

The 12 Days of Easter: Day 3, Eternal Life



Day 3: Eternal Life

“And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God,

and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:3

eternal [ih-tur-nl]

adjective

1. without beginning or end; lasting forever; always existing (opposed to temporal)
2. perpetual; ceaseless; endless:
3. existing outside all relations of time; not subject to change
4. timeless, immortal, deathless, undying, imperishable, indestructible.

What is **eternal life**? According to the dictionary definition, eternal life is ceaseless, endless, and perpetual. According to our verse, eternal life is **knowing** God and Jesus Christ. **Eternal life** doesn't just originate with God, it is God.

The Greek word for *know* used in this passage of scripture is *ginosko*. *Ginosko* means, “to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of, to know by observance and experience, the knowledge viewed as the result of prolonged practice.” *Knowing God* isn’t synonymous with just *knowing about* God; even the demons believe and tremble. In order to truly know Him, we must accept Jesus’ death on the cross as payment for our sins. Once we have accepted Christ, the way is made for us to truly know God, by closely observing and experiencing Him as He walks with us day by day for all eternity .

Since God is infinite, we will continuously *know* God. We will forever discover new facets of His character and nature. With each discovery, we will glorify His name and rejoice in His holiness and goodness.

While waiting for God’s **eternal** kingdom, we will either live for self (the temporary), or for God (the Eternal). We will either store up treasures on earth (temporary-they will not last) or we store up treasures in heaven (**eternal**– they will not end). One will leave us empty, the other will fill us to overflowing.

How can you begin your **eternal** relationship with the only true God? By asking Him to be your Savior. What better time to become a child of God than the Easter season. We pray you will make this crucial decision today.

For step by step instructions on how to accept Christ as your Savior, please click on one of the following links:

[*The Way to God*](#)

[*Becoming a Christian*](#)

Point to Ponder:

To whom can I extend God’s invitation of eternal life?

Prayer:

Dearest Holy Father,

I thank you that You are the only True God and You have made the way for us to know You through Jesus. I have hope eternal for my challenges and concerns, because You are eternal. Nothing or no one is ever beyond Your ability to mend, forgive, or resurrect. Right now, I pray You would help me use my gifts and talents to bring eternal life to those who are in desperate need of a Savior. Thank You for Your grace, love, and salvation that will last for all eternity.

In Jesus Holy Name,

Amen

Previous Posts

Day 1 : Breath of Life

Day 2: The Life

eternal. Dictionary.com. *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/eternal> (accessed: March 10, 2015).

"Greek Lexicon :: G1097 (NKJV)." Blue Letter Bible. Sowing Circle. Web. 11 Mar, 2015. <<http://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G1097&t=NKJV>>.

The 12 Days of Thanks Giving: Day 4, God's Word



Day 4: God's Word

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

God's word [wurd] noun

1. the Bible.

We would not get very far without God's Word.

In Genesis 1:3 God speaks creation into being. The whole universe comes together at His words. Sun, moon, stars, seas, plants, animals, people. Everything. Without God's Word nothing would be here. Fast forward many years to the birth of Jesus. John 1:14 tells us that Jesus not only speaks God's Word, He *is* God's Word. "The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us." God sent Jesus to earth to fix the break in the relationship between man and God brought about by sin. God's Word gives us new life when we accept Jesus as our Savior.

After salvation, God's Word continues to play a most important role in our lives. Through it God instructs and encourages us. He molds us and disciplines us. He shapes us into His image through our obedience to His Word and the Holy Spirit's work in each believer. It's important to grasp the power of His Word. Hebrews 4:12 tells us "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Pray God's Word

I am so thankful for scripture and it's power in my life. If you've not yet begun praying it, this is a perfect time to begin.

1. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you a scripture for your prayer requests.
2. Begin praying God's Word over people and into situations.
3. Memorize scripture. The more verses you know by heart, the more effectively you can pray.

More of God's Word

If you'd like to explore this theme further, please listen to [How to Pray God's Word](#).

Also, you must check out this beautiful Pinterest pin I found highlighting some of God's Words.

Comment

Please leave a comment below in the **Speak Your Mind** section on what God teaches you today about **His Word**.

Previous Links

- [Introduction](#)
- [Day 1: Light](#)
- [Day 2: Cleansing](#)
- [Day 3: Sacrifice](#)

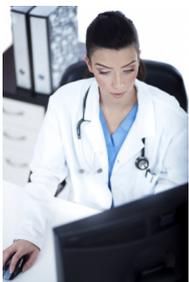
By Mary Kane

All rights reserved.

copyright 2016

god's word. Dictionary.com. *Dictionary.com Unabridged*. Random House, Inc. [http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/god's word](http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/god's%20word) (accessed: November 18, 2014).

Walk Like an Ephesian Part 3: A Matter of Life or Death by Mary Kane



Sickness, disease, and poverty are very significant concerns, but nothing is more important than the issue of **salvation**. We could even say that **salvation** is a matter of **Life or Death**. To do the study, please click on the link.

To dig a little deeper, please watch the video below!

“Image courtesy of by photostock / FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Growing Up Into Christ



Who doesn't love that sweet little baby face? It's hard to resist chubby cheeks, sparkling eyes and toothless grins! But what if we stayed as babies for our whole lives? Would it be quite so attractive?

We are smack dab in the middle of a series at church called Colossians: Living a Life Worthy of the Lord. It's been a challenging series, not a feel good one necessarily. But one that is sorely needed. **It's all about moving beyond baby steps with Christ and growing and maturing in our faith.**

A few Sundays ago, the scripture we were in was Colossians 1:24-29 and Colossians 2:1-5. Pastor David Bell was talking about how our maturity matters greatly to God, and how it is an expected privilege of all who follow Jesus. It got me thinking about the whys of it all. Why is maturity important in our faith? **What would the world look like if we just happily accepted our salvation and never moved on from there?**

Well, one way to look at this is to use the analogy of a baby. Babies are immature of course. They need to be fed, changed, cared for, loved and protected. They can't stand on their own.

They can't do much for others yet. They are pretty much in the "taking" mode. Imagine how we would feel if our babies never grew up. We would forever be immersed in diapers, baby food, car seats, play pens and strollers. Now I know we all are nostalgic about the days when our kids were little, but there is something very satisfying about watching children grow up, reaching new milestones and independence, making mistakes along the way, yes, but ultimately becoming productive members of society—and God's kingdom.

Now let's imagine that this is similar to how God sees us. When we take our very first step of faith by accepting Jesus as our Savior, we are born into God's kingdom. And for too many of us, that's where we wallow. It's a comforting, easy place to be. We're loved, we're fed—all our needs are taken care of. But, I can imagine God looking down and saying "Come on, it's time to take those next steps. We need to get rid of the baby food and get some meat into us. I've got work waiting for you to do!"

It takes time and work to grow in Christ. Sometimes we have to give up other things to attend that Bible study or take that class. We need to devote time to prayer. We need to spend time with mature Christians who can encourage us. Often times, it's far easier NOT to do those things. **But where would our world be if we all took that attitude?**

What if Martin Luther, George Müller, Amy Carmichael, Billy Graham, your pastor, the person who introduced you to Christ, what if they all had made different decisions, different choices in their lives? What if they had never grown up in Christ?

God doesn't see each of us any differently. He's got things that He prepared in advance, waiting for us to do (see Ephesians 2:10). **What if we never get there?**

This isn't meant to be a guilt trip. If you are already

growing in God, then don't pile on anything else that He hasn't given you to do or hasn't called you to. But, if your Christian life hasn't changed much since you started following Jesus, and you feel God is nudging you to grow up, here's a few questions David left us with at the end of service that Sunday morning that may help you too.

1. **Am I content where I am in my maturity in Christ?**
2. **Is God content with where I am?**
3. **Is there room to grow?**
4. **What areas do I need to grow in?**
5. **Am I willing to pursue what it takes?**

What do you think about maturity? I'd like to hear your thoughts.

Pray on!



Christmas Contest

Christmas is the perfect time to do something nice for someone else. Jesus set the example for us to do this as He came to earth to give us the ultimate gift of salvation. We'd like to celebrate this at Only By Prayer by having a Christmas contest. To enter the contest, you need to do something nice for another person; if you'd like, it can even be done anonymously. Then enter a comment on the blog and mention what

it was you did.



We'll draw a name at the end of December from all the comments to win a prize. Put some thought into what you do. **Think about what would really bless the person you are going to help.** Could they use a home-cooked meal? Does someone need a handwritten letter of encouragement? Could you anonymously do a chore for someone? Be creative and thoughtful and have fun!

Merry Christmas!

My Peace I Give You Part 2



Jane VanOsdol

Last time we looked at how Jesus was able to maintain peace in His life and found out that prayer played a big part in His serenity. What I would like to look at today is how we can do that same thing in our own lives. Some of you may be thinking that if I only knew what situation you were facing right now,

that I wouldn't be so quick to talk about being peaceful.

Let me say, I hear you! I have been through a few tragedies in my life, and I know how desperation and despair feels. But, I have also seen my Lord move into each situation and restore hope in my life where it had previously been dead. What we need to focus on is not the situation, but the only One on heaven and earth who has the power to bring life out of dead things and peace out of chaos: Jesus.

First of all, let me ask you, **What situation do you need peace in right now?** Let's just start with the hardest thing and get it out in the open. Maybe you're even afraid to mention it to your friends or family anymore because it has dragged on for so long, or maybe it's a fresh worry. But acknowledge to yourself what it is. May I also suggest an activity for you?



I would like to suggest that you write down what it is that you need peace about in a notebook. Write down everything about it and your prayers for the situation. Ask God to give you a specific scripture(s) to pray for the situation and invite Him to begin working. Then try to rest in that. Continue to write and journal and pray about the situation and record how you see God working. It may be that over time you see a person you have been praying for changed. Or, it may be that it is YOU that God changes instead. It may be that an ill person you want healed for earth instead dies and is healed to heaven. If that is the case, continue to record how God is moving in the midst of that tragedy in your life. Over time, you will begin to see patterns of God living and working in your life.

Often times just the actual writing down can help bring us a peace, but the real peace comes from understanding this scripture: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who are the called according to His purpose.* (Romans 8:28)

In the times when our prayers are not answered the way we want them to be, when the sick are not healed, or when the job does not come through for example, this does not make this any less of an answer; it is just a *different* answer. I begin to cultivate peace in these situations when I cling to God's promise that He will work together to bring good out of this desperate situation. Be persistent in prayer and know that you have God's word that He will bring good. Be waiting and watchful and record the good when you see it.

It also helps to keep the big picture in mind. Encouraging to me is the meaning of the word *peace* from John 14:27. The Blue Letter Bible defines peace in one instance as " the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever that is." When we know that our big picture is taken care of, other things tend to pale in comparison.

Cultivating a life of prayer and peace is only attained through persistence. God does not minimize our earthly trials. He walks and prays us through them.

Pray on!