

WEEK 7 DAY 3

MAIN POINT:

Eternal life is more than just being saved from hell. Eternal life is about experiencing God's love, now and forever.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

(John 3:16)

ETERNAL LIFE STARTS TODAY

PRAYER: Dear God, thank you for loving me. Open my eyes to what eternal life is really like.

What do you picture when you think about heaven or the afterlife? Floating on clouds and singing hallelujahs? Reuniting with lost family members? Endless pleasure? Nothingness? Does your view of eternity fill you with excitement? Fear? Boredom?

Many people have false ideas about heaven. It is easy to think that eternal life only relates to what happens after death. However, the Bible paints a different picture. John 17:3 says, "This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Eternal life is about knowing a loving God, and this doesn't start when you die; God wants to start restoration with you today. God sent His Son, Jesus, to bridge the gap between heaven and earth. God doesn't just want to restore broken things in some future cloud kingdom, he wants to do it here and now. Understanding eternal life this way changes how you experience God's love today and in the future.

So what does experiencing eternal life today look like?

1. God wants you to know him through a deep, abiding relationship. As you spend time reading the Bible and praying, he reveals the truth about himself. Just like in any other relationship, you get to really know God by spending time with him.
2. God wants to set you free. You don't have to be controlled by addictions, brokenness, or sinful patterns. Walking with God leads to freedom (Galatians 5:16-23).
3. God wants you to live courageously as a son or daughter, knowing that you are an heir with access to his resources and are greatly valued by him (Romans 8:14-17).
4. God wants you to have an abundant life (John 10:10). Abundance in this life isn't without sorrow or pain. It is overwhelming peace, joy, and fulfillment found through a relationship with God regardless of your circumstances.
5. God wants you to experience the absolute fullness of his love (Ephesians 3:17-21).

Eternal life is not just something you receive after death. It is all that you can experience through a relationship with God now—a relationship that overcomes death, and brings you into the life he created you to experience with him.

DRAFT

APPLICATION: Spend time reflecting on and writing down your own thoughts and feelings about eternal life. In what ways are you experiencing or not experiencing that life today? Pray for a deeper understanding of eternal life.