and those entering by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way leading to life is hard, and those finding it are few. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Part Three: God's Provision Pertaining to Eternal Life

Table of Contents

I: God's Provision Pertaining to Eternal Life.....	35
A: Freedom from Sin.....	35
B: Righteousness.....	36
C: Eternal Life.....	36
D: New Covenant.....	37
E: Spirit of Truth.....	37
F: Word of God.....	37

I: God's Provision Pertaining to Eternal Life

Our current condition is such that there is nothing that we can do on our own to receive and enter into eternal life. If we are to have eternal life we must remove from our being that which makes us incompatible with eternal life: corrupt desires and the uncleanness they have caused. Eternal life must be given to us by someone who has it and is able to give it to us. Fortunately for us, God provides us a way to remove everything from our being that causes us to be incompatible with eternal life, he has eternal life, he is able to give it to us, and he is willing to give it to us.

God does not just sweep life away; instead, he devises ways to bring us back when we have been separated from him. (2 Samuel 14:14)

Understanding the provision God has given us will help us understand the process by which we receive and enter into eternal life. Understanding what God has given us helps us measure the accuracy and completeness of the process we are following to receive eternal life. If the process we are following isn't using the provision God has given us, then our process needs correcting.

God has provided us with all the things we need pertaining to eternal life.

- The power and means needed to remove from our being that which is incompatible with eternal life.
- Eternal life.
- A guide into the truth of the provision and process to receive and enter into eternal life.
- A guide into the truth of measuring our alignment with eternal life.
- Reliable measures of alignment with eternal life.

A: Freedom from Sin

God, through his son Jesus' death and resurrection, has given us freedom from sin.

Our old man was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6)

Our old heart (the corrupt nature of our being inherited from Adam) was crucified with him so that the sin-causing part of our being might be destroyed, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. (Romans 6:6)

Jesus is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Jesus died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they committed in violation of the first covenant. (Hebrews 9:15)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we may cease from sinning and live for righteousness. (1 Peter 2:24)

Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone sinning is a slave to sin. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:34, 36)

B: Righteousness

Through Jesus, God has given us righteousness: alignment with God, truth, shalom, eternal life.

As a free gift by God's grace, through the setting free (redemption) in Jesus, God has justified us (cleansed us from sin, made us righteous). (Romans 3:24)

Jesus was delivered over to death because of our trespasses (deviations from God, truth, shalom, eternal life) and was raised to life for our justification (to cleanse us from sin and make us righteous – properly align us with God, truth, shalom, eternal life). (Romans 4:25)

We have now been justified (cleansed from sin and unrighteousness) by his blood. (Romans 5:9)

C: Eternal Life

God has given us eternal life.

The free gift of God is eternal life in union with Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23)

God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. (1 John 5:11)

D: New Covenant

God has made a new covenant with us. Jesus inaugurated it with his blood.

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:8-12, Jeremiah 31:31-34)

I will give them unity of heart. I will put a new spirit among you. I will remove from their bodies the hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh; so that they will live by my regulations, obey my rulings and act by them. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

E: Spirit of Truth

Jesus asked the Father to send the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth.

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13)

F: Word of God

God has given us his written word and, through his Spirit guiding us into truth, is still giving us his spoken word today.

All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness. (2 Timothy 3:16)

When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. (John 16:13)

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts. (Hebrews 3:7-8)

Part Four: What Does Jesus Say We Must Do to Receive Eternal Life?

Table of Contents

I: What Does Jesus Say We Must Do to Receive Eternal Life.....	43
A: Commands to Obey to Receive Eternal Life.....	43
1: Enter narrow way.....	43
2: Keep God's commandments.....	43
3: Remove Cause of Sin from Your Being.....	44
4: Be faithful unto death.....	44
B: What We Must Do, or Be, to Receive Eternal Life.....	44
1: Repent.....	44
2: Lose Our Temporal Life.....	44
3: Be born again.....	45
4: Become like little children.....	45
5: Trust in God.....	45
6: Trust in Jesus.....	46
7: Hear Jesus' word and trust him who sent him.....	46
8: Trust gospel.....	46
9: Come to Jesus.....	46
10: Enter by Jesus.....	47
11: Work for food that endures to eternal life.....	47
12: Eat bread Jesus gives.....	47
13: Overcome.....	47

I: What Does Jesus Say We Must Do to Receive Eternal Life

Jesus is the authority on eternal life. The representation of reality about eternal life that he makes is true. It is sufficiently accurate and complete and can be trusted. We can follow it and expect to receive eternal life.

What Jesus says about eternal life is recorded throughout the Gospels and the book of Revelation. It is helpful to pull it together so we can see it in one place. That is done here. Jesus declares a number of things we must be or do to enter into eternal life. He is not describing multiple options, but rather one way that includes all of the different things he declares.

A: Commands to Obey to Receive Eternal Life

1: Enter narrow way

Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way leading to destruction is easy, and those entering by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way leading to life (zoe) is hard, and those finding it are few. (Matthew 7:13-14)

Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. (Luke 13:24-28)

2: Keep God's commandments

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life (zoe)? And he said unto him ... if you will enter into life (zoe), keep the commandments. (Matthew 19:16-17)

3: Remove Cause of Sin from Your Being

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (Matthew 5:29-30)

If your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life (zoe) with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. (Matthew 18:8-9)

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life (zoe) crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life (zoe) lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell. (Mark 9:43-47)

4: Be faithful unto death

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life (zoe). (Revelation 2:10)

B: What We Must Do, or Be, to Receive Eternal Life

1: Repent

I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. (Luke 13:3,5)

2: Lose Our Temporal Life

Whoever finds his life (psuche) will lose it, and whoever loses his life (psuche) for my sake will find it. (Matthew 10:39)

For whoever would save his life (psuche) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (psuche) for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul (psuche)? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul (psuche)? (Matthew 16:24-26)

For whoever would save his life (psuche) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (psuche) for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul (psuche)? For what can a man give in exchange for his soul (psuche)? (Mark 8:35-37)

For whoever would save his life (psuche) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (psuche) for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? (Luke 9:24-25)

Whoever seeks to preserve his life (psuche) will lose it, but whoever loses his life (psuche) will keep it (Luke 17:33)

The one loving his life (psuche) loses it, and the one hating his life (psuche) in this world will keep it for eternal life (zoe). (John 12:25)

3: Be born again

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God. (John 3:3)

4: Become like little children

Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 18:3)

5: Trust in God

When he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and knelt to him, and asked him, Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life (zoe)? You know the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honor your father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Teacher, all these have I observed from my youth. Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing you lack: go your way, sell whatsoever you have, and

give to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions. And Jesus looked round about, and said unto his disciples, How hard for those that have riches to enter into the kingdom of God! And the disciples were astonished at his words. But Jesus answered again, and said unto them, Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God! (Mark 10:17, 19-24, also Matthew 19:16-30, Luke 18:18-30)

6: Trust in Jesus

Everyone trusting in him may have eternal life (zoe). For God so loved the world that he gave his only and unique Son, so that everyone trusting in him may have eternal life (zoe), instead of being utterly destroyed. (John 3:15-16)

Yes, this is the will of my Father: that all seeing the Son and trusting in him should have eternal life (zoe), and that I should raise them up on the Last Day. (John 6:40)

Truly, truly, I say to you, the one trusting has eternal life (zoe). (John 6:47)

The one trusting in me will live, even if he dies; and everyone living and trusting in me will never die. (John 11:25-26)

7: Hear Jesus' word and trust him who sent him

The one hearing what I am saying and trusting the One who sent me has eternal life (zoe) – that is, he will not come up for judgment but has already crossed over from death to life (zoe). (John 5:24)

8: Trust gospel

Whoever trusts and is immersed will be saved; whoever does not trust will be condemned. (Mark 16:16)

9: Come to Jesus

You refuse to come to me that you may have life (zoe). (John 5:40)

10: Enter by Jesus

I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved. I give them eternal life (zoe), and they will never perish. (John 10:9, 28)

11: Work for food that endures to eternal life

Do not work for the perishing food, but for the food enduring to eternal life (zoe), which the Son of Man will give to you. (John 6:27)

12: Eat bread Jesus gives

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life (zoe) in you. The one eating my flesh and drinking my blood has eternal life (zoe). The one eating this bread will live forever. (John 6:51, 53-54, 58)

13: Overcome

To the one overcoming I will grant to eat of the tree of life (zoe). (Revelation 2:7)

The one overcoming will not be hurt by the second death. (Revelation 2:11)

The one overcoming will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life (zoe). (Revelation 3:5)

Part Five: The Process By Which We Receive Eternal Life

Table of Contents

I: The Process By Which We Receive Eternal Life.....	53
A: Overview of the Process.....	53
1: Hear and trust.....	53
2: Enter God's new covenant.....	54
3: Become free from sin (receive God's provision of being made free from sin).....	54
4: Be made righteous (receive God's provision of being made righteous).....	54
5: Live Doing God's Will.....	54
6: Receive eternal life (receive God's provision of eternal life).....	54
7: Remain faithful.....	54
8: Enter into eternal life.....	54

I: The Process By Which We Receive Eternal Life

God has given us everything we need pertaining to eternal life. How do we receive what he has given us so we receive and enter into eternal life? This is the most important question we will ever consider. God warns us not to lean to our own understanding, but to seek him to direct our path. That warning is most especially appropriate when seeking to find the path of eternal life. Many seek it, but few find it. God sends his Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth of the path of eternal life. If we ask God to send him to guide us, he will.

Father, in the name of Jesus, please send your Spirit of Truth to guide me into all the truth of eternal life.

A: Overview of the Process

In the book of Romans Paul tells us that we don't go directly from not having eternal life to having it. He tells us that our being set free from sin leads to our becoming righteous, which leads to our sanctification, which ends in eternal life.

As sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life. (Romans 5:21)

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. (Romans 6:22)

If we look back at what Jesus says we must do, we see we must first hear and trust. We follow this with becoming free from sin and then being made righteous. It is after this that we receive eternal life. Becoming free from sin, being made righteous, and receiving eternal life are all part of God's new covenant with man. We receive them by entering into God's new covenant.

Putting the steps in order:

1: Hear and trust

Hearing is the first step of the process. Trust comes by hearing and hearing comes by the Word of Christ (Romans 10:17). So hearing comes before trust and trust comes before the other steps.

2: Enter God's new covenant

God's provision of things related to eternal life is available to us through the new covenant that Jesus inaugurated with his blood. We need to enter into that covenant with God to receive his provisions related to eternal life.

3: Become free from sin (receive God's provision of being made free from sin)

Jesus says we must repent and he says we must remove that which causes us to sin from our being.

4: Be made righteous (receive God's provision of being made righteous)

We cannot receive and enter into eternal life unless we have been made righteous.

5: Live Doing God's Will

Living doing God's will – being sanctified to God, being his people – is another part of God's new covenant provision and another part of the process of receiving eternal life.

6: Receive eternal life (receive God's provision of eternal life)

Jesus says we must eat the bread he gives and that the bread he gives will cause us to have eternal life.

7: Remain faithful

Jesus says we must remain faithful in order to enter into eternal life.

8: Enter into eternal life

Entering into eternal life will occur at Jesus' direction when he separates the unrighteous from the righteous on the day of judgment.

Part Six: Hearing and Trust

Table of Contents

I: Hearing and Trust.....	59
A: Eternal Life.....	59
B: The Process and Provision By Which We Receive Eternal Life.....	60
C: How We Measure Our Alignment With Eternal Life.....	60
D: God.....	60

I: Hearing and Trust

Jesus says that we must trust him and the Father who sent him. (Mark 10:17, 19-24, 16:16; John 3:15-16, 5:24, 6:40, 6:47, 11:25-26)

Trust comes by hearing and hearing through the word of Christ (Romans 10:17).

Faith is grounded in truth. Truth is the accurate and complete representation of reality. Faith is trust that a given representation of reality is accurate, complete, and corresponds to reality – that the representation of reality is true. Faith is trust that a representation of reality is true.

Our faith may be correctly held – we trust a representation of reality that is true. It may be incorrectly held – we trust a representation of reality that is not true – or is not sufficiently accurate and complete. We may also trust a representation of reality that is true.

The importance of eternal life and the possibility of incorrectly held faith is a great danger to us. When you add to that the fact that Satan is working persistently to deceive us – especially about eternal life, then our need to discern the truth and error of what we hear is even greater.

Paul went to Berea and preached a representation of eternal life that was true. The Bereans had not heard it before. They searched the Word every day to discern if the things Paul was saying were true (Acts 17:11). Many others heard the same message and did not trust.

We would be wise to follow the example of the Bereans and add to it asking God to send the Spirit of Truth to guide us into the truth of eternal life.

A: Eternal Life

We must trust that eternal life is real.

It is helpful if we correctly discern and trust what eternal life is and that it is a type of life that we can receive during our temporal life.

B: The Process and Provision By Which We Receive Eternal Life

It is absolutely essential that we trust the process and provision by which we receive eternal life. It is also absolutely essential that our trust is correctly held in a process that is sufficiently accurate and complete that our following it will result in our receiving and entering into eternal life. Therefore, when we discern a process and provision of eternal life, we must discern whether it is sufficiently accurate and whether it is complete enough to follow and receive eternal life.

C: How We Measure Our Alignment With Eternal Life

We would be wise to measure our alignment with eternal life on an ongoing basis. Are we aligned with eternal life, or not? Have we received it? If not, why not? Is it because we have not followed the process to receive it completely? Or is it because the process we are following is not sufficiently complete?

As we measure our alignment we must trust the measures we are using and the process by which we measure.

D: God

Ultimately, we must trust God regarding everything related to eternal life. He tells us that eternal life is real and what it is. He has given us provision for receiving and entering into eternal life. He reveals to us the process for receiving and entering into eternal life. He also guides us in measuring our alignment with eternal life.

We must trust:

- God's person – he is trustworthy, righteous, and loving
- God's power – it is sufficient to provide us with all things that pertain to eternal life
- God's word (provision) – what God has given us pertaining to eternal life is sufficient for us to receive eternal life
- God's means for receiving and entering into eternal life work to produce the result of our receiving and entering into it
- God's means for measuring our alignment with eternal life are sufficiently accurate, complete, and reliable.

Part Seven: Enter God's New Covenant

Table of Contents

I: Enter God's New Covenant.....	65
A: Acknowledge Jesus as Lord.....	65
B: Pledge to Keep the New Covenant.....	66

I: Enter God's New Covenant

God made a new covenant with man and through the provisions of that covenant he gives us eternal life.

Jesus is Mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance (Hebrews 9:15)

When God gives us provision through his covenant he only gives it to those who enter the covenant with him and keep it. To receive God's provision of eternal life we must enter God's new covenant through which he provides it.

The first step in entering God's new covenant is to come to Jesus: the Mediator of God's new covenant. Coming to Jesus is one of the things he says we must do.

In Hebrews 12 we get a picture of our coming to him.

You have not come to a tangible mountain (Mt. Sinai, site of the first covenant), to an ignited fire, to darkness, to murk, to a whirlwind, to the sound of a trumpet, and to a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further message be given them... On the contrary, you have come to Mt Zion... to God, the judge of all, ... and to Jesus, the Mediator of a new covenant. (Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24)

So, as we seek to enter the new covenant with God, we must come to Jesus as the Mediator of God's new covenant. But Jesus is more than the Mediator of the new covenant. God has made him Lord and Messiah. (Acts 2:36) When we come to Jesus we must also come to him as Lord and Messiah.

A: Acknowledge Jesus as Lord

When we come to Jesus as Lord we must acknowledge him as Lord. Acknowledging is done by confessing. Confessing is done by our words.

If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

Confessing is also done by our actions. Titus says there were those who, rather than confess God with their actions, denied him.

They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. (Titus 1:16)

Jesus warns us of a lips, but not heart, deception where people draw near with their lips, but their heart is far from him. This happens when people confess with their lips, but deny with their actions.

B: Pledge to Keep the New Covenant

A covenant is a legal contract between two or more parties containing a collection of pledges that each party makes to the other(s). In the new covenant God makes a set of pledges to us and we need to make a corresponding set of pledges to God.

This is the covenant I will establish with the people of Israel after that time, declares the Lord. I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more. (Hebrews 8:8-12, Jeremiah 31:31-34)

I will give them unity of heart. I will put a new spirit among you. I will remove from their bodies the hearts of stone and give them hearts of flesh; so that they will live by my regulations, obey my rulings and act by them. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God. (Ezekiel 11:19-20)

God pledges to put his laws in our minds and write them on our hearts. We need to pledge to receive God's laws in our minds and write them on our hearts.

God pledges to remove our hearts of stone and to give us a heart of flesh so we will live by his regulations and rulings. We need to pledge to remove our heart of stone and to receive a heart of flesh from God so we will live by his regulations and rulings.

God pledges to be our God. We need to pledge to be God's people.

God pledges to forgive our wickedness and remember our sins no more. We need to pledge to turn from wickedness, to sin no more, and to live with a clean conscience.

Listen to the terms of this covenant ... this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says:
'Cursed is the one who does not obey the terms of this covenant – the terms I
commanded your ancestors when I brought them out of Egypt ... I said, 'Obey me and
do everything I command you, and you will be my people, and I will be your God.'
(Jeremiah 11:2-4)

A pledge to completely leave our old life, our old condition, and move to a new life takes place in baptism. Around the time of John the Baptist, a bride and groom would be baptized as part of a sign of their pledge ending their old lives and starting a new one together.⁴

As a part of entering the new covenant, baptism is a sign of our pledge to leave our former condition with corrupt desires bringing forth sin and death and move to a new condition with the zoe life in the Word of God working in us to impel us to do God's will. It is a sign of our pledge to cease from sin – a pledge to live before God with a clean conscience.

God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes **baptism** that now saves you also – not the removal of dirt from the body but **the pledge of a clean conscience toward God**. (1 Peter 3:20-21)

It is sign of our pledge to remove from our being that which brings forth death and is incompatible with eternal life and add God's Word to our being so it will bring forth the fruit of eternal life.

⁴ "Messiah 101—Immersion, Beit Avanim Chaiot." Messiah 101 – Immersion, Beit Avanim Chaiot. Web. 27 Jan. 2016. <<http://www.bac2torah.com/Messiah101-Immersion.htm>>.

Part Eight: Repent – Become Free From Sin

Table of Contents

I: Repent – Become Free From Sin.....	73
A: Provision.....	73
1: God has set us free from sin.....	73
2: God's new covenant.....	73
B: What Jesus Says We Must Do.....	73
C: Repentance: Becoming Free From Sin.....	73
D: Trust.....	75
E: Result of Becoming Free From Sin.....	75

I: Repent – Become Free From Sin

If we are to keep our pledge to obey God and keep his new covenant, we must change our current condition. The corrupt desires in our heart will cause us to sin – breaking our pledge and not keeping God's covenant. God has given us provision to change our current condition – to remove the corrupt desires that cause us to sin – and to keep his covenant.

A: Provision

1: God has set us free from sin

God, through Jesus' death and resurrection, has set us free from sin. We now have the power and authority we need to remove the corrupt desires from our being. The corrupt desires have been stripped of their power – they cannot resist our removing them.

2: God's new covenant

Through God's new covenant he will remove our hearts of stone (corrupt desires) and give us a heart of flesh to cause us to walk in his statutes, keep his rules and obey them. (Ezekiel 11:19, 36:26-27)

B: What Jesus Says We Must Do

Jesus says, that to receive eternal life, we must repent and remove that which causes us to sin from our being. (Luke 13: 3, 5; Matthew 5:29-30)

C: Repentance: Becoming Free From Sin

We become free from sin by repenting. God, through the prophet Ezekiel, describes repentance.

Repent and turn from all your transgressions, do not let iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die ... ? Turn (repent) and live. (Ezekiel 18:30-32)

The corrupt desires of the corrupt-desire heart – the flesh – cause us to sin. Like the nature of the life in an apple tree impels it to bring forth apples, the nature of the “life” in corrupt desires impels them to bring forth sin in and through us. Jesus tells us how to deal with sin and the corrupt desires that bring it forth.

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell (Matthew 5:29-30)

Corrupt desires bring forth sin (James 1:15). Jesus commands us to remove them from our being so we can enter into eternal life. How do we do that? How do we remove the corrupt desires, corrupt trees from our hearts? Jesus shows us the way again.

If you have faith like a grain of a mustard seed, you could say to this sycamine tree, “Be uprooted and planted in the sea,” and it would obey you. (Luke 17:6)

If we examine corrupt desires we see that all of them have a common element: what I want. Individual corrupt desires are like the countless branches on the corrupt tree. They all share the common root of “what I want.” It isn't necessary to cut off each individual branch. All of the branches will be removed if we lay the ax to the root of the corrupt tree.

- What I want to have.
- What I want to do.
- What I want to consume.
- What I want to be.
- What I want others to think I am.
- I want to live my life to please myself, to direct and order my steps to satisfy my desires.
- I want to live my life according to my own understanding.
- I want to determine for myself what is real, true, good; what to desire, what to believe.

So, if we remove all our “what I want” desires, every thing we want, from our being; we will remove all corrupt desires. This is removing the stony heart.

Removing the stony heart of flesh is half of what we must do to be free from sin. We must add to our being that which causes us to will and do God's will.

God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do his will. (Philippians 2:13)

We must sow God's Word into our hearts. God's Word must dwell in our hearts in abundance to produce the will and power to do God's will. The nature of the life in God's Word impels us to walk in God's statutes, keep his rules and obey them. It works in us to cause us to stay free from sin.

In the name of Jesus I command the corrupt desires in my heart to be plucked up by the root and cast into the sea. I believe God's Word that says the corrupt desires will obey and be removed. Father, in the name of Jesus I am sowing your Word into my heart so it will cause me to will and to do your will and strengthen me against corrupt desires conceiving in my heart again.

D: Trust

We need to trust God in several different ways as we repent. We must trust what God reveals to us about corrupt desires causing us to sin. We must trust the power and the process God says to follow in order to remove them. We must trust that sowing God's Word into our hearts will work in us to will to do God's will.

Being willing to cast away all of our desires – what we want – and sow God's Word into our hearts to live to please God requires trust too. We have to trust that God will guide our lives in a way that will be as good as, or better than, the desires we cast away. As we seek him, God will give us new desires that far surpass our old desires and do not cause us to sin.

We need to hear and trust what Jesus says:

There is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands (bios), for my sake and for the gospel, who will not **receive** a hundredfold now in this time, houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands (bios), with persecutions, and **in the age to come eternal life (zoe)**. (Mark 10:29-30)

E: Result of Becoming Free From Sin

By removing from our being that which causes us to sin and sowing God's Word into our hearts to cause us to walk in God's ways, we have done what Jesus said to do. We have repented and removed that which causes us to sin. We have removed the stony

heart and received a new heart created in us by the Word of God. By casting away our desires we have lost our life. Sowing the Word of God into our hearts works in us to will and to do God's will. It creates in us a new life – a life of the nature of God.

(Matthew 10:39, 16:24-26; Mark 8:35-37; Luke 9:24-25, Luke 17:33; John 12:25)

(John 3:3; Matthew 18:3)

We have also crucified the flesh with its corrupt desires and put off the old man which was corrupt because of deceitful desires. (Galatians 5:24, Ephesians 4:22)

Part Nine: Repent – Be Made Righteous

Table of Contents

I: Repent – Be Made Righteous.....81

I: Repent – Be Made Righteous

Becoming free from sin is one part of repentance. Being made righteous is another.

Removing that which causes us to sin from our being and sowing God's Word into our hearts results in our ceasing to do unrighteousness. We cease being slaves to unrighteousness and begin doing righteousness, but we do not become righteous. The sins that we committed, the sin that was part of our being, has defiled our being – making us unrighteous and unclean. To be made righteous we must be cleansed from all unrighteousness.

We cannot make ourselves clean. God, through the blood of his Son – Jesus, has provided a way for us to be cleansed and made righteous.

If we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ... **If we confess our sins**, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:7,9)

After removing that which causes us to sin and sowing God's Word into our hearts to cause us to will and to do God's will we are walking in the light. If we confess the sin – the corrupt desires we had in our hearts – and the sins – the thoughts, words, and actions that were produced by those corrupt desires, and ask God to cleanse us, then he will cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Father, in the name of Jesus, I confess that I had corrupt desires in my heart. I gave myself to satisfy those corrupt desires and I sinned. I have followed the directions in your word and have cast the corrupt desires from my heart. I am sowing your Word into my heart so it will cause me to will and to do your will. Please cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I receive the cleansing you give by faith and thank you for it.

The result of our prayer to be cleansed from unrighteousness is to be cleansed and made righteous. By the cleansing of Jesus' blood our consciences have been cleansed.

If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? (Hebrews 9:13-14)

Part Ten: Live to Do God's Will

Table of Contents

I: Live to Do God's Will.....87

I: Live to Do God's Will

Jesus says that those living doing God's will are those who will enter into eternal life. Those who are not, will not enter into eternal life.

Not everyone saying to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one doing the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who are working disobedience (sin).' (Matthew 7:21-23)

God says that being sanctified – being God's people, living to do his will – is part of the process of receiving eternal life.

As sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life. (Romans 5:21)

You have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. (Romans 6:22)

Peter said that those who had become free from sin lived to do God's will.

Whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (1 Peter 4:1-2)

We should desire above all things to live doing God's will. We should want every part of our being – spirit, soul, and body; desires, beliefs, thoughts, words, and actions – aligned with and conformed to God's will. God's will is the best possible thing for us and those around us.

God's will is perfect – it cannot be improved upon. It is good for us and those around us beyond what we, or they, could ask or imagine. It is so important that it is one of the things Jesus taught us in prayer: your will be done.

God gives us provision through his new covenant to live by his regulations and rulings – to will and to do his will. He has given us a new spirit and writes his teachings (words) on our hearts.

We increase our willing and doing God's will by sowing his Word into our hearts and asking God to send his Spirit of Truth to guide us into truth and to direct and order our steps according to his will.

Part Eleven: Receive Eternal Life

Table of Contents

I: Receive Eternal Life.....	93
A: God's Provision of Eternal Life.....	93
1: God's Word.....	93
2: Union with God.....	93
B: How We Receive God's Provision of Eternal Life.....	93
1: Sow God's Word into our hearts.....	94
2: Sow to overcome the enemy of the Word.....	95
3: Protect our hearts and the Word.....	96
4: Sow abundantly.....	96
5: Sow trusting the Word to bear good fruit.....	96
6: Sow the Word persistently.....	97
7: Stop sowing seed into our being that is producing corruption.....	97
8: Enter into union with God.....	97
9: Remain in union with God.....	98

I: Receive Eternal Life

After hearing and trusting, entering God's new covenant, and repenting – becoming free from sin and being made righteous – we have removed from our being that which made us incompatible with eternal life. Our hearts are prepared to receive eternal life.

A: God's Provision of Eternal Life

1: God's Word

God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Son: Jesus (1 John 5:11). Jesus is the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14, Revelation 19:13). God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Word.

The Word: the (zoe – eternal) life. The Word which is the (zoe – eternal life) (1 John 1:1)

Jesus says that the effect of his words are (zoe – eternal) life (John 6:63). He also says that the effect of God's commands is eternal life (John 12:50).

Jesus declares that we live by every Word that comes from the mouth of God (Matthew 4:4). He also tells that unless we eat his flesh – the Word – we have no zoe life in us. Only if we eat his flesh – the Word – do we have eternal life.

So God has given us zoe, eternal life and this life is in his made flesh Word, his written Word, and his spoken Word.

2: Union with God

Another part of God's provision of eternal life is union with him and his Son: Jesus. Jesus says that the effect of this union is eternal life (John 17:3).

B: How We Receive God's Provision of Eternal Life

To receive eternal life we must receive God's Word into our being, enter into union with God, and remain in union with God.

We do this by sowing God's Word into our hearts. God joins with us by writing his Word into our hearts.

1: Sow God's Word into our hearts

The Word of God is seed: it is filled with life-giving and creative power.⁵ It is of the very same nature as God and, like all seed, will produce fruit according to its nature. It is the seed we need to sow into our hearts to receive eternal life.

The sower sows the word. (Mark 4:14)

Receive with humility the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. (James 1:21)

The Word of God is a very special seed. It is incorruptible seed, which means that it is eternal seed. It is seed that continues giving life for eternity. Such a seed works to give us eternal life.

You have been born again, not of corruptible seed but of incorruptible, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever" (1 Peter 1:23-25)

Sowing the Word of God into our hearts involves more than just reading or hearing the Bible. It is different than memorizing the Bible. Sowing the Word of God into our hearts involves reading or hearing the Bible and aligning our lives with it so that it bears fruit in our lives. Consider sowing Proverbs 3:5-6.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

We may read that like the words of any other book. We may memorize it. Or, we may align our lives with it – working to trust in the Lord in all things and not relying on our understanding.

Or, if we sow Proverbs 2:1-6

⁵ Kittel, Gerhard. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*. Vol. 7. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1976. 537. 10 vols. Print.

My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.

We sow this Word of God into our hearts by receiving his words and treasuring his commands – looking for them in scripture and seeking how to obey them. We sow this Word into our hearts by being attentive to God's Word and Spirit, by calling out to God for wisdom and understanding and seeking them as we would seek hidden treasure. Just reading this or memorizing it will not produce the fruit that doing it will produce.

2: Sow to overcome the enemy of the Word

Jesus tells us that, when the Word is sown, Satan works to prevent the Word from bearing fruit. When we sow the Word, we must do so in a way that overcomes Satan's attacks.

When the Word is sown:

- Satan comes immediately to take away what has been sown into our heart (Matthew 13:19, Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12)
- Satan brings tribulation or persecution to cause us to fall away from the Word (Matthew 13:21, Mark 4:17, Luke 8:13)
- Satan sows cares of this world, trust in false riches, pleasures of this life, desires for other things to choke the Word (Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:19, Luke 8:14)

These attacks work to draw our attention – our thoughts and activity away from the Word of God to other things. We must be on guard about how much time we are thinking about other things and how much time we are spending on other things rather than the Word. Even the cares of church activity can be used to draw us away from time sowing God's Word. We may need to spend some time attending to some of these things, but just like we need to stop to eat food to grow and sustain our being, we need to eat of God's Word to grow and sustain eternal life in us.

When we overcome these attacks the Word bears fruit – including the fruit of eternal life. (Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:20, Luke 8:15)

3: Protect our hearts and the Word

Put on the armor of God to protect our hearts and to protect the Word sown in our hearts. Ask God to send his ministering spirits to strengthen us and help us sow the Word into our hearts. Ask God to send the Spirit of Truth to guide us into the truth of the Word we are sowing and help us understand it.

4: Sow abundantly

One key to sowing the Word into our hearts so that it produces fruit is to sow it abundantly. There are several reasons for doing this.

Satan works to take away the Word that is sown and choke that which he fails to take away. The more we sow the more gets past his attacks and bears fruit.

We need the Word in abundance in our hearts. If we only sow a little we will experience little, if any, change. The more we sow, the more abundantly we will reap of what the Word produces: eternal life.

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. (2 Corinthians 9:6)

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one sowing to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one sowing to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life (zoe). (Galatians 6:7-8)

Finally, out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. The abundance of our hearts determines our words, thoughts, and actions.

Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. (Matthew 12:34)

5: Sow trusting the Word to bear good fruit

Jesus says that, when the Word is sown, Satan comes immediately to take away that which is sown in our hearts. He cannot succeed in taking it away if we do not let him. He is only able to take the Word if he can persuade us to reject the Word as not true, foolish, not necessary, or not possible. Jesus tells us that those overcoming his attack accept, believe, receive, or understand the Word sown. These are those trusting that the Word is true, necessary, possible, and will bear good fruit in their lives. It helps if we

understand the Word, but we must trust that it will produce good fruit in us – including understanding – even when we don't understand it. The key is not to reject the Word.

Here is where asking the Father to send the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth is particularly helpful. With the Spirit of Truth's help we are better able to perceive truth and error and avoid rejecting the Word.

6: Sow the Word persistently

Satan comes immediately to take away the Word when it is sown, but he doesn't stop if his first attack fails. He continues to attack our trust in the Word. He also tries to get us to stop sowing the Word. He tries to pull us away from the Word with cares of this world, desires for other things, pleasures of this life, or trusting in other things. Those overcoming his attack endure and hold fast to the Word. We must continue to trust (patience) and sow the Word so it will bring forth the fruit of eternal life.

7: Stop sowing seed into our being that is producing corruption

The things that choke the word – the cares of this world, desire for pleasures of this world and other things, and trusting in other things – enter into our hearts. They are tares planted into our hearts by Satan to cause us to do his will on the earth and not do God's. To stop them from choking the Word we must stop sowing them and allowing Satan to sow them into our hearts.

The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things **enter in** and choke the word. (Mark 4:19)

Seed typically has life-giving and creating power. The corrupt seed Satan sows is opposite. It is death-giving and has power to destroy. It is incompatible with eternal life. If we continue sowing corrupt seed into our hearts it will choke the Word and keep it from bearing the fruit of eternal life in us.

8: Enter into union with God

Jesus says that if we are keeping his commandments we are loving him, and if we are loving him he and God will draw into union with us.

The one having my commandments and keeping them, he is the one loving me. Now the one loving me will be loved by my Father. And I will love him, and will show myself to him. If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and will make a home with him. (John 14:21, 23)

We enter into union with God, rather he enters into union with us, when we love him and keep his commandments. Keeping his commandments requires that we remove the corrupt desires from our hearts (our stony hearts) and sow God's Word into our hearts to create a new heart. Doing that will work to impel us to will and to do God's will – to obey his commandments. If we love God we will do that. If we are not willing to cast away corrupt desires and sow his Word into our hearts so it will work in us to will and to do his will, then we do not love him – and he will not draw into union with us. He can't draw into union with us because we are still corrupt, breaking shalom, and bringing forth death.

9: Remain in union with God

God says that, if his Word remains in us, we will remain in union with him, and that this is eternal life.

Let what you have heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you have heard from the beginning should abide in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is the promise that He promised us: eternal life. (1 John 2:24-25)

So we remain in union with God by keeping his Word abiding in us: by continually sowing it into our hearts and protecting it from being taken away or choked.

Part Twelve: Measuring Our Alignment with Eternal Life

Table of Contents

I:	Measuring Our Alignment with Eternal Life.....	103
A:	God's Provision for Measuring Our Alignment with Eternal Life.....	103
B:	The Spirit of Truth.....	104
C:	Measures Aligned with Eternal Life.....	104
D:	Love.....	105
E:	Obey God.....	107
1:	Choose fear of the Lord.....	108
2:	Acknowledge Jesus as Lord.....	108
3:	Sow God's Word into our heart, guard it so it bears fruit.....	108
4:	Repent.....	108
5:	Be cleansed from sin.....	109
6:	Remove that which causes sin from our being.....	109
7:	Love as Jesus loves us.....	109

I: Measuring Our Alignment with Eternal Life

We do not have to measure our alignment with eternal life to receive it or to enter into it, but failing to do so may result in our not receiving it and not entering into it. If we measure our alignment and perceive that we are not aligned, then we have opportunity to make the necessary corrections and receive eternal life. If we are not aligned and do not measure, then we may fail to receive and enter into eternal life. So, while not required, measuring our alignment with eternal life is a wise thing to do.

Measuring our alignment with eternal life helps us four different ways.

It helps us validate provision and process for receiving and entering into eternal life. The provision and process to receive eternal life must fit with the measures that testify to our having received it.

Measuring our alignment also measures the provision and process we are following to receive eternal life. If we are not aligned, the provision and process we are following may not be sufficiently accurate and complete.

Measuring our alignment measures our following of the provision and process. If we are not aligned, we may not be following the provision and process accurately and completely.

Finally, If we measure our alignment with eternal life and learn that we have received it, then we grow in true confidence.

A: God's Provision for Measuring Our Alignment with Eternal Life

God has given us three things for measuring our alignment with eternal life. He sends the Spirit of Truth to guide us, Jesus told us how we will be measured, and the book of 1 John gives us a number of measures of alignment with eternal life.

These things I did write to you who are believing in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that eternal life (zoe) you have.** (1 John 5:13)

B: The Spirit of Truth

In 1 John, God tells us that we know whether we are aligned with eternal life by the guiding of the Spirit of Truth.

We know that He does remain in us, from the Spirit that He gave us (1 John 3:24)

In this we know that in Him we do remain, and He in us, because of His Spirit He has given us (1 John 4:12-13)

He also tells us how to discern the Spirit of Truth guiding us from the spirit of error trying to deceive us.

Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. (1 John 4:1-2)

For additional information on discerning the guiding of the Spirit of Truth see my book – *The Guiding Into Truth Work of the Holy Spirit*.

Whenever we measure anything it is important that our measurement be honest and unbiased. This is even more important when measuring something as critical as our alignment with eternal life. A biased measurement does us no good. It may result in our failing to receive and enter into eternal life.

The Spirit of Truth perceives the truth accurately and completely and is an unbiased witness. He knows the measures of alignment with eternal life and he knows if we are aligned. We can rely on his testimony.

Father, in the name of Jesus, please send your Spirit of Truth to guide me into the truth of alignment with eternal life.

C: Measures Aligned with Eternal Life

The measures aligned with eternal life consider the nature of our beings. Like a tree produces fruit according to the nature of the life within it, we produce fruit according to

the nature of the life within us. Jesus says that the nature of our life will be discerned by our fruit.

We are examined – God weighs our hearts – to discern whether the nature of the life within us is consistent with:

- God's Word abiding in us
- Our abiding in union with God
- Our having received eternal life.

God says that the fruit consistent with these things is:

- Love
- Obey
- Walk in truth, light
- Be righteous
- Do God's will
- Trust
- Be faithful.

D: Love

Love is a manner of life: the way a person prays, plans, acts, speaks, thinks, desires, and believes.

Love is a manner of life characterized by an active desire that others live lives of shalom (peace, tranquility, safety, well-being, welfare, health, contentment, success, comfort, wholeness and integrity., truth, prosperity, right relationships between themselves, God, their neighbors, and creation.)

I rejoiced greatly to find some of your children walking in the truth, just as we were commanded by the Father. (2 John 1:4)

I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth. (3 John 1:4)

I wish above all things that you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers. (3 John 1:2)

Love is also a manner of life characterized by obedience to God.

By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. In fact, this is love for God: to keep his commands. (1 John 5:2-3)

And this is love, that we walk according to his commandments. (2 John 1:6)

Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. (John 14:21)

Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. (John 14:23)

If we love:

- we do not covet or envy
- we are content and thankful
- we do not boast – seek to glorify ourselves
- we are not proud – we do not think ourselves able to discern truth without God's help
- we are humble – we submit to God's measure of truth to discern all things
- we do not behave inappropriately – hindering shalom
- we are not self-seeking
- we are not easily provoked
- we are long-tempered
- we do not keep a record of wrongs
- we are merciful and forgiving
- we do not rejoice in evil
- we rejoice in truth
- we do not work evil to our neighbor
- we work to contribute shalom to our neighbor
- we are patient
- we are kind, gentle, understanding
- we are faithful
- we are trustworthy
- we always protect
- we always trust God and his provision
- we always hope in God – we confidently expect God's representations of reality to be true
- we always endure

If we love we are not selfish. We do not seek for ourselves.

If we love we do not hate. We do not wish harm to others.

A person who claims to be continuing in union with him ought to conduct his life the way he did. (love others has he loved us.) (1 John 2:6)

Anyone who claims to be in this light while hating his brother is still in the dark. The person who keeps loving his brother remains in the light. (1 John 2:9-10)

Anyone who fails to keep loving his brother is not born of God. (1 John 3:10)

The person who fails to keep loving is still under the power of death. (1 John 3:14)

If we love one another God remains united with us. (1 John 4:12)

God is love; and those who remain in this love remain united with God, and God remains united with them. (1 John 4:16)

We know that we have passed from death to life because we keep loving the brothers. (1 John 3:14)

Love is the key characteristic of eternal life. It is the definitive measure of having received eternal life. If the Word of God abiding in us is continually producing the fruit of love, then it is also producing the fruit of eternal life.

E: Obey God

Obeying God is a key characteristic of love. It is also another of the measures of being in union with God and having received eternal life.

If we claim to have fellowship with him while we are walking in the darkness, we are lying and not living out the truth. (1 John 1:6)

The way we can be sure we are in union with him is if we are obeying his commands. (1 John 2:3)

The one saying, 'I have been in union with him,' and his command is not keeping, he is a liar and the truth is not in him. (1 John 2:4)

If someone keeps doing what he says, then truly love for God has been brought to its goal in him. This is how we are sure that we are united with him. (1 John 2:5)

The one saying he remains in union with him, ought to walk as he walked. (1 John 2:6)

Every one who is remaining in him does not sin; everyone sinning has neither seen him nor been in union with him. (1 John 3:6)

Here is how one can distinguish clearly between God's children and those of the Adversary: everyone not doing righteousness is not from God. (1 John 3:10)

The one obeying his commands remains united with him and he with them. (1 John 3:24)

If someone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains united with him, and he with God. (1 John 4:15)

We acknowledge Jesus by obeying God. We deny him when we do not obey. (see Titus 1:16)

The Bible also tells us key parts of God's will for everyone.

1: Choose fear of the Lord

Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord ... they will bear the consequences of their own way. (Proverbs 1:29-31)

2: Acknowledge Jesus as Lord

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him (as Lord and guide into truth), and he will make straight your paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

3: Sow God's Word into our heart, guard it so it bears fruit

As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. (Luke 8:15)

4: Repent

God commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world. (Acts 17:30-31)

5: Be cleansed from sin

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

6: Remove that which causes sin from our being

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9, Mark 9:43-47)

7: Love as Jesus loves us

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. (John 13:34)

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. (John 15:12)

Part Thirteen: Enter Into Eternal Life

Table of Contents

I: Enter Into Eternal Life.....	115
A: Remain Faithful.....	115
1: Put on the Armor of God.....	117
2: Ask God to Send Angels to Strengthen Us.....	118
3: Arm Ourselves with a Mind Like Jesus.....	118
4: Pay Attention to What and How We Hear.....	118
5: Counter-sow.....	119
B: Remain Thankful.....	119

I: Enter Into Eternal Life

Having received eternal life, we need to keep it until the time we leave this temporal life. Then, if we have followed a representation of eternal life that is sufficiently accurate and complete, we will be permitted to enter into the post-temporal part of eternal life.

A: Remain Faithful

Keeping eternal life requires us to be faithful: to continue doing and being what we have pledged to God that we will do and be without deviation.

When we enter God's new covenant we pledge to:

- receive God's laws in our minds and write them on our hearts
- remove our hearts of stone – that which causes us to sin
- receive a new heart from God so we will live doing his will
- be God's people
- sin no more – remove and then keep that which causes sin from our being
- live with a clean conscience
- completely leave our old life living according to our will and desires
- live doing God's will

These are the things we need to do to receive eternal life. They are the things we need to be faithful and continue doing to keep eternal life to the end of this temporal life.

Jesus tells us we need to remain faithful to enter into eternal life. He gives us a command to be faithful and also tells us that we will be measured for our faithfulness.

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2:10)

Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom his master has set over his household, to give them their food at the proper time? Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will set him over all his possessions. But if that wicked servant says to himself, 'My master is delayed,' and begins to beat his fellow servants and eats and drinks with drunkards, the master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he does not know and will cut him in pieces and put him with the hypocrites. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 24:45-51)

Imagine if the rich young ruler (Mark 10:17, 19-24, also Matthew 19:16-30, Luke 18:18-30) had trusted Jesus' words, cast out his trust in riches, sold all he had, and followed Jesus. After a time he is pressed with cares of this world, tribulation, or persecution – things he would have used his riches to avoid. He turns back from his trust in Jesus and seeks to regain riches. God says that the last state of such a person would be worse than the first.

If, after they have escaped the defilement of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein and overcome, the last state has become worse with them than the first. For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after knowing it, to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them. (2 Peter 2:20-21)

We have need of endurance, patience, and steadfastness – remaining faithful.

The first step to remaining faithful is to become faithful.

Remaining faithful is resisting and overcoming the principalities and powers that are constantly working to cause us to turn from trusting, acknowledging Jesus is Lord, and maintaining a changed nature.

Faithfulness or unfaithfulness is part of the nature of our being. By Adam's disobedience we were made by nature unfaithful, but by God's mercy we may be cleansed from unfaithfulness. By receiving God's Word implanted in our hearts, plucking up and casting out the tares of unfaithfulness, we become – by a new nature created by God – faithful. Our remaining faithful in trust and acknowledging Jesus is Lord depends on our remaining faithful in our changed nature. This is the key battleground. All is won, or lost, here.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (Proverbs 4:23)

We are by nature dust of the earth (Ecclesiastes 3:20). Like dust of the earth we produce fruit according to the nature of the seed planted in us. Good seed – God's Word – has creative, life-giving power and will produce shalom, prosperity, and life. It will produce in us the will and the power to do God's will. Corrupt seed – Satan's words – has destructive, death-producing power and will produce destruction and death. It will produce in us the will and the power to do Satan's desires. (See John 8:44)

Jesus is God's Word made flesh. The nature of his being is the nature of the Word of God: creative and life-giving. Satan attacked Jesus by trying to change Jesus' nature by

trying to sow corrupt seed into his heart. His attack had worked with Adam and Eve. They received Satan's seed and his seed in them corrupted their nature and produced death – to them and to their descendents. But Jesus submitted himself to God – him only would Jesus serve – and resisted Satan's seed.

Satan attacks us the same way he attacked Jesus, Adam, and Eve. If we – dust of the earth – receive the seed of God's Word, then it will begin working to produce good fruit: blessing, gentleness, and wisdom. The enemy is going to keep trying to sow tares back into our heart. He must try to corrupt us and cause us to yield ourselves to him to produce his corrupt fruit. Like Jesus, we must resist him. This is the key to remaining faithful.

Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. (Proverbs 4:23)

1: Put on the Armor of God

Be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world's rulers of the darkness of this age, and against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having the utility belt of truth buckled around your waist, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having fitted your feet with the gospel of peace; above all, taking up the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; (Ephesians 6:10-17)

God instructs us to put on his armor so that we may be able to stand against the attacks of the devil (remain faithful). It can be put on with a simple prayer.

Father, we thank you in the name of Jesus for your armor and we put on your armor: truth, righteousness, the gospel of peace, faith, salvation and the sword of your Spirit.

We shield our hearts and the Word of God in our hearts with the faith/trust that the Word produces in our hearts. Faith works by love. Love is critical in remaining faithful and resisting corrupt – selfish – desires.

2: Ask God to Send Angels to Strengthen Us

Satan attempted to sow the seeds of his word into Jesus' heart. He wanted his words to conceive in Jesus' heart and produce corrupt desires. One of the things Jesus did to resist the attack was to be strengthened by God's angels.

The devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him. (Matthew 4:11)

Jesus was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him. (Mark 1:13)

3: Arm Ourselves with a Mind Like Jesus

Another thing God instructs us to do is to arm ourselves with the same way of thinking Jesus had.

Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God. (2 Peter 4:1-2)

Jesus' way of thinking was

- to offer his body as a living sacrifice (Romans 12:1)
- to live his life for the will of God and not his own desires (2 Peter 4:2)
- to entrust his being to God (1 Peter 4:19)

Arming ourselves with that way of thinking helps us resist Satan and remain faithful.

4: Pay Attention to What and How We Hear

The corrupt seed that is sown into our hearts and brings forth corrupt fruit is spoken to us. We hear the enemy's words as thoughts. Jesus tells us to take heed what we hear and to take heed how we hear.

Pay close attention to what you hear. (Mark 4:24)

Consider carefully what you hear. (Mark 4:24)

Pay attention to how you hear. (Luke 8:18)

The best way of hearing is to hear what the Spirit says.

Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says. (Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22)

Ask the Father to send the Spirit of Truth to guide us into all the truth of what we hear. Listen carefully to him. (For more on the work of the Holy Spirit to guide us into truth please see my book: *The Guiding Into Truth Work of the Holy Spirit.*)

Father, in the name of Jesus, please send your Spirit of Truth to guide me into all the truth.

5: Counter-sow

It is particularly important to be steadfast in counter-sowing in order to build up strength in areas where we were once vulnerable. Remaining faithful is dependent on what we sow, or allow to be sown, into our hearts. Counter-sowing is a key part of sowing God's Word to remain faithful.

B: Remain Thankful

Failing to be thankful is a great danger that is frequently overlooked. It can cause us great harm. Consider the consequences of not being thankful listed in Romans 1.

Knowing God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but fell into folly in their thoughts, and their heart without understanding was darkened ... They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. (Romans 1:21, 29-31)

Part Fourteen: The Truth About Eternal Life and Making Disciples

Table of Contents

I: The Truth About Eternal Life and Making Disciples.....	125
A: Making Disciples of Eternal Life.....	125
1: A life we are not born with.....	125
2: Our current condition.....	125
3: God's provision.....	126
4: What must we do?.....	126
5: Next steps.....	126

I: The Truth About Eternal Life and Making Disciples

Jesus commands us to make disciples. When we make disciples we make those who follow Jesus, follow the guiding of the Spirit of Truth Jesus asked the Father to send to guide us, and follow a representation of eternal life. We have a great responsibility to make a representation of eternal life that is sufficiently accurate and complete so that those who follow it will receive eternal life. It would be better for them that we made no representation of eternal life at all than that we make one that isn't sufficiently accurate and complete. We will give an account for the representation of eternal life we make. It would be far better for us that we make no representation at all than that we make one that isn't sufficiently accurate and complete.

A: Making Disciples of Eternal Life

People in need of eternal life may be at different points in life. For some life may be difficult and they are seeking a better life. For others life may be going well – according to their understanding – and they are only seeking to continue as they are. Some may not be following any representation of eternal life. Some may be following one that is not sufficiently accurate and complete. Ultimately, they all need the same thing – a representation of eternal life that is sufficiently accurate and complete that they can follow it and receive and enter into eternal life.

A representation of eternal life that is sufficiently complete is a lot to share with a person. To help the person receive it, it may be best to start with an outline of the essentials. Here is a sample outline. The conversation may start at any point in the outline.

1: A life we are not born with

There is a type of life available to us that we are not born with. This life is characterized by shalom – love, peace, truth, and freedom – including freedom from fear and anxiety. This is eternal life and we may partake of it now during our temporal life.

2: Our current condition

We are born with a type of life characterized by corrupt desires. These desires are incompatible with eternal life. To receive eternal life we must remove the corrupt desires from our being.

3: God's provision

God has given us provision to help us remove the corrupt desires, become compatible with eternal life, and receive it. God sends his Spirit of Truth to guide us into all truth. If we ask him he will send him to guide us into the truth of eternal life. This is a good spot for a prayer to ask God to send the Spirit of Truth to guide us and the hearer(s) into the truth of eternal life.

God has given us eternal life and this life is in his Word.

4: What must we do?

We must enter into a new covenant with God through which he helps us remove corrupt desires, become compatible with eternal life and receive it. We must be cleansed from the sin caused by the corrupt desires and sow God's Word into our hearts so it can produce eternal life in us.

5: Next steps

It is important to share that the outline we shared passes over some details that are needed to receive eternal life and that if the person is interested we will share those details with them.

Some will want to hear more. Others will not.

Some will hold to a representation of eternal life they are already following. It may be helpful to them if we are able to share a caution with them. The caution is this:

It is important that we follow a representation of eternal life that is sufficiently accurate and complete that when we follow it we will actually receive eternal life. If we ask God to send his Spirit of Truth to guide us into the truth of eternal life and measure us according to the measures in 1 John, have we received eternal life?

Jesus says that removing that which causes us to sin from our being is necessary to receive eternal life. (Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9; Mark 9:43-47)) Does the representation of eternal life we are following include doing this? Does it include all of the things Jesus says we must do to receive eternal life?

Encourage those who do not want to hear more and those who are holding to a representation of eternal life that is not sufficiently accurate and complete to ask God to send the Spirit of Truth to guide them into all the truth of eternal life and to sow God's Word into their hearts.