

REQUIREMENTS TO ETERNAL LIFE

We need to study the necessary steps that every Christian must follow in order to gain Eternal Life through the Bible's salvation of obedience to the Word of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The first step is to begin right. We see an example of a right beginning in John 1:12: "But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name." (Amplified Bible)
2. We need to understand that it is extremely important for each of us to receive the Lord Jesus Christ in our life, as the Savior, who died for our sins on Calvary's Cross and rose again. The Apostles Paul and Silas in Acts 16:31 recommend to all who desire to succeed in their Christian life to:

"...Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ [give yourself up to Him, take yourself out of your own keeping and entrust yourself into His keeping] and you will be saved, [and this applies both to] you and your household as well." (Amplified Bible)

3. We need to trust the Lord Jesus Christ and put the whole matter of our forgiveness on His Shoulders.

John 3:16: "For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only-begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish – come to destruction, be lost – but have Eternal (Everlasting) Life." (Amplified Bible)

John 6:47: "I assure you, I most solemnly tell you, he who believes in Me – who adheres to, trusts in, relies on and his faith in Me – has (now possesses) Eternal Life."

4. We need to accept the fact that our Lord Jesus Christ has paid the full penalty for our sins.

2nd Corinthians 5:21. "For He had made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

5. We need to surrender our day-to-day life to the Lord Jesus, who, as our Deliverer, has the ultimate power to save us from our condition of being dead in trespasses and sins. From our natural strength, we cannot save ourselves from the power of sin.

Romans 3:23: "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." We must trust our Savior and Redeemer Jesus Christ to save us.

6. We need to obey our Lord Jesus Christ as our Master and Emancipator. We should not seek to lead our own life in our own wisdom and power. We need to surrender unconditionally to His Lordship over us. We need to make God's Will as stated in

the Holy Scriptures our will; we must be willing to obey our Almighty God in accordance to His commands.

7. The result of our total surrender of our life to God will be spiritually fulfilling. When we make a decision to surrender our life and go God's way, He will make our Eternal Life successful.
8. We need to get down on our knees, and admit in prayer: "I surrender all to you, Lord! Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins and place them under Your Precious Blood."
9. We need to confess and take a stand for our Savior Jesus Christ openly before men and women when situations arise at home, at work or in our day-to-day interactions with Christians and non-Christians that requires our response. We must not remain neutral in support of and in service to our Lord. We must not act like a half-Christian and a half-worldly sinner. We must be willing to support Godly principles and reject ungodly actions at once. We must let those we deal with know our scriptural stand when we come face-to-face with a decision, or when we witness a situation.

Psalm 1:1: "BLESSED (HAPPY, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes], nor stands [submissive and inactive] in the path where sinners walk, nor sits down [to relax and rest] where the scornful [and the mockers] gather." – (Amplified Bible)

Matthew 10:32. "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."

Romans 10:10. "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Studying God's Word

1. For spiritual nourishment, we are to study our Holy Bible, the Word of God daily, verse-by-verse and chapter-by-chapter for about 15 or more minutes in the afternoon/evening, from Genesis to Malachi. In addition, we are to read about 15 minutes or more in the morning from Matthew to Revelation, systematically. Each time we pick up the Bible, we are to offer a prayer, seeking the Holy Spirit's understanding for what we are about to read, and when we complete the reading, to thank God, believing by faith that we understood what we have just read.

Proverbs 2:4-6: "So that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding; Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding. If you seek her as silver, and search for her search as for hidden treasures; Then you will understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God. For the Lord gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding."

Joshua 1:8: "This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have

good success.”

Psalm 119:45: “And I will walk at liberty and at ease, for I have sought and inquired for [and desperately required] Your precepts.”

Philippians 4:8: “⁸For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of reverence and is honorable and seemly, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely and lovable, whatever is kind and winsome and gracious, if there is any virtue and excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think on and weigh and take account of these things [fix your minds on them].”

2. Moreover, whenever we have extra time during the day to study the Holy Bible paying attention to the words in Psalms, Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. We are to avoid reading late at night when we are too tired to meditate.
3. Rather than spend unnecessary valuable time on entertainment, playing games, listening to radio commentaries, watching TV programs, working extra hours, constantly visiting friends or always playing host, we are to spend more time in secret with God searching the Holy Scriptures. We must apply to our life what we read from the Holy Bible

James 1:5: “If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.”

Proverbs 2:6: “For the Lord gives skillful and godly Wisdom; from His Mouth come knowledge and understanding.”

1st Peter 2:2: “As new born babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word that ye may grow thereby.” The Word of God is the soul’s food. It is the nourishment of the new life. One who neglects the Word cannot make much of a success of the Christian life. All who get on in the Christian life are great feeders on the Word of God.

Deuteronomy 6:6-9: “⁶And these words which I am commanding you this day shall be [first] in your [own] minds and hearts; [then] ⁷You shall whet and sharpen them so as to make them penetrate, and teach and impress them diligently upon the [minds and] hearts of your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down and when you rise up. ⁸And you shall bind them as a sign upon your hand, and they shall be as frontlets (forehead bands) between your eyes. ⁹And you shall write them upon the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”

Praying to God

1. In addition to studying our Bibles, to enable us gain spiritual success in our dealings with God, we are to “pray without ceasing” as commanded in 1st Thessalonians 5:17. All who desire to succeed in the Christian life must lead a life of prayer. There must be set times for prayer, as suggested by our Lord Jesus Christ

Psalm 55:17: “Evening and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud and He shall hear my voice.”

Daniel 6:10: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house, and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees, three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime (as he has always done)."

Matthew 6:5: "But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly."

2. Additionally, we need to begin the day with thanksgiving and prayer for the definite needs of the present day. For a few minutes in our midst of our busy day, we are to stop for thanksgiving and prayer. Then we need to make it a practice to close the day with thanksgiving and prayer to our Almighty God.

Matthew 6:9-13: "Pray, therefore, like this: Our Father Who is in Heaven, hallowed (kept holy) be Your Name. Your Kingdom come, Your Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven (left, remitted, and let go of the debts, and have given up resentment against) our debtors. And lead (bring) us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever. Amen." (Amplified Bible)

3. Moreover, we need to have special prayers in special cases when we see any temptation approaching. We must have faith in God. We must believe in and trust Him for victory by depending on the Power of the Holy Spirit, the indwelling Christ to control us. It is not necessary for us to be on our knees all of the time, but our HEART must be on its "knees" all the time through continuous meditation in our minds.

Ephesians 6:10-18: "¹⁰A final word: Be strong with the Lord's mighty power. ¹¹Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies and tricks of the Devil. ¹²For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirits in the heavenly realms. ¹³Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle you will still be standing firm. ¹⁴Stand your ground, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. ¹⁵For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. ¹⁶In every battle you will need faith as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan. ¹⁷Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (New Living Bible)

¹⁸"Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people)." (Amplified Bible)

Psalm 119:11: “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.”

Psalm 50:15: “And call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall honor and glorify Me.”

Isaiah 40:28-31: “²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, does not faint or grow weary; there is no searching of His understanding. ²⁹He gives power to the faint and weary, and to him who has no might He increases strength [causing it to multiply and making it to abound]. ³⁰Even youths shall faint and be weary, and [selected] young men shall feebly stumble and fall exhausted; ³¹But those who wait for the Lord [who expect, look for, and hope in Him] shall change and renew their strength and power; they shall lift their wings and mount up [close to God] as eagles [mount up to the sun]; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint or become tired.” (Amplified Bible).

Glorifying God

1. To glorify God in our daily Christian life, we must constantly ask the question: “is it scriptural before God?” We can know if it is scriptural by comparing each situation with Scripture. How can we determine whether certain habits and things are right or wrong in the sight of God?
2. We must humbly ask God to allow the Holy Spirit to give us the wisdom in determining the answers to these questions: Does this situation glorify God? Do we have a discriminating mind to assess the situation in relation to what God’s Word says? A word of caution: The fact that other Christians have done it successfully, or are involved in it does not necessarily make such an action scripturally right.

1st Corinthians 10:31: “Whether therefore we eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

3. Will our reaction to the situation please the Lord Jesus Christ? Would He praise us for what we have done? When something questionable comes up in our life, if we are in doubt, we are not to rush into it.

Colossians 3:17: “And whatever you do [no matter what it is] in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus and in [dependence upon] His Person, giving praise to God the Father through Him.” When others are rushing into things, it is far better to pause and reassess a situation if we are not certain, and ask for a second opinion than to rush into something only to find out that it was unscriptural.

4. Is this situation a burden or a weight? It may be a lawful case, but if it becomes a burden, we must not get involved with it:

Hebrews 12:1,2: “¹THEREFORE THEN, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the Truth], let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us, ²Looking away [from all that will distract] to Jesus, Who is the Leader and the Source of our faith [giving the first

incentive for our belief] and is also its Finisher [bringing it to maturity and perfection]. He, for the joy [of obtaining the prize] that was set before Him, endured the cross, despising and ignoring the shame, and is now seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” – (Amplified Bible)

5. Do we have a habit of engaging in activities that do not glorify God? Is this routine becoming a habit? Can we control it or does IT CONTROL US? Is there a spiritual benefit from such a habit? Instead of those unbeneficial activities, we could grow in the Spirit if we spent more time in our Scriptures.

1st Corinthians 6:12: “Everything is permissible (allowable and lawful) for me; but not all things are helpful (good for me to do, expedient and profitable when considered with other things). Everything is lawful for me, but I will not become the slave of anything or be brought under its power.” (Amplified Bible)

6. Does this habit create an obstacle to others? It may be a lawful habit, but is it beneficial? Does it edify other Christians? We should not allow our liberty to become a problem to other.

Romans 14:13 “Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother’s way.”

7. Is this decision a wise thing to do? We need to compare the decision with Eternal Life, with Calvary’s Cross, and with the worldly people around us

Proverbs 3:7: “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil.”

Colossians 4:5-6: “Behave yourselves wisely [living prudently and with discretion] in your relations with those of the outside world (the non-Christians), making the very most of the time and seizing (buying up) the opportunity. Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with salt, [so that you may never be at a loss] to know how you ought to answer anyone [who puts a question to you].” (Amplified Bible)

8. Does this decision increase or lessen resistance to temptation and sin? Does it make service and worship of God easier or harder?

Matthew 6:13: “And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

Matthew 26:41 “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

John 4:24: “God is a Spirit (a Spiritual Being) and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth (reality).”

Matthew 22:37-38 “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Required Steps Before Salvation

1. According to the Holy Bible, the salvation of Christians is an individual calling. Anyone who desires to become a Christian, irrespective of their background (Mormons or Church of the Latter Day Saints), Seventh Day Adventists, Jehovah’s

Witnesses, Islam, Buddhists, Agnostics (Atheists), Idol worshipers, Roman Catholics, etc.), must first accept the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior.

2. The Christian salvation is exclusively through the Lord Jesus Christ. Salvation is not through Jesus Christ and Mary, or through Jesus Christ with the Mormons and Joseph Smith, or through Jesus Christ with the Jehovah's Witnesses and Charles Russell. There is no other way, person or book to salvation than through the Holy Bible's channel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Any other salvation work that points to another person disqualifies the whole process of salvation by the Almighty God.

John 14:6: Jesus said to him, "I AM The Way, The Truth, and The Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

Acts 4:12: "And there is salvation in and through no one else, for there is no other name under Heaven given among men by and in which we must be saved."

Initial Steps

As evidence of our surrender to the Lord Jesus Christ, everyone must follow these initial steps:

1. Repent of our sins: Mark 1:15: "...Repent, and believe in the Gospel."
2. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior: John 5:24: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My Word and believes in Him who sent Me has Everlasting Life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into Life."
3. Submit ourselves to water baptism: Mark 16:16: "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned."
4. If we have already completed steps 1, 2 and 3 above, we are to follow the exhortations below under "Confession to God," "Regeneration: The Holy Spirit's New Birth," and "Christian Responsibilities," etc. as evidence of our acceptance of justification and salvation through Grace.
5. For clarification, water baptism has no part in our actual salvation; it is merely the public demonstration or vow taken before God and other Christians of the change that has ALREADY come into our heart and life. Water baptism is to witness to the fact that we are now born from above, and we now want to become a part of a local Church, and follow God's principles taught there.
6. The process for water baptism is true of all Christians: we cannot become a Christian without first uniting to Christ. The Holy Spirit convicts us of sin; the Holy Spirit gives us the principle of new life; He regenerates us; He is the same Spirit who at the same time joins every true Christian to Christ.
7. For any of us to reach the place where we voluntarily ask to be baptized in water, we must have repented, believed in the Gospel, and had our sins forgiven by God through Christ. Otherwise, water baptism has no significance at all.
8. If a person has not seriously accepted the need to repent of their sins, their lost state and submit their life to the Lord Jesus Christ, they are not eligible for the New

Testament way of baptism. They are not ready for baptism. They must accept that Christ bore their sins. They must realize that Christ assumed our guilt.

Repentance

1. How can a person who is just beginning the Christian life succeed?
2. First, we need to understand that we must REPENT of all known sins, and evil ways that we have lived in the past. We must admit that we are lost sinners, and deserve punishment and death, and that there is no human hope for us
3. Second, we need to take steps to be born again, believing in the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior and Master, and accept the fact that by faith Christ has forgiven us, and that we are now born anew and regenerated by the Holy Spirit
4. Third, as an outward act of our conversion, we must then submit ourselves to baptism by water immersion. This means a willingness to stop (by the Holy Spirit's Power) our previous sins, and follow the Lord Jesus Christ as He reveals God's Will to us
5. The first thing to understand about repentance is what IT IS NOT: sorrow in itself is not repentance. However, repentance may accompany sorrow. Weeping about sin is not in itself repentance. Many have sorrowed and wept about sin in their lives, NOT because they have seen the horror of it and have desired to have it right before God. Rather, because they have suffered a ruined reputation or some physical sickness, or because some cherished ambition was blocked. Real repentance is a "change of mind" that reaches the heart
6. Repentance is a complete change of mind about life and death, and about God and this world. The Holy Spirit working within us produces true repentance, and true repentance leads inevitably to a transformed life.
7. We cannot come to Christ without turning our back on our OLD ways. In our unbelief and rebellion, we turned away from God. Paul describes it in:

1st Thessalonians 1:9: "For they themselves volunteer testimony concerning us, telling what an entrance we had among you, and how you turned to God from [your] idols to serve a God Who is alive and true and genuine."
8. This beautifully illustrates the very essence of coming to Christ: to run to God from idols, or from the old way of life.
9. These believers at Thessalonica had changed their minds about their idols unto the True God. The Holy Spirit working in their hearts had encouraged them to do so. This work of God's Grace also empowered them to turn from idols to Jehovah God. Isaiah put it properly in:

Isaiah 55:7-8: "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have love, pity, and mercy for him, and to our God, for He will multiply to him His abundant pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, says the Lord."

10. We must understand that our ways and our thoughts are inseparable. We act the way we think. Our beliefs tend to determine our way of life. Therefore, when God says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts," He is actually talking about the same issue. To accept Christ and receive Eternal Life, an individual must accept God's Word, the Bible. It is the Source Book of our knowledge of Christ. Without the Holy Bible, we have no basis on which to receive Christ. Let us examine what the Lord Jesus said in:

John 5:24: "I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, the person whose ears are open to My words [who listens to My message] and believes and trusts in and clings to and relies on Him Who sent Me has (possesses now) Eternal Life. And he does not come into judgment [does not incur sentence of judgment, will not come under condemnation], but he has already passed over out of death into life."

11. To get right with God we must have a God-given CHANGE OF MIND. We must forsake our OWN thoughts. We must think as God thinks about our sins and our need for repentance to obtain salvation. We will never enter the door to salvation, which is Christ, unless we repent in this Bible way.

As Paul put it, "God made Christ to be sin for us that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." 2 Corinthians 5:21.

Confession to God

1. When we understand that the Father imputed to the Son the guilt that was due to us, we can grasp the true meaning of the Cross upon which the Lord Jesus died. We know further that the Father laid upon the Son the hell that every sinner deserves.
2. When a person has truly repented, i.e. have made a full surrender, and a vow to God that they now want Christ as their Lord and Master, they are to get down on their knees and pray along these lines:
3. (They are making a Covenant with God)

"Dear Lord Jesus, I am a lost sinner. I deserve to die and go to hell for my sins, but I believe with all my heart that You died for me, as my Substitute on the Cross, and that You rose again from the grave. I surrender my life completely to You, and I desire to meet every circumstance of my life as Your Word directs. I repent of all my sins, and place them under Your Precious Blood.

I accept You as my Lord and Savior. Come into my heart this moment and be my Savior. I thank You for the forgiveness of my sins. Enable me to live the Christian life, to love and obey You, and do the Will of the Father. Amen."

Regeneration: The Holy Spirit's New Birth

1. To receive salvation, we must first be born again.

John 3:7: "Do not marvel that I said to you, you must be born anew." Everyone, in order to enter into the Kingdom of God and be saved, must be born again. The old natural birth does not count; it must be a NEW SPIRITUAL BIRTH.

The Lord tells us in John 3:5, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God."

2. What did Christ mean? The Bible reveals that water is the symbol for the Word of God. "Born of Water" as used in this passage has nothing to do with water baptism, because baptism speaks of death, not birth. We must be born again of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God.
3. The Lord makes it very clear that there is a great distinction between the flesh and the Spirit when we read John 3:6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Flesh remains flesh to the very end. The Lord explains that there are mysteries in nature, which we cannot understand:

John 3:8: "The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit."

4. You cannot see the wind, but you recognize its power; similarly, you cannot see the Holy Spirit, but you recognize His Power in the life of believers. The Holy Spirit is invisible, but makes His presence felt in a mighty way as He convicts and regenerates sinful men and women.
5. The Holy Spirit completely changes the hearts of men and women. We recognize His Power although we do not see Him actually working. For example, we see a vain worldly woman suddenly become a quiet woman of prayer; we see a wicked, godless man suddenly transformed into a saint. Through the Holy Spirit's Power, WE BECOME NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST JESUS with new desires, new hopes, new ambitions, and new hatreds too, i.e. we hate those old things, which we used to love. That is the marvelous work of the Holy Spirit in our lives!

The Carnal or Worldly Person

In view of these facts, we conclude that God requires the new birth in us, because as worldly or carnal men and women:

1. We cannot understand spiritual things, because they are foolishness to us, no matter how educated, cultured or moral we may be: 1st Corinthians 2:14
2. We entirely lack the ability to "enter into the Kingdom of God": John 3:5
3. We are unable to obey or please God, "because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God": Romans 8:7-8.

Sins That Will Take Christians To Hell

1. As we continue to dedicate our lives to serving God, the Holy Spirit will enable us to follow His instructions and walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16: "I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

2. Our Almighty God is Holy and He requires all His creation to be holy.

Ephesians 1:4: "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."

3. Our Holy God has warned us that Christians and non-Christians who indulge in sinful ways will end up in hell with the devil and his fallen angels. Therefore, God repeatedly warns us to live a new spiritual way led by the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:19-21: Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency, ²⁰Idolatry, sorcery, ENMITY, STRIFE, JEALOUSY, ANGER (ILL TEMPER), SELFISHNESS, DIVISIONS (DISSENSIONS), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies), ²¹ENVY, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

EPHESIANS 5:3-5 - But immorality (sexual vice) and all impurity [of lustful, rich, wasteful living] or greediness must not even be named among you, as is fitting and proper among saints (God's consecrated people). ⁴Let there be no filthiness (obscenity, indecency) nor foolish and sinful (silly and corrupt) talk, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting or becoming; but instead voice your thankfulness [to God]. ⁵For be sure of this: that no person practicing sexual vice or impurity in thought or in life, or one who is covetous [who has lustful desire for the property of others and is greedy for gain]--for he [in effect] is an idolater--has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

4. Since God says that those who commit any of these cannot go to Heaven to spend Eternal Life with the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to ask for the Holy Spirit's Power to remove those ugly sins from our daily Christian lives.
5. If Eternal Life is so important to us and we know that God punished people for lying, cheating, and being angry, would we not rather die than commit any of these sins? If we do not repent from these sins of the flesh, we will find ourselves in hell.

The Death of Self Life For Christians

1. Another requirement to being spiritually successful in our Christian life to Eternal Life is to die to self.
2. The self-life for the average Christian or worldly person means that they manage and control the various circumstances and problems of this present life according to their own wisdom and power, or some other human being.

Luke 6:27-36: “²⁷But I say to you who are listening now to Me: [in order to heed, make it a practice to] love your enemies, treat well (do good to, act nobly toward) those who detest you and pursue you with hatred, ²⁸Invoke blessings upon and pray for the happiness of those who curse you, implore God's blessing (favor) upon those who abuse you [who revile, reproach, disparage, and high-handedly misuse you].”

“²⁹To the one who strikes you on the jaw or cheek, offer the other jaw or cheek also; and from him who takes away your outer garment, do not withhold your undergarment as well. ³⁰Give away to everyone who begs of you [who is ^lin want of necessities], and of him who takes away from you your goods, do not demand or require them back again. ³¹And as you would like and desire that men would do to you, do exactly so to them.”

“³²If you [merely] love those who love you, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? For even the [very] sinners love their lovers (those who love them). ³³And if you are kind and good and do favors to and benefit those who are kind and good and do favors to and benefit you, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? For even the preeminently sinful do the same. ³⁴And if you lend money at interest to those from whom you hope to receive, what quality of credit and thanks is that to you? Even notorious sinners lend money at interest to sinners, so as to recover as much again.”

“³⁵But love your enemies and be kind and do good [doing favors so that someone derives benefit from them] and lend, expecting and hoping for nothing in return but considering nothing as lost and despairing of no one; and then your recompense (your reward) will be great (rich, strong, intense, and abundant), and you will be sons of the Most High, for He is kind and charitable and good to the ungrateful and the selfish and wicked. ³⁶So be merciful (sympathetic, tender, responsive, and compassionate) even as your Father is [all these].” (Amplified Bible).

3. When man (our first father and mother, Adam and Eve, respectively) fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, he became obsessed with the idea that his ways were better than God's. Man has always thought that his power could accomplish all that was needed for perfect happiness and protection in all the affairs of this life, instead of trusting God and growing in Grace, and allowing God to take care of these situations.
4. Satan directly controls the self-life of man, which has been the cause of all sorrow, sickness, and trouble that there has been, or ever will be, in the whole world. God's whole object in dealing with man is to bring about the complete death of the self-life and the restoration and control of the Divine Life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Living Sacrifice (Death of Self)

There are three steps to the complete death of the self-life for every serious Christian.

1. The first is found in Isaiah 55:7:
“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.”

2. The second step is found in Romans 12:1:
 “I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies--presenting all your members and faculties--as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.”
 (Amplified Bible)
3. Paul tells us that we are to place ourselves in God's Hands for His Power to control us and for us to do His Will in every detail of our lives.

In Psalm 37:5-6, He gives it to us in a language easy for us to understand: “Commit your way to the Lord—roll and repose [each care of] your load on Him; trust (lean on, rely on and be confident) also in Him, and He will bring it to pass. And He will make your uprightness and right standing with God go forth as the light, and your justice and right as [the shining sun of] the noonday.” (Amplified Bible)

4. Taking and maintaining these positions are of the utmost importance in the death of the self-life for any true Christian. Otherwise, self will never be dethroned. The self life prefers to see and feel, while the Christian walks by faith in the Spirit.

Forgiveness (Death of Self)

1. The third step in the death of the self-life for every true Christian who cherishes Eternal Life with God is to meet the various problems and circumstances of life as God's Word directs.
2. In the New Testament, we find directions for practically every detail of our life. Each direction, if followed, as given, automatically eliminates the self-life and causes us to place our whole dependence upon the wisdom and power of God. Each command is directly opposite to the wisdom and plans of the worldly mind.
3. Take, for Instance, God's plan for the meeting of wrongs: Man's plan is to right his own wrongs, or trust some other man (a legal representative) to do it. Not only that, man's plan is to hold resentment and hard feelings with those who cross them. God's plans are found in:

Romans 12:9-13: “⁹[Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another. ¹¹Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. ¹²Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality.”

Romans 12:14-16: “¹⁴Bless those who persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice [sharing others' joy], and weep with those who weep [sharing others' grief]. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another;

do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits.”

Romans 12:17-21: “¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble [aiming to be above reproach] in the sight of everyone. ¹⁸If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. ¹⁹Beloved never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord. ²⁰But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink: for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. ²¹Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good.”

4. In God's Plans above, the true Christian is not to make the slightest effort to right any wrong, nor privileged to change their attitude toward those who have wronged them. The true Christian is to forgive others their trespasses from the heart through the Power of the Holy Spirit.

Mark 11:25: “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in Heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.”

5. We are also to go a step farther and to return good for evil.

Matthew 5:44: “But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.”

6. This peculiar Christian principle is exactly opposite to what the worldly man and his wisdom would devise or do. Nevertheless, with the Holy Spirit controlling us we can really die to self and live a life fully obedient to the Will of God.
7. It is sin, when we read the Bible and deliberately ignore God's plain scriptural commandments on forgiveness. We harden our hearts just as the Parable of the highway seed that did not bear any fruit. Such disobedience is evidence that we have not died to self. We must remember that when we allow the devil to fill us with any category of hatred, resentment and unforgiveness toward other people, we are sinning and in danger of God's judgment:

Matthew 6:14-15: “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

8. Let us pause and consider this warning: does this affect us? Are we going to ask God to help us obey Him so we can forgive other people, and receive His Blessings or remain stubborn? Do we still want to go to our graves without forgiving those who have caused us pain and hurt us? Have we considered 1st Corinthians 6:9-10?
9. The Lord Jesus Christ showed us the example when He prayed to our Almighty God to forgive the Romans **WHILE** they were **crucifying** Him?

Luke 23:34: “Then Jesus said, ‘Father, **forgive them**, for they do not know what they do.’”

Evidence of Real Forgiveness

1. These are some signs that we have asked for God's Grace to forgive all who contributed to our hurt or injustice:
2. We start treating them with love as if they have never hurt or done anything wrong to us. This will not be easy in our own strength, but with God's Power this is possible
3. We do not tell another person, even our closest friends or our Pastor what they did to us
4. We do not try to remind them of the pain or hurt they caused us 25 years ago or recently
5. We do not let them feel guilty by reminding them of what they should have done
6. We make a determined declaration by the Power of the Holy Spirit and the Grace of God to die to self, i.e. carry the Cross daily, and be ready to forgive again, accepting the fact that others may sometimes irritate or hurt our feelings
7. We remember them in our daily prayers that God would have mercy on them and grant them Grace, and to not count the sin against them
8. We are ask God to help us so we do not allow the devil to remind us of the hurt
9. True Christians should remember the Apostle Paul's commandments in Ephesians 4:26-27: "When angry, do not sin; do not ever let your wrath—your exasperation, your fury or indignation—last until the sun goes down. Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil—give no opportunity to him." (Amplified Bible)

Christian Responsibilities

1. When we repent, surrender our life to God, accept Christ as Savior and Lord and follow this up with baptism, and join the local church, what are then our responsibilities as Christians?
2. We are above all to honor, love and serve the Lord Jesus Christ. We are to show reverence and obey God and His Word. We are to put Him first in everything
3. We are to attend church regularly and pray for the ministry
4. We are to give freely and cheerfully of our time, experience, and money to the church, the congregation and the poor, because we are giving unto the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. We are to pay God's tithe on any money, provisions or gift that we receive on a weekly, biweekly or regular basis, with 10% as the minimum. We are to remember that if God has been gracious and merciful enough to grant us salvation from hell to Eternal Life, in gratitude, we are to give God as much tithe as possible. If possible, we are to give 25, 50, 75 or even 100% instead of the 10%. What we give to the church is for God, and He will bless us abundantly.

Malachi 3:10: “Bring all the tithes (the whole tenth of your income) into the storehouse, that there may be food in My House, and prove Me now by it, says the Lord of hosts, if I will not open the windows of Heaven for you and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Amplified Bible)

Proverbs 3:9: “Honor the Lord with your capital and sufficiency [from righteous labors] and with the first fruits of all your income.” (Amplified Bible)

Deuteronomy 26:2-3: “That you shall take some of the first of all the produce of the ground, which you shall bring from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and put it in a basket and go to the place where the Lord your God chooses to make His Name abide.”

Supporting Christ’s Church

1. We are to sincerely and prayerfully stand by our Pastors and Leaders in the church, praying for and encouraging them in their pastoral duties. We are to help them with all that we can. If a problem arises in the church, we are not to join a group to condemn the Pastor or Leader. Instead, we are to join in prayer for God’s deliverance and resolution. We are not to leave the church because of that problem.
2. By God’s Grace and through the Power of the Holy Spirit, we are to live a Godly, blameless, consistent life before the world; reaching out and encouraging the unsaved by bringing them to repentance and conviction.
3. We are to pray daily for unbelievers, too, and to witness to them of what Christ has done for us. We are to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ; helping them with their burdens, and conducting ourselves as an example. Moreover, we are to grow in Grace spiritually, striving toward maturity, and advancement in our Christian life.

1st Corinthians 9:27: “But [like a boxer] I buffet my body—handle it roughly, discipline it by hardships—and subdue it, for fear that after proclaiming to others the Gospel and things pertaining to it, I myself should become unfit—not stand the test and be unapproved—and rejected [as a counterfeit].” (Amplified Bible)

Following The Lord Jesus Christ

1. If we hear of anyone saying, “I can do as I please, because I am saved,” we should consider that as a fact that that person has never been born again. If we have the slightest notion that God will grant indulgence to sin because salvation is by Grace, then we should examine ourselves again. We need to heed the solemn warning in:

2nd Corinthians 13:5: “Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?”

2. If the devil fills our hearts doubt about the endurance of our salvation, we should talk with our Pastor or Leader, who is always ready to encourage and guide us.
3. Anyone who consistently lives a careless, worldly life, practicing known sin, has any right to call himself a true Christian, or expect anyone else to believe him.
4. The proof of a true work of Grace is holiness. The absence of bearing fruit makes any claim false. The evidence of our salvation by Grace unto good works is by our daily Christian duties. Let us read these unmistakable words of Paul to Titus:

Titus 2:11: "For the Grace of God (His unmerited favor and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind."

5. Let us consider what Paul is teaching us. Is Paul suggesting that we can do as we pleased? We can live like the devil and then go to Heaven when Christ comes for us? Does the passage say that? NO! Listen: The Grace of God teaches us this:

Titus 2:12-13: "It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world, Awaiting and looking for the [fulfillment, the realization of our] blessed hope, even the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One)." (Amplified Bible)

6. If we are not striving to live a sober, righteous, Godly life, we have no right to make claim to the Grace of God. In conclusion, we should not expect others to believe us, no matter what we may claim.

Watch and Pray

While we do not know the exact date or time that the Lord will return to earth, we see the impending Secret Rapture for Christians. We need to constantly watch and pray for the Second Return of the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us examine ourselves again today to determine whether we are in the faith or not. If we have truly received Christ, and been born again, we should confidently believe God's Word, which says:

Romans 8:30: "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Romans 8:35 and 38: ³⁵Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁸For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Finally, let us truly believe Him who not only said:

"My sheep shall never perish," but also said, "And I know them, and **they FOLLOW ME.**"

If you are carrying your cross daily to follow the Lord Jesus Christ, God will bless you! Amen.

We are always glad to give Scriptural advice and counsel to those who desire to write us about their problems, and to remember their requests for prayer in our services.

In addition, we publish sermons on other subjects, which take up in detail teaching on how to deal with God successfully and be delivered out of all our troubles. We will gladly send them to those who desire them for their own use or for others.

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Requirements to Eternal Life

Rvsd: 9/25/05; 2/3/06; 3/31/06