

# What does it mean to Give Your Life to Christ?

## Our Great Need for Christ

1. God created man in His own image (Gen 1:27).
2. God created man with a free will (Gen 2:16, 17).
3. God gave Adam and Eve only one prohibition: not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen 2:16, 17).
4. The serpent beguiled and deceived Eve through his subtilty (Gen 3:1-6, 13; 2Cor 11:3; 1Tim 2:13) and she did eat of the forbidden fruit (Gen 3:6). She gave to Adam, Adam hearkened to the voice of his wife, and he also ate of the tree (Gen 3:6, 17).
5. Their eyes were both opened and they knew that they were naked and made themselves aprons (Gen 3:7). Adam was afraid of God and hid himself from God (Gen 3:10). Because of this sin, the Lord cursed the serpent (Gen 3:14, 15), the woman (Gen 3:16), and the ground for Adam's sake (Gen 3:17-19). They were also driven from the garden of Eden (Gen 3:24). Adam and Eve died spiritually that day (Gen 2:17) and physical death was pronounced upon man (Gen 3:19). Thus, by this one man (Adam), sin entered the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned (Rom 5:12; 1Cor 15:22; Eph 2:5).
6. Because God is holy, righteous and just, He cannot condone sin (Acts 3:14; 2Tim 4:8; Acts 7:52; Rev 21:8,27; Hab 1:13; Heb 1:9; Matt 5:29,30).
7. Every person is a sinner (Rom 3:10-23; Isa 53:6; 64:6; Job 15:14-16; Luke 18:9-14). Natural man, outside of Christ is described as follows: shapen in iniquity, conceived in sin, altogether vanity at his best state, dead in trespasses and sins, children of disobedience, children of wrath, having no hope, without God, sinners, enemies of God, ungodly, servants of sin, evil, children of the wicked one (Psalm 51:5; 39:5; Eph 2:1-12; 2Cor 5:14; Rom 5:6-10; 6:17; Matt 7:11; 13:38).
8. Eternal death is the penalty that God's holiness requires for unforgiven sinners (Gen 3:19; Ezek 18:4,20; Rom 6:23; Rev 20:14,15; 21:8).
9. Man desperately needs salvation from his sins and the penalty of his sins (Rom 6:23; 2Thes 1:7-9; Rev 20:11-15; Matt 1:21; Acts 4:12; Heb 2:3; 5:9; John 3:36; Rom 5:9).

## God's Means of Forgiving Us

1. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son to die for us (John 3:16; Isa 53:4-12; Dan 9:26; 2Cor 5:21; Gal 3:13; 1Cor 15:3; 2Cor 5:21; 1Pet 2:24; 1John 2:2).
2. The death of Jesus Christ was voluntary (John 10:17,18).

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3. The death of Jesus Christ was for the whole world (Jn 1:7; 3:16; 7:37; 12:32; 2Cor 5:14; Heb 2:9; 1John 2:2; Rev 22:17). It is God's will that all men be saved (1Tim 2:4, 6; 4:10; 2Peter 3:9).
4. The death of Jesus Christ is the only basis for God's forgiveness (John 3:16, 18, 36; 10:1; 14:6; Eph 1:7; Gal 2:21; Acts 4:12; 1Jn 5:10-12; 1Tim 2:5).
5. In view of the death of Jesus Christ, man's efforts to save himself by his own righteousness and works are rejected by God (Eph 2:8,9; Rom 4:4,5; 10:3; 11:6; Titus 3:5; Isa 64:6; Phil 3:9; Gal 2:21; 6:14).
6. Based on Jesus Christ's atoning death and resurrection, God offers eternal life as a free gift to all who will receive it (Rom 5:18; 6:23; John 3:16; John 1:12).
7. God has sent His Holy Spirit into the world to reprove the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, and to testify of Jesus (John 15:26; 16:7-14).

### **Our Responsibility to God**

1. Man's responsibility is to receive God's free gift of eternal life by believing on Jesus Christ (John 3:16,18,36; 6:47; 11:26; 20:31; Acts 16:31; Rom 4:5; 1John 5:5).
2. True saving faith is belief in Jesus with all one's heart (Rom 10:9,10; Acts 8:37; Luke 24:25; Rom 6:17)--not mere intellectual assent to some facts about Christ (Luke 18:9-14). This type of faith speaks of trusting in Jesus Christ (Rom 15:12; 2Cor 3:4; Psalm 32:10).
3. True belief in Christ involves repentance--a change of mind about sin and Christ (Luke 13:3; 18:9-14; Acts 17:30).

### **After a Person Believes on Christ**

1. Once a person believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, God then deals differently with that person than He did before that person believed (1Cor 11:31,32; Heb 12:6-8; Matt 13:38; Eph 2:3; 5:6; Col 3:6; Matt 23:15; Jn 8:44). Through the Lord Jesus Christ, a new relationship with God has been established. The believing sinner has become a child of God (Gal:3:26; Jn 1:12; 1John 3:2) and a partaker of the divine nature (2Pet 1:3,4). Having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, the sinner is said to have been born again (Jn 3:3,7,16,36; 1Pet 1:23), accepted (Eph 1:6), saved (1Cor 1:18; 2Tim 1:9; Titus 3:5), reconciled (2Cor 5:18; Col 1:21), redeemed (1Pet 1:18), quickened (Eph 2:1,5), sealed by the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13; 4:30), baptized by the Holy Spirit (1Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27), indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Jn 7:38,39; 1Cor 3:16; 6:19), forgiven (Eph 4:32; Col 2:13; 1Jn 2:12), justified (Acts 13:39; Rom 3:24; Gal 3:24), delivered from the power of darkness (Col 1:13), translated into the kingdom of

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God's dear Son (Col 1:13). He has passed from death unto life (John 5:24; 1Jn 3:13), God's righteousness is imputed to him (Rom 4:1-9), and his faith is counted for righteousness (Titus 3:5; Rom 4:4,5; 10:3,4). After conversion, the believer's Father-Son RELATIONSHIP with God is unaffected by the believer's conduct, as it is based completely on the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ--not of works lest any man should boast. However, as a child of God, sin does affect the Christian's FELLOWSHIP with God, as discussed in 1John chapter 1. God demands purity and obedience from his children. The believer is to avoid sin (1Jn 2:1) by enduring temptation (James 1:12; 1Cor 10:13). When the believer does sin, he is to confess his sins (1Jn 1:9) in order to restore the fellowship with his heavenly Father which has been broken (1Jn 1:3-9). Chastisement is certain for the believer who disobeys God and refuses to judge himself by confessing his sins to God (1Cor 11:31,32; 1Jn 1:9). Although there are several reasons the child of God is motivated to live in obedience to his Father's will after his salvation, one of the most compelling is the believer's love for the Lord and gratitude for the Lord's goodness (Matt 22:37; 1Jn 5:3; Rom 12:1,2; Psalm 107:31; 2Cor 5:14).

2. After conversion, the believer is able to walk in fellowship with God and experience an abundant life in Christ (John 10:10). To His faithful children, God gives blessings such as joy (John 16:24; Acts 13:52), happiness (Prov 16:20), peace (Phil 4:7), wisdom (Prov 9:10), temperance (Gal 5:23), purpose (Isa 43:7; Gal 2:20, Phil 3:14) power (2Tim 1:7), answered prayers (John 14:13,14); assurance of eternal life (1John 5:13), spiritual discernment of truth versus error (2Tim 3:16 with 1Cor 2:14; John 8:47), direction and guidance (John 10:27; 16:13; Rom 8:14), spiritual maturity (Matt 4:4; Heb 5:12-6:1), identification and resistance of sin (Psalm 119:9-11; Gal 5:16), character development (Gal 5:22-26), and good relationships with others (Rom 12:10; 2Cor 6:14-17; Psalm 1:1-4; Prov 22:6).

3. Once a person becomes a child of God, he is to abound in good works (1Cor 15:58; Matt 5:16). Good works are the RESULT or FRUIT or EVIDENCE of salvation (James 2:17-20; Matt 7:14-20; Eph 2:8-10; Tit 3:5-8)--not the MEANS of salvation (Eph 2:8-10; Rom 4:1-6). God has promised in His word to reward believers for their good works/labour (1Cor 3:8; Matt 16:27). God gives certain rewards to believers during their life on earth (1Tim 5:17,18; 1Cor 9:16-18; Matt 6:6), but ultimately, God rewards believers after this life is over and specifically at Christ's coming (Matt 16:27; Luke 6:23; Rev 11:18;22:12). The scriptures do not say that God will reward all believers the same, but EVERY MAN ACCORDING TO HIS WORKS. It is possible to receive a full reward (Ruth 2:12; 2Jn 2:12), and it is possible to lose one's reward (Matt 10:42; 1Cor 3:14,15).

4. The Lord Jesus Christ is coming again to receive His believers and complete their salvation (John 14:3; Heb 9:28; Rom 8:23-25). When the Lord returns, He will change all believers' bodies and fashion them like unto His glorious body (Job 19:25; 1Thes 4:16, 17; 1Cor 15:35-57; Phil 3:20, 21; 1John 3:2; Rom 8:23, 29). At Christ's coming, the dead will rise first and then we which are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1Thes 4:16-18). Every believer will give account of himself to God for his works (1Cor 3:11-15; 2Cor 5:10; Rom 14:10). Christ will reward each believer according to his works (1Cor 3:8, 13-15; Matt 10:41, 42; 16:27; 2John 1:8; Rev 11:15-18; 22:12).

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5. The believer will forever be with the Lord in perfect communion, in perfect happiness, in a perfect place prepared by Jesus Himself (John 14:1-3; Rev 21:3,4,8,27).

## Words of Jesus Christ

*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (John 14:6)*

*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)*

*He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. (Matthew 10:39)*

*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. (John 14:21, 24)*

*He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God. (John 8:47)*

*Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. (John 5:39)*

*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. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:16-18)*

*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28)*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life. (John 6:47)*