

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 39

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
How do I Know I have Eternal Life?

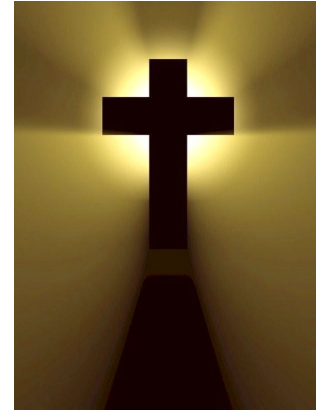


Sunday, April 10, 2011

John 17:3 "This is eternal life; that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Hey Kids, how can we tell that we have eternal life? What are the signs? How can we know? Well you can tell you have eternal life because God's Word...the BIBLE...tells us so! We can count on God's Word because it is God's perfect TRUTH and given to us from God. God can't lie to us and He has promised us eternal life with Him forever. This promise is in His Word if we believe in His Son, Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:10-15 "Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony (witness) in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made Him (Holy Spirit) a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning His Son. (11) And this is the testimony that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. (12) Whoever has the Son has (eternal) life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have (eternal) life. (13) I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may KNOW that you have eternal life. (14) And this is the confidence that we have toward Him, that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us. (15) And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of Him." Every single promise that God made about Jesus coming to save us came true. When you read in the Old Testament about the prophecies that foretell the coming of the Messiah, you'll see that they ALL came true and there were hundreds of them!!! Doesn't that give you confidence in His Word?



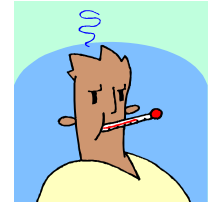
Let's get going and really look into how we know we have eternal life, okay? Being "born again" or regeneration at the moment you believe in Jesus Christ gives you eternal life and leads to Baptism by the Spirit at the very same time. This change happens once at the moment of you believe in Jesus for salvation and NEVER needs to be repeated. That means He places you in PERMANENT union with Jesus...you are IN HIM positionally. Your human body is on earth but spiritually you are in Christ and with Him.

Remember, the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit at the moment we believe in Christ. At that moment, God imputes or credits to you His very own eternal life to that human spirit. That is "being born" again. That is regeneration. You are a new creature in Christ and you are IN Him.

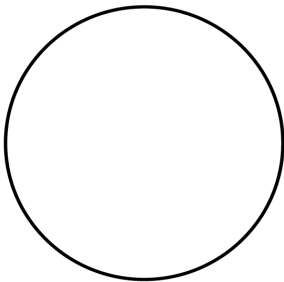
When we're born and given human life, it puts us in a hopeless state of spiritual death; when we are "born again" and given a human spirit, it makes us spiritually alive forever and that means for eternity. John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him." In John 5:24 Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word

(the Gospel) and believes Him (the Father) who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into (eternal) life.”

Regeneration or being “born again” doesn’t depend upon an experience or a feeling. This means that no experience or event will necessarily happen to you at the same time you believe...you know, like there won’t be any earthquakes or lightening strikes...you won’t shake or start jumping up and down and no voice from heaven will announce that you have eternal life in Christ!!! The false idea that you have to feel different or that something will happen before being saved has been a problem and a heavy weight to many and sometimes it prevents some from believing in Jesus!! That’s awful, kids, just awful! Satan is sneaky and has many schemes to get people to NOT believe in Jesus. But we know that God made salvation simple and for everyone...faith alone in Christ alone. It does NOT depend on feelings. You can have a 100 degree fever, a tummy ache and be sick as can be and still be saved. You can be in a bad mood and be saved. Do you understand that? Believing (no human works) in Christ is the only human requirement we need to be saved. There are no human works involved when you have faith and believe.



Jesus said it in [John 6:47](#). "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who BELIEVES has eternal life."



Did you know that eternal life is the same life possessed by God the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit? And their eternal life has no beginning and no end. That’s hard to think about and understand. Look at the circle here. It has no beginning and no end. That’s the eternal life of the Trinity but our life HAS a beginning but no end.

When we receive eternal life at the moment we believe in Jesus, it is permanent!!! This change from spiritual death to eternal life happens only once at the moment of salvation and never needs to be repeated. But I bet you have told God the Father that you believe in Jesus lots and lots of times, right? So did I! We all did and still do sometimes. We want to make sure He heard us. Well He did because the Holy Spirit made it real for us and He did all the work by taking our little, weak “yes” when we heard the Gospel and made it effective once and for all for salvation.

As believers we are so BLESSED by God. We become “born again;” we’re spiritually alive in Christ; we’re a brand new spiritual species; the possessor of eternal life; a child of God; and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. We are going to go about seeing all these things in the Scriptures, one point at a time. These are the results or effects of regeneration or being “born again” and are summed up in the fact that we possess eternal life. All other results of regeneration are come from the fact that we as believers possess eternal life.

Here are the qualities and privileges that belong to anyone who is regenerated or “born again” during the Church Age:

- Functioning human spirit that houses eternal life
- Child of God
- Heir of God and co-heir of Christ
- A new walk or unique spiritual life that God gives us and that we use through the ability to understand and apply God’s Word.
- Eternal security
- New nature (provided through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit)

Remember also that we already learned that no one on earth can make you a Christian. Only God can do that when you believe in Jesus as your Savior...no infant baptism, no religious

sacrament...nothing from man. Our free will as humans show our own purpose or human power and that human will, power or planning has nothing to do with being "born again."

John 1:12-13 "But to all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, (13) who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of (the will of) God." Here in this verse is a reference to those of us who respond to the Gospel and say "yes" after we hear the good news. But even our faith needs power to believe. We are hopeless and helpless...weak. SO it was totally by the will of God that we were "born again" and by the power of the ministry of God the Holy Spirit. James 1:18 "In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth (Gospel), so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures." You receive this new birth completely by grace...it's free!

Spiritual birth, entry into the family whose Father is God, depends on receiving by faith Him...Jesus...whom the Father has sent. For the Church Age believer, the Holy Spirit gives the eternal life from God, which is the divine nature. The believer receives a functioning human spirit, and he is also made a new spiritual species. 2 Cor 5:17 "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." He is made a child of God.

Regeneration is the giving to the believer the divine nature. Titus 3:5 "...he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit..." 1 Pet 1:23 "...for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable (can die) but imperishable (cannot die), that is, through the living and abiding Word of God."

The born again believer in the Church Age is a partaker of the divine nature. 2 Pet 1:4 "For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust." The Christian is a person who has been born from above; he has new life. That is why we are commanded in Rom 6:11 to, "Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus." And you can see it even stronger in Rom 6:13. We see this truth of this new life in actions we do from the new nature. It is the fruit of the Spirit. "...and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your body parts as instruments of righteousness to God." Col 3:9-10 "Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, (10) and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge (from God's Word) according to the image of the One who created him..." We become like Jesus more and more each day as we live in the new nature from taking in the Word of God.

Regeneration or being "born again" is not real clear in the Old Testament, but in the New Testament it is spelled out very clearly for us. All believers, then, have divine Son-ship. That means we are God's children...His royal family in Christ. Gal 3:26 "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus."

Another part of the ministry of the Spirit in regeneration is the fact that the new believer is made a child of God and a joint-heir with Christ. Gal 4:6-7 "Because you are sons, God has sent forth the (Holy) Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (7) Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God." Rom 8:14-17 "For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. (15) For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" (16) The Spirit Himself testifies with

our (human) spirit that we are children of God, (17) and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him." Did you understand that? The Holy Spirit makes it clear to you that you are God's child. You understand His Word and you live it because you want to please God and Jesus. The Holy Spirit will help you through His power to do this.

In conclusion, there are five facts concerning the nature of regeneration in the Church Age that need to be mastered:

1. At the moment of salvation, God the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit for the believer.
2. God the Father imputes or credits us with eternal life to the human spirit of the new believer.
3. God the Father becomes the believer's legitimate Father.
4. All believers are heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ.
5. The Church Age believer is given a new nature, and is made a new spiritual species.

1 Peter 1:3-5 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, (4) to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, (5) who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

Our Lord Jesus Christ told us exactly what eternal life is on the night before He went to the cross. John 17:1-4 "Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven, He said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, (2) even as You gave Him authority over all flesh (humans) that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life. (3) THIS IS ETERNAL LIFE; THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU, THE ONLY TRUE GOD, AND JESUS CHRIST WHOM YOU HAVE SENT."

Eternal life is knowing the only true God, and knowing the Lord Jesus Christ. You can rest in that...so be at peace knowing you are in Christ and have His eternal life.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, November 21, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

