

God Has Given Us Eternal Life!

by Wayne Goff



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. 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, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God," **1 John 5:11-13.**

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The beloved apostle John tells us that God has given us **eternal life!** What a wonderful thought. Some stop there and revel in the fact that apparently there is nothing to do to obtain eternal life since God has given it to us. But wait just a minute. John goes on to explain where this eternal life is found — **in His Son**. Therefore we immediately understand that eternal life is not an absolute, unconditional, free gift to the whole human race. But rather it is a **conditional** gift of God, **conditioned** upon being in the Son. **Verse 12** says that those who have the Son do have the eternal life, while those who do not have the Son do not have eternal life. That's pretty plain and simple, wouldn't you say?

Eternal Life Is Conditioned On Faith In Jesus

Jesus Christ said while He was on the earth that He came to give life abundantly (**Jn. 10:10**). He said that He was **the only way** to eternal life: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me"* (**Jn. 14:6**). This eliminates unbelievers, atheists, infidels, and those whose faith does not rest in Jesus Christ as the Son of God — Muslims, Buddhists, Jews, etc. It is a sad thought indeed, but the vast majority of the world is eliminated from salvation because of this fact alone! Those who deny that Jesus is the Son of God, and even those who at least affirm that Jesus is a Prophet (Muslims, for example) do not have sufficient faith to be saved if the New Testament statements are true. Eternal life is then a *conditional gift*, isn't it? And how great a condition this is; a hard saying that some will not be able to accept.

Do You Have The Son?

Look again at our text: *"He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life."* How do I know if I have the Son? **Verse 13** explains: *"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, . . ."* So those who believe in the name of the Son of God **know** that they have eternal life. Notice carefully, friends, that it did not say "belief only." You may have been conditioned to insert that thought. Belief consistently means an **active, obedient** faith when it is approved by God. An inactive faith is dead (**James 2:26**). True faith *"works by love"* (**Galatians 5:6**). Jesus Christ is the Author of eternal salvation to those who obey Him (**Hebrews 5:8-9**). Therefore we can properly conclude that those who obediently believe in the Son of God have eternal life. Look at the logical progression of thought in the following chart:

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