**The Destiny: Eternal Life** Scripture: [John 3:16](https://www.desiringgod.org/scripture/john/3/messages)    **God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**

**The Destiny: Eternal Life**

In [John 10:10](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2010.10) Jesus said, "I came that they might have life, and that they might have it abundantly"—have it in fullness and have it forever. So eternal life is Christ's aim.

**Stage 1: In Christ**

Eternal life is in Christ.

[John 1:4](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.4), "In Him was life, and that life was the light of men." Or in [John 14:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2014.6) Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Eternal life is first and foremost the life of the Son of God. It is God's life.

**Stage 2: Through the Word of Christ**

Eternal life comes to us through the Word of Christ.

In [John 6:68](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.68) Peter says to Jesus, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (cf. 5:24). The life of Christ is mediated to the world through His words. He Himself is called the Word of God: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us" ([John 1:1](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.1), [14](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%201.14)).

**Stage 3: God Draws People to Christ**

In the hearing of the words of eternal life, God draws people to Christ.

In [John 6:44](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.44) Jesus says, "No one can come to Me unless the father who sent Me draws Him." Christ is where eternal life is received. We must come to Him if we will have it (5:40).

If eternal life is going to come into our lives, we have to start seeing Jesus, and that is what God's drawing us does. It opens our eyes to start seeing the Jesus we already see in the Word.

Is this the stage of eternal life where you are?

**Stage 4: Believing in Christ**

When we hear the words of life, and yield to the drawing power of God, and believe in Jesus, we receive Him into our lives and with Him we receive eternal life, because He is eternal life ([John 14:6](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2014.6)).

**Stage 5: We Have Eternal Life *Now***

In believing we have eternal life NOW, not just in the future.

In [John 5:24](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%205.24) Jesus says, "Truly, truly, I say to you, He who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life [not "will have" but "has"—now!], and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

**Stage 6: A Personal Relationship with God**

This eternal life is a personal relationship with God the Father and God the Son.

In [John 17:3](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2017.3) Jesus defined eternal life like this. He was praying to His Father in heaven, and said: "This is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Eternal life is a personal, intimate knowing of God.

"This is eternal life, that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

Eternal life brings the light of personal knowledge into the heart, and we know Him and live with Him and commune with Him, NOW.

**Stage 7: Not Interrupted at Death**

Eternal life is not interrupted at death.

In [John 11:25–26](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%2011.25%E2%80%9326) Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die."

**Stage 8: Made Complete at the Resurrection**

Eternal life will be made complete when our bodies are raised from the dead and reunited with our spirits.

In [John 6:40](https://biblia.com/bible/esv/John%206.40) Jesus said, "This is the will of my Father, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day." He is not only the life, as He said (11:25–26), He is the resurrection.

Eternal life encompasses body and soul.

**Stage 9: Lasting Forever and Ever**

Eternal life will last forever and ever.

**Why Does Eternity Exist?**

It exists because it will take that long for us to know the inexhaustible glories of God.

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