

The Free Gift of Eternal Life

Four Groups of People Who Need This Teaching

1. Those who **Don't Know** (have never heard or don't understand the message so they don't know how to receive the Free Gift of Eternal Life)
2. Those who have **Delayed** (have heard the message but have delayed receiving the Free Gift of Eternal Life)
3. Those who are **Deceived** (they think they have eternal life but do not; perhaps because of a lack of understanding of how to receive or believing it is based on good works)
4. Those who have **Doubts** (have received the Free Gift of Eternal Life but don't realize that they can know for sure)

Synonymous Scriptural Terminology

- Eternal Life (One who has been Born Again, Born of God, Saved)
- Born Again (**John 3:3-7, 1 Peter 1:23**)
- Born From Above (**used in various Bible translations for Born Again**)
- Born of God (**John 1:12-13, 1 John 4:7, 1 John 5:1,**)
- Born of the Spirit (**John 3:5-6**)
- Born of the Word of God (Incorruptible and Eternal Seed) (**1 Peter 1:23**)
- Saved/Salvation (**John 3:16-17, Acts 16:31, Romans 1:16, Romans 10:9, Ephesians 2:8**)

The Eternal Promise of Eternal Life

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;
(**Titus 1:2 KJV**)

The Greek Word For Hope (*elpis*): Joyful and Confident Expectation

My message is based on the confidence of eternal life. God, who never lies, promised this eternal life before the world began. (Titus 1:2 GW)

based on the hope and divine guarantee of eternal life, (Titus 1:2 AMP)

And this is the promise that He has promised us - eternal life. (1 John 2:25 NKJV)

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 NKJV**)

And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, (Genesis 2:9 KJV)

...and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take from the tree of life as well, and eat [its fruit], and live [in this fallen, sinful condition] forever” (Genesis 3:22 AMP)

He put the Tree of Life (Eternal Life) in the garden BEFORE he created man. Eternal Life was God's plan for man before man was created.

The FREE Gift of Eternal Life

*For the wages of sin is death, but the **FREE GIFT** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 ESV)*

*For by **GRACE** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the **GIFT** of God, **NOT OF WORKS**, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)*

Gift: something given voluntarily without payment in return, as to show favor toward something bestowed or **acquired without any particular effort by the recipient or without its being earned:** a favor with which one receives **without any merit of his own**

Free: Given or available **without charge, without cost** or payment

- **No Payment, No Cost, No Charge**
- **No Effort**
- **Not Earned**
- **Without Merit**
- **Unconditional**

**The only two things you can do with a free gift are Receive or Refuse.
To Delay is to Refuse.**

Knowing and Being Known

*And this is eternal life, **THAT THEY MAY KNOW YOU**, the only true God, **AND JESUS CHRIST** whom You have sent. (John 17:3 NKJV)*

*You are the only true God. **If they KNOW YOU, AND JESUS CHRIST** whom you sent, **they will live for ever.** (John 17:3 WE)*

*Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire **taking vengeance on THEM THAT KNOW NOT GOD**, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: **Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;**
(2 Thessalonians 1:6-9 KJV)*

Knowing about Him is not the same as knowing Him.

Greek word for Know (ginōskō): a knowledge grounded on **personal experience to become known**
Jewish idiom for sexual intercourse between a man and a woman

*And **KNEW her not** till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name **JESUS.** (Matthew 1:25 KJV) (Same Greek word for Know) (a reference to Joseph and Mary)*

My sheep hear my voice, and I KNOW THEM, and they follow me: And I give unto THEM eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. (John 10:27-28 KJV)

Jesus gives Eternal Life to those He KNOWS.

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord KNOWS those who are His," (2 Timothy 2:19 NKJV)

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I NEVER KNEW YOU: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Matthew 7:22-23 KJV)

By the definition listed above to KNOW Him is to also be KNOWN by Him.

It appears that this group of people did not understand the message of **the gospel of grace** and were expecting favor based on their **good works**.

The Gospel of Grace

For by GRACE you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the GIFT of God, NOT OF WORKS, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV)

For it is by grace [God's remarkable compassion and favor drawing you to Christ] that you have been saved [actually delivered from judgment and given eternal life] through faith. And this [salvation] is not of yourselves [not through your own effort], but it is the [undeserved, gracious] gift of God; (Ephesians 2:8-9 AMP)

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 NKJV)

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) (Ephesians 2:5 KJV)

Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21 KJV)

So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 5:21 NLT)

The end result of sin is physical death followed by eternal separation from God. (Romans 5:21, Romans 6:23, James 1:15, 2 Thessalonians 1:9)

The end result of God's grace is Eternal Life. (Romans 5:21)

The Good News (The Gospel) is that God's grace was (and is) His solution for sin.

...and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify THE GOSPEL OF THE GRACE of God. (Acts 20:24 KJV)

God's Grace – Our Faith

*For by grace you have been saved **THROUGH FAITH**, (Ephesians 2:8 NKJV)*

*God saved you by his grace **WHEN YOU BELIEVED**. (Ephesians 2:8 NLT)*

The only two things you can do with a gift is Receive or Refuse.

Because this gift is UNSEEN it requires Faith (Believing what you cannot see) to Receive.

Grace (Giving) – God's Part

Faith (Believing and Receiving) – Our Part

What MUST One Believe to be Saved?

5 Things You MUST Believe to Receive The FREE Gift of Eternal Life

1. You MUST Believe that you need a Savior.
2. You MUST Believe that Jesus is the **Son of God**.
3. You MUST Believe that Jesus is the **Savior of the World**.
4. You MUST Believe that Jesus is the **Risen Lord**.
5. You MUST Believe that you Receive.

You MUST Have a Savior.

Before you can believe to receive Jesus as your Savior, you must believe that you need saving.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; (Romans 3:23 KJV)

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. (Romans 6:23 KJV)

Because of Adam's Sin all humans became sinners.

For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (Acts 15:22 KJV)

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Romans 5:12 KJV)

For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. (Romans 5:19 KJV)

You must believe that you need a Savior to save you from your sins and the penalty of sin.

What do we need Saving From?

- Sin (Matthew 1:21, 1 Timothy 1:15)
- The wages of sin (Spiritual and Physical Death) (Acts 15:22, Romans 6:23, Ephesians 2:5, James 1:15)
- Eternal Judgement (Hebrews 6:1-2) (This is called a foundational principle of the Doctrine of Christ.)
- Hell (unquenchable fire, the worm never dies) (Mark 9:43-45)

- Eternal Torment (**Luke 16:19-24**) (This is NOT a parable because Jesus mentions a man's name.)
- Everlasting Destruction (**2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**)
- Everlasting Fire (**Matthew 25:41**)
- Everlasting Punishment (**Matthew 25:46**)
- God's Vengeance (**2 Thessalonians 1:6-9**)
- God's Wrath (**John 3:36, Romans 5:9, 1 Thessalonians 5:9**)
- Eternal Exclusion and Banishment from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (**2 Thessalonians 1:9 AMPC**)

*Such people will pay the penalty and suffer the punishment of everlasting ruin (destruction and perdition) and **eternal exclusion and banishment** from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power, (**2 Thessalonians 1:9 AMPC**)*

Three Things You MUST Believe About Jesus

*Sirs, what must I do to be saved? So they said, “**Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and you will be saved, (Acts 16:30-31 NKJV)***

1. You MUST Believe That Jesus is The Christ – The Son of God.

*He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered and said, “**You are THE CHRIST, the Son of the living God.**” (**Matthew 16:15-16 NKJV**)*

*For God so loved the world, that he **GAVE his only begotten SON, that WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH in HIM** should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but **that the world through him might be saved.** (**John 3:16-17 KJV**)*

*And whoever lives and **believes in Me shall never die.** (**John 11:26 NKJV**)*

*So the eunuch answered Philip and said, “I ask you, **of whom does the prophet say this, of himself or of some other man?**” **Then Philip** opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, **preached Jesus to him.** Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “**If you believe with all your heart, you may.**” And he answered and said, “**I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**” So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him. Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught Philip away, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing. (**Acts 8:34-38 NKJV**)*

What did Phillip preach to the eunuch about Jesus? Who did he tell the eunuch that Jesus was?

The only way the eunuch could have believed that Jesus Christ was the Son of God is if Phillip told him.

*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but **these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.** (**John 20:30-31 NKJV**)*

2. You MUST Believe That Jesus is THE Savior of the World.

*And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be **THE Saviour of the world.***
(1 John 4:14 KJV)

*And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name **JESUS, for He will SAVE His people from their sins.*** **(Matthew 1:21 NKJV)**

*let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,** whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole....**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is NO OTHER NAME under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.***” **(Acts 4:10, 12 NKJV)**

*[for God has provided the world **NO ALTERNATIVE for salvation**].* **(Acts 4:12 AMP)**

*Jesus said to him, “I am **THE WAY,** the truth, and the life. **No one comes to the Father except through Me.**”* **(John 14:6 NKJV)**

You cannot believe that Jesus is the Son of God (or even a good man) if you believe He is a liar; and if He is not the only way to God, then He lied because He said He is the only way.

If you believe there are other ways to God, then you do not believe that Jesus is THE Savior.

and everyone who lives and believes in Me [as Savior] will never die. **(John 11:26 AMP)**

*For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him **might be saved.*** **(John 3:17 KJV)**

*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that **Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;*** **(1 Timothy 1:15 KJV)**

3. You MUST Believe that God has raised Jesus from the dead and has made Him Lord of All.

*that if you confess with your mouth **the Lord Jesus** and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.* **(Romans 10:9 NKJV)**

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead: **(Romans 1:4 KJV)**

*For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that **Christ died for our sins** according to the scriptures; And that **he was buried,** and that **he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures: And that he was **seen of Cephas, then of the twelve:** After that, he was **seen of above five hundred brethren at once;** of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*

(1 Corinthians 15:3-8 KJV)

*Him God raised up on the third day, and **showed Him openly,** not to all the people, but to witnesses chosen before by God, even to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.* **(Acts 10:40-41 NKJV)**

If these people were lying about seeing Jesus after he rose from the dead, they paid a very high price because many of them were put to death for proclaiming that Jesus was alive!

*“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that **God has made this Jesus**, whom you crucified, **both Lord and Christ.**” (Acts 2:36 NKJV)*

Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:9-11 NKJV)

Everyone who hears the message of Jesus...that He is

1. The Son of God
2. The Savior of the World
3. The Risen Lord

Does one of two things.

1. Receives Him
2. Refuses Him

Even the demons Believe

*You believe that there is one God. You do well. **Even the demons believe—and tremble!** (James 2:19 NKJV)*

*And **demons** also came out of many, crying out and saying, “**You are the Christ, the Son of God!**” And He, rebuking them, did not allow them to speak, for **they knew that He was the Christ.** (Luke 4:41 NKJV)*

Even the demons believe (KNOW) that Jesus is The Christ - The Son of God.

Clearly people can believe and know Jesus is the Son of God and not have eternal life.

Believing AND Receiving

*But as many as **RECEIVED HIM**, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to **them that believe on his name**: Which were **born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13 KJV) (Born of God)*

*But to **ALL** who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, (John 1:12 ESV)*

Believing AND Receiving is not the same as acknowledging that something is true.

*And this is the testimony: that God **HAS GIVEN** us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **He who HAS the Son has life**; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11-12 NKJV)*

The only way to HAVE Him is to RECEIVE Him.

He who Believes AND Receives Jesus HAS ETERNAL Life.

You Can KNOW FOR SURE

***MOST ASSUREDLY**, I say to you, **he who believes in Me has everlasting life.**
(John 6:47 NKJV)*

*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 NKJV)*

*This is the testimony in essence: **God gave us eternal life; the life is in his Son. So, whoever has the Son, has life; whoever rejects the Son, rejects life.** My purpose in writing is simply this: that you who believe in God's Son will know **BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT that you have eternal life,** (1 John 5:11-13 MSG)*

Receive Jesus or Refuse Him

*This is the testimony in essence: **God gave us eternal life; the life is in his Son. So, whoever has the Son, has life; whoever REJECTS the Son, REJECTS life.** (1 John 5:11-12 MSG)*

Everyone who hears the message of Jesus and the FREE Gift of Eternal Life does one of two things.

1. Receives Him
2. OR Refuses Him

Those who Receive Jesus Receive the FREE Gift of Eternal Life.

Those who Refuse Him Refuse the FREE Gift of Eternal Life.

Calling On The Name of The Lord

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Romans 10:13 KJV)

Based on the many other scriptures we have studied so far, we know this must be done IN FAITH believing to receive Jesus as Savior and Lord.

Calling on Him is the result of Believing on Him.

What About My Sins?

*And from **Jesus Christ**, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and **washed us from our sins in his own blood,** (Revelation 1:5 KJV)*

- Everyone who believes in Jesus has remission (forgiveness/pardon) of sins. (**Acts 10:43, Ephesians 1:7**)
- The moment one believes he/she is made the righteousness of God in Christ (as righteous as Jesus is). (**Romans 10:10, 2 Corinthians 5:21**)
- Under the New Covenant Jesus took away all our sins. (**Romans 11:27, 1 John 3:5**)
- God does not remember our sins. (**Hebrews 8:12**)
- Jesus is the propitiation (atoning sacrifice) for the sins of the entire world. (**1 John 2:2**)
- Our sins are removed as far as east is from west (infinity). (**Psalms 103:12**)
- The New Birth produces a New Creation in Christ which has no sin. (**2 Corinthians 5:17-18**)
- The New Creation is a New Spirit and is perfect. (**Hebrews 12:23**)
- Jesus has **PERFECTED FOREVER** all who are Born Again. (**Hebrews 10:14**)

Is it Hard or Easy to be Saved?

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. (Acts 10:44-48 NKJV)

They were Born Again before Peter finished his sermon.

Believing Unto Righteousness

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10 NKJV)

For it is believing in the heart that makes a man righteous before God, and it is stating his belief by his own mouth that confirms his salvation. (Romans 10:10 PHILLIPS)

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Romans 10:11 KJV)

Not be ashamed of what?

If you believe unto righteousness you are saved. Your verbal confession is simply confirmation that you have believed because if you believe on Jesus, you will not be ashamed to confess Him.

The group in the passage above (Acts 10:44-48) were clearly born again BEFORE they had the opportunity to CONFESS with their mouth OR call upon Him with their mouth.

The Book of Life

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and THE BOOKS were opened: and ANOTHER BOOK was opened, which is THE BOOK OF LIFE: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in THE BOOK OF LIFE was cast into the lake of fire. (Revelation 20:12-15 KJV)

Notice that the judgement of "works" is based on what is written in "the books."

This cannot be judgement of salvation (eternal life) which is by Grace and NOT by works. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

This could be referring to each individual's book written at the moment of conception.

Your eyes saw me when I was formless; all my days were written in your book and planned before a single one of them began. (Psalm 139:16 CSB)

The only people who will ever be cast into the Lake of Fire are those whose names are not found written in The Book of Life.