

## LIFE IN THE SON

### Introduction:

1. Humanity has always been captivated by the idea of prolonging life. From ancient myths about the fountain of youth to modern pursuits like cryogenics and time travel, the fear of death drives people to seek solutions (Hebrews 2:14-15).
2. Yet, these efforts ultimately fail to address the deeper question: What is the purpose of life, and what lies beyond it? Human wisdom and innovation cannot secure the eternal life we instinctively long for (Ecclesiastes 3:11; John 6:27).
3. The Bible reveals that eternal life is not something we can create or control - it is a gift from the Creator. True life, both abundant and everlasting, is found only in God's Son, Jesus Christ: "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11; John 14:6).
4. This lesson explores God's offering of eternal life, the nature of belief in His Son, and the confidence we can have in our spiritual standing. By understanding and accepting His promises, we can live with hope, joy, and assurance in our relationship with Him (John 10:10; 2 Corinthians 1:20).



### 1. God's Offering Of Life (1 John 5:11):

John writes, "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). Eternal life is a gift from God, made available through His Son, Jesus Christ. This life is not merely about duration but also about quality - a divine relationship with God through Christ.

- a. Grace: Eternal life is described as a gift of grace: "God has given us eternal life" (1 John 5:11). This highlights God's abundant love and generosity toward humanity:
  - 1) Eternal Life As A Gift Of Grace: Eternal life is not earned but freely given by God's grace. John affirms this: "And this is the promise that He has promised us - eternal life" (1 John 2:25). This promise reflects God's unchanging nature and faithfulness (Numbers 23:19).
  - 2) Humanity's Desperate Need For Redemption: Because of sin, humanity stands deserving of death: "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). Yet God's grace creates a "scheme of redemption," offering eternal life to the undeserving. Grace is both an act of divine mercy and an invitation to partake in God's eternal purpose (Romans 3:23; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8).
- b. Condition: Eternal life is not given universally or unconditionally; it is found "in His Son":
  - 1) Eternal Life Produces Faithful Followers: This condition ensures that eternal life produces faithful followers of Christ. God's plan involves transforming believers into His image through their relationship with Jesus. Eternal life requires living in submission to and communion with Christ (Romans 8:29; Galatians 2:20).
  - 2) The Incarnation As An Expression Of God's Love: John highlights this connection: "In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9). The incarnation of Jesus was necessary for God to provide eternal life. This was the ultimate demonstration of divine love, showing God's willingness to sacrifice for humanity (John 3:16; Philippians 2:7-8).
  - 3) God's Eternal Purpose Revealed Through Christ: Paul emphasizes the eternal nature of this plan: "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began" (2 Timothy 1:9-10). Eternal life was part of God's eternal purpose, revealed fully in Christ's appearing (Ephesians 1:4-5; Titus 1:2).
  - 4) The Necessity Of Christ's Death: The necessity of Christ's death is explained in Hebrews: "Through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14-15). Jesus' death was essential to free humanity from the fear and power of death, opening the door to eternal life (Colossians 2:14-15; 1 Peter 2:24).

- c. The Vital Connection With the Son: Eternal life is “in His Son,” meaning that our relationship with Christ determines whether we possess this life: John writes, “He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life” (1 John 5:12). To “have” the Son involves more than intellectual acknowledgment:
- 1) It Requires Belief In Him: “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). True belief is not a passive acknowledgment but an active trust in Jesus as the source of eternal life (John 20:31; Romans 10:9-10).
  - 2) It Involves Abiding In Him And His Word: “Let that abide in you which you heard from the beginning” (1 John 2:24). Abiding in Christ means remaining faithful to His teachings and allowing His word to dwell in our hearts (John 15:4-7; Colossians 3:16).
  - 3) It Demands Obedience To His Commandments: “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:3). Obedience is the evidence of genuine faith and love for God (John 14:15; James 2:18).

In this section, we see that eternal life is both a profound gift of God’s grace and a life-transforming relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. It is offered freely to humanity, not as a reward for our deeds but as an act of divine mercy, addressing our desperate need for redemption. This life is found exclusively in Christ, requiring belief, abiding in His word, and obedience to His commandments. Eternal life is not only about living forever but about being conformed to the image of Christ, experiencing the fullness of God’s love and purpose through Him.

## 2. “Believing” In The Son (1 John 5:13):

John writes, “These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life” (1 John 5:13). Belief in the Son is central to our relationship with God and the reception of eternal life. However, the nature of this belief is often misunderstood and must be properly defined

- a. Believe In The Name Of The Son Of God: “Believe In The Name Of The Son Of God” (1 John 5:13):
  - 1) The Range Of Meanings For “Believe”: The term “believe” carries a range of meanings in English. It can express an opinion: “I believe it is going to rain”; it can indicate devotion or commitment: “I believe in exercise or vitamins”; it can reflect confidence in a person: “I voted for the candidate because I believe in him” (John 11:26; Acts 27:25).
  - 2) A Shallow View Of Belief: Many today equate believing in Jesus with simply accepting Him as one’s personal Savior. For some, this belief is a mere mental act, disconnected from any influence on behavior. Such a shallow view of faith is contrary to the deeper, active belief described in scripture (James 2:19; Matthew 7:21-23).
  - 3) John’s Clarification Of Saving Belief: John has already clarified what saving belief in Jesus entails earlier in the epistle. True belief is intertwined with love, obedience, and transformation (1 John 3:23; 2:3, 6; Galatians 5:6; John 14:15). Believing in the Son of God demands more than intellectual assent—it requires a life shaped by faith and expressed through action.
- b. Belief Qualified: John defines and qualifies belief in several ways throughout his epistle:
  - 1) Love For Jesus And Brethren (1 John 3:23; 4:21-5:1): “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment” (1 John 3:23). Love is the natural outflow of belief, directed both toward God and toward others.
  - 2) Obedience To God’s Commandments (1 John 2:3-5; 5:2-3): “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments” (1 John 2:3). Belief in Jesus is inseparable from obedience to His will.
  - 3) Christlike Character (1 John 2:6, 29): “He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked” (1 John 2:6). True belief results in a transformation of character, reflecting Christ in one’s life.
  - 4) Confidence And Trust In God’s Word (1 John 1:1-4; 2:24): “That which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes... declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us” (1 John 1:1-4). Fellowship with the Father is mediated through Christ and revealed in His word. Belief requires holding fast to God’s word and trusting its promises.

## c. The Nature of Eternal Life:

- 1) Participation In Eternal Life Depends Upon Complete Devotion To Jesus: This devotion includes affection, appreciation, obedience, character, trust, and confidence. Belief is not a single act but a way of life that transforms the believer into Christ's likeness.
- 2) Eternal Life Is Not Merely About Quantity (Living Forever) But About Quality: It is the abundant life Jesus promised, filled with fellowship, love, and righteousness. God grants eternal life to those who love Him and His Son enough to emulate them in all respects.
- 3) Illustration: A key-cutting machine creates a perfect copy of the original key. Similarly, belief in Christ shapes a believer into the likeness of the Son, reflecting His character and purpose. Eternal life is the result of this transformative process, whereby believers are conformed to the image of Christ.

Believing in the Son is the cornerstone of our relationship with God and the key to receiving eternal life. True belief is not mere intellectual acknowledgment but a life shaped by faith, love, obedience, and trust in God's Word. It transforms us into Christ's likeness, influencing our character and devotion. Eternal life is not just living forever but about growing in fellowship with God and reflecting His righteousness. Belief in the Son aligns us with God's purpose and brings eternal significance and joy.

**3. Confidence In Our Spiritual Standing (1 John 5:13b):**

John writes, "These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life" (1 John 5:13). Confidence in our spiritual standing is not an arrogant presumption but a deep assurance rooted in the promises of God, the work of Christ, and our abiding relationship with Him.

## a. Assurance Of Being "In Christ":

- 1) Confidence In Being "In Christ": If we are "in Christ" (a Christian), we can confidently know that we have eternal life.
  - a) Assurance Through Forgiveness: John ties this assurance to forgiveness: "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:8-9; Psalms 103:12).
  - b) Confidence In God's Faithfulness: Confidence is not based on our perfection but on God's faithfulness to forgive and cleanse those who humbly confess (Hebrews 10:22; Micah 7:18-19).
- 2) This assurance reflects God's desire for us to live in hope and joy, not fear and uncertainty: "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11). To know we are in Christ is to embrace the peace that comes from God's promises.

## b. Abiding In Christ For Confidence At His Coming:

- 1) John emphasizes the importance of abiding in Christ: "And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming" (1 John 2:28). To abide in Christ means to remain faithful in our relationship with Him, living in obedience and fellowship.
- 2) Assurance Reflects God's Desire For Hope And Joy: This assurance reflects God's desire for us to live in hope and joy, not fear and uncertainty: "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son" (1 John 5:11; Romans 15:13; Philippians 4:7). To know we are in Christ is to embrace the peace that comes from God's promises (John 14:27).

## c. Love Replacing Fear With Boldness:

- 1) Genuine Love For God Drives Out Fear: "Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; because as He is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17). God's perfect love assures us that we have nothing to fear in His judgment.
- 2) Fear Is Replaced With Boldness Through A Relationship Of Love And Trust: "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love" (1 John 4:18). Boldness flows from knowing and loving God, trusting fully in His grace and promises.

Confidence in our spiritual standing comes from God's promises, not our perfection. It arises from being "in Christ," knowing forgiveness and eternal life are secure through His faithfulness. By abiding in Him, we gain hope, joy, and peace, even in judgment. God's perfect love replaces fear with boldness, freeing us from uncertainty. This confidence is a humble reliance on God's grace and the transforming power of His love.

#### Summary:

- 1. Eternal Life Is God's Gift Through His Son:** Eternal life is a gift of grace, addressing humanity's desperate need for redemption. This life, found only in Christ, is about both duration and quality - a relationship with God that transforms us into His image through belief, obedience, and abiding in His Word (1 John 5:11).
- 2. Belief In The Son Is More Than Intellectual Assent:** True belief in Jesus involves love, obedience to His commandments, and trust in God's Word. It is an active and transformative faith that shapes our character and aligns us with God's purpose, granting eternal life to those who live in devotion to Him (1 John 5:13).
- 3. Confidence In Our Spiritual Standing Is Rooted In God's Promises:** Our assurance comes from God's faithfulness, not our perfection. By abiding in Christ, we live with hope, joy, and boldness, free from fear of judgment, as God's perfect love drives out fear and secures our eternal life (1 John 5:13b).

#### Applications:

- 1. Examine Your Relationship With Christ:** Reflect on whether your faith is an active and transformative relationship with Jesus or merely an intellectual acknowledgment. Ask yourself if your belief leads to obedience, love for others, and trust in God's Word (2 Corinthians 13:5; John 14:15).
- 2. Abide Daily In God's Word:** Make abiding in Christ a daily priority by immersing yourself in His Word and allowing it to guide your thoughts, decisions, and actions. This strengthens your connection with Him and helps you grow in confidence and spiritual maturity (John 15:4-7; Colossians 3:16).
- 3. Rest In The Assurance Of Eternal Life:** Stop living in fear or uncertainty about your spiritual standing. Trust in God's promises and faithfulness to forgive when you humbly confess your sins. Live with joy and boldness, knowing that God's perfect love drives out fear (1 John 1:9; 4:17-18).
- 4. Embrace The Quality Of Eternal Life Now:** Recognize that eternal life is not only about the future but also about the abundant life we live now through fellowship with God and reflecting His character (John 10:10). Strive to emulate Christ in your daily life, letting His love and purpose guide you.
- 5. Share The Gift Of Eternal Life:** Be inspired by this lesson to share the good news of eternal life with others. Let your belief in Christ motivate you to help others come to know Him as their Savior and find the assurance of eternal life in His Son (Matthew 28:19-20).

#### Questions:

1. What is the source of eternal life?
2. How does God's grace provide eternal life?
3. What does it mean that eternal life is found "in His Son"?
4. How does the Bible describe true belief in Jesus?
5. Why is abiding in Christ essential for eternal life?
6. What assurance does a Christian have about eternal life?
7. How does God's perfect love impact our confidence?
8. What is the significance of Jesus' death for eternal life?
9. How does eternal life affect the way Christians live now?
10. What should Christians do with the knowledge of eternal life?

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Based on a sermon outline by Jim Jonas

## Questions & Answers

1. What is the source of eternal life?

Eternal life is a gift from God, made available through His Son, Jesus Christ (1 John 5:11).

2. How does God's grace provide eternal life?

God's grace offers eternal life freely to humanity, despite our sin, through His plan of redemption in Jesus Christ (Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8).

3. What does it mean that eternal life is found "in His Son"?

Eternal life is exclusively available through a relationship with Jesus Christ, requiring belief, obedience, and abiding in Him (1 John 5:12).

4. How does the Bible describe true belief in Jesus?

True belief involves love for God and others, obedience to His commandments, and a transformed life reflecting Christ's character (1 John 3:23; 2:6).

5. Why is abiding in Christ essential for eternal life?

Abiding in Christ ensures a continuous relationship with Him, allowing His Word to dwell in us and guide our lives (John 15:4-7).

6. What assurance does a Christian have about eternal life?

Christians can confidently know they have eternal life through God's promises and forgiveness, not based on their perfection but on His faithfulness (1 John 5:13; 1 John 1:9).

7. How does God's perfect love impact our confidence?

God's perfect love casts out fear, replacing it with boldness and assurance in the face of judgment (1 John 4:17-18).

8. What is the significance of Jesus' death for eternal life?

Jesus' death was necessary to defeat the power of sin and death, opening the door to eternal life for believers (Hebrews 2:14-15).

9. How does eternal life affect the way Christians live now?

Eternal life is not only about the future but also about living a transformed, abundant life now in fellowship with God and reflecting His character (John 10:10).

10. What should Christians do with the knowledge of eternal life?

Christians should share the gift of eternal life with others, encouraging them to believe in Christ and find the same assurance and hope (Matthew 28:19-20).