

1 John

God is Life - Eternal life

1 John

- God is Love
 - In relation to our Sonship
- God is Light
 - In relation to our Fellowship
- God is Life (Eternal life)
 - In relation to our Eternal life

God is life - Eternal life

- Communion based on eternal life
- Characteristics of eternal life
- Confirmation of eternal life
- Confidence in eternal life
- Consequence of eternal life

Communion based on eternal life

- The eternal life “which was with the Father” in the eternity, “the word of life” was manifested to the world.
- “The eternal life” which was with the Father in the heavenly realms but manifested in time - the word of life became flesh.
- The eternal life is not just expressed in abstract words but lived as a person among them, “which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;” 1:1

Communion based on eternal life

- **Those who believe on the Son of God has eternal life –**
“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. ¹² He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.”
5:11

Communion based on eternal life

- The believers who possess eternal life are given the privilege to have “fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” 1:3
- Being in fellowship with the Father and the Son, we have the fulness of joy, “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.” 1:4
- “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: **in thy presence is fulness of joy**; at thy right hand *there are* pleasures for evermore.” Ps. 16:11

Characteristics of eternal life

- The Apostle presents to us here in this Epistle the two main characteristics associated with this eternal life here in this world. They are obedience to God's word and love for the brethren.

1. Keeping God's word or commandments –

- “And hereby we do know that we **know him**, if we keep his commandments.” 2:3
- “But whoso **keepeth his word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.” 2:5
- “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so **to walk, even as he walked.**” 2:6

Characteristics of eternal life

- The Apostle presents to us here in this Epistle the two main characteristics associated with this eternal life here in this world. They are obedience to God's word and love for the brethren.

2. Loving the brethren – “We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.” 3:14

Characteristics of eternal life

- This passage shows that if we possess eternal life, and live the eternal life, we will be in the following path:
 1. The knowledge of God the Father — we shall know Him - 2: 3, 4.
 2. Knowing the Father, we will walk in obedience to His will- 2:3, 4.
 3. By keeping His commandments, His love will be perfected in us - 2:5.
 4. By walking in obedience and love, we shall walk even as Christ walked -2:6.
 5. As we walk as Christ walked, we shall love one another- 2:10.

Confirmation of eternal life

- **Stages of spiritual growth-** Apostle John use the different stages of natural growth to manifest the evidence of spiritual growth of a believer possessing the eternal life.
- The stages of the natural growth does not necessarily correspond to the stages of the spiritual growth, but the spiritual growth starts with the new birth irrespective of the age of the person.
- The Apostle categorizes his readers into fathers, young men and little children and are given specific words that are appropriate for their spiritual state.

Confirmation of eternal life

“I write unto you, **little children**, because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake. ¹³ I write unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, **young men**, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, **little children**, because ye have known the Father.

¹⁴ I have written unto you, **fathers**, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I have written unto you, **young men**, because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.” 2:12-14

Confirmation of eternal life

- Little children, “because your sins are forgiven you for his name's sake.”
 - They are born again and at the initial stage of their spiritual life.
- Little children, “because ye have known the Father.”
 - Born again and just understanding more about their spiritual relationship with their heavenly Father.

Confirmation of eternal life

- **Young men**, “because ye have overcome the wicked one.”
 - They are growing and becoming victorious over the wicked one.
- **Young men**, “because ye are strong, and the word of God abideth in you, and ye have overcome the wicked one.”
 - They getting spiritually strong, feeding on the living word and strongly resisting the wicked one.

Confirmation of eternal life

- Two powerful entities that would resist their growth:
 1. **World** – “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” 2:15-17

Confirmation of eternal life

- Two powerful entities that would resist their growth:

2. **Wicked one** – Antichrist, False prophets

- “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is **antichrist**, that denieth the Father and the Son.
23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.” 2:22, 23
- “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many **false prophets** are gone out into the world.” 4:1

Confirmation of eternal life

- **Fathers**, “because ye have known him that is from the beginning.”
 - Over the years they have known the Eternal God through the word and has become mature, overcome the world and the wicked one.
- **Fathers**, “because ye have known him that is from the beginning”

Confidence in eternal life

- **Confidence to come before God in prayer-** “Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. ²² And **whatsoever we ask**, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” 3:21, 22
 - **Condition** – Keeping His commandments and doing things that are pleasing to Him.
- “And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, **if we ask any thing according to his will**, he heareth us:” 5:14
 - **Condition** – According to His will.

Confidence in eternal life

- **Forgiveness of sins** – “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1:9
 - **Condition** – Confess our sins before Him.
- **Confidence to meet Christ at His coming** – “And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.” 2:28
 - **Condition** – Abide in Him.

Consequence of eternal life

- **God dwells in a believer who possess eternal life –**
“Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.” 4:15
- **Overcomes the world –** “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” 5:4

Consequence of eternal life

- **Cannot sin, cannot continue in sin, will be conscience of sin –**
 - “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.” 3:9
 - “We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not.” 5:18
 - “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.” 3:6

Consequence of eternal life

- **We shall be like the Son at His coming**– “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” 3:2