

The Journey

A Starter E-Book for New Believers and a Refresher's Course for those who've been in it a while.

Note: These two chapters are from the Book "Everywhere University" by Pastor Doc Murphy.

INTRODUCTION

THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE

Are you born again? Is Jesus Lord of your life? Why am I asking? I'm asking because, THE GREATEST GIFT you'll ever receive in your life, is Jesus Christ and the Eternal Life He gives!

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Who doesn't want life? Life is meant to be lived. But we must live life from an eternal perspective. Jesus is the only one who can give us true life.

John 10:10 The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.

As you can see, it's Jesus' will to give us a rich and satisfying life. He didn't come to steal, kill, destroy, and make you miserable. He wants you to have a satisfying life. The devil came to make you miserable. Jesus came to save lives not destroy them. Look at what the Bible says:

Luke 9:56 for the Son of Man did not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 6:63 The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you--they are full of the Spirit and life.

As we can see Jesus is life. He is truth and He is the way to the Father.

It didn't say He was the way, the lie, and the death. No! He is LIFE! His spirit and words produce LIFE. So many people blame God for: deaths, murders, car accidents, sickness, bad situations, crashes, destruction of homes, bad marriages, bad kids, loss of jobs, tragedies, and the list goes on. The reason they do this is because they don't have an accurate knowledge of God's nature. They don't know who is behind sickness, deaths, accidents, etc. Jesus came to give life. Satan came to bring death, fear, and destruction. If you don't know that, you will get destroyed by the devil, and blame it on God.

Sometimes the person to blame is YOURSELF! People are self-sabotagers but they love to blame God and others for their ruin. Get rid of pride, admit that you made bad decisions, stop blaming God, and get on the right track and change your life.

Proverbs 19:3 (GNT) Some people **ruin themselves by their own stupid actions** and then **blame the LORD.**

The only person Jesus came to destroy was the DEVIL!

1 John 3:8 The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself (Jesus Christ) likewise took part of the same; that through death he (Jesus) might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Who had the power of death? That's correct, THE DEVIL. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, *destroyed* the devil. You see, if you think God is putting death, sickness, disease, poverty, lack, or a bad marriage on you, then you'll never get the victory over the one (the devil) who is really doing it to you.

The reason we are going over this lesson is because it's easier to accept the greatest gift from the person who you know has your BEST interest at heart. God wants the best for you! He loves you!

James 1:17 Whatever is good and perfect comes down to us from God our Father, who created all the lights in the heavens. He never changes or casts a shifting shadow.

"God is good and only good. He is not half evil and half good".

As you see, whatever is good and perfect (*that lines up with the Bible and what God specifically speaks to you*), THAT is what comes down to us from God. So, whatever is bad and evil comes from the devil.

Note: Everything good is not from God. What I mean is you can get a good job, but that doesn't necessarily mean that God gave you that particular job. A job is good, but did God give you that one? Do you see my point? You just have to KNOW God's will from what He has already said in the bible and what He specifically speaks to your spirit.

ETERNAL LIFE

Eternal life is a free gift that God gives to everyone who receives Jesus Christ by faith. Eternal life is not just about the length of life, it is also the quality of life. It comes from the Greek word *Aion*. Which simply means: the length of life as well as quality. There is also another Greek word for life called *Zoe*. This means the God-kind of life. God wants you to experience His kind of life. His kind of living. Supernatural living! He created us in His image and likeness and that is restored when we accept Jesus as Lord.

Make Jesus Lord of your life!

Before we go any further, I'd like to give you the opportunity to receive the greatest GIFT-Salvation!

If you died today, where would you go?" If you're not sure you would go to Heaven, please take this time to put your faith in Jesus.

Look at the following scriptures:

1. Romans 3:23 (*New International Version*)

For all have sinned. . . .

2. Romans 6:23 (*New International Version*)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

3. Romans 10:13 (*New International Version*)

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

4. Romans 10:9-10 (*King James Version*)

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

4. Acts 2:38 (*King James Version*)

Then Peter said unto them, Repent Change your mind), and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission (forgiveness) of sins, and ye shall

receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off...

Do you believe those verses? If so, pray this simple prayer:

“Heavenly Father, I believe that Jesus died on the Cross for me and rose again. I turn away from my sin and ask you to forgive me of every sin I’ve ever committed in my life. I give You my life and say with my mouth that JESUS IS LORD! Fill me with the Holy Spirit. I vow to get baptized in water at my local church as soon as possible. Amen”.

If you prayed that prayer, confessed Jesus as Lord, and really meant it from your heart, then you are **Born Again!** Welcome to the Family of God! The blood of Jesus has washed and cleansed you from all unrighteousness. You are now 100% righteous (In right standing) with God. No longer guilty or full of shame. You are a new creation in Christ. We will discuss this in a later Chapter.

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God...

Discussion Questions

1. What is the greatest gift? _____
2. The only person Jesus came to destroy was the _____?
3. Eternal life is not just about the *length* of life but the: _____.
4. What does Zoe mean? _____

CHAPTER ONE

THE GIFT OF DISCIPLESHIP

I'm glad you made a fresh start with Jesus! Congratulations on your decision. You might be wondering, "What's Next"?

Like a new born baby craves milk, you too should crave the milk of God's Word. Jesus promises to fill those who are hungry. The Bible becomes your spiritual milk and food. The more you desire and crave it, the more you will be filled and grow up to be a mature believer in Christ. Study the scriptures below:

1 Peter 2:2 Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment...

Colossians 4:12 (Ph) ...that you may become mature Christians and may fulfill God's will for you.

Ephesians 4:14-15 (Ph) We are not meant to remain as children... but to grow up in every way into Christ.

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

(The Scripture below is not for babes in Christ)

Hebrews 5:12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God's word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food.

Jesus never meant for us to stay babies, stagnate, or spiritually immature. He gives us grace, but He does expect for us to grow in our faith.

Sin keeps us in bondage. It separates us from God. God still loves us if we sin, but a Holy God wants His children to be Holy (pure and free) just as He is. We are made in His image and His likeness. Sin should never dominate the Christ follower. We dominate sin. We are no longer slaves to it.

1 Peter 1:15-16 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation (behavior); Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Romans 6:6-7 & 11-14 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye

should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you:

There are nine simple steps to help you get started in your new walk with God. We call this discipleship.

Discipleship: The process of being trained to live under the authority of Jesus Christ.

Luke 6:46 "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?"

1. Rejoice! Now that you are new creation in Christ you can rejoice. Give God the praise for the gift of salvation!

Ps. 35:9 And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

2. Get Baptized. Read Romans Chapter Six. Baptism is an outward sign of what happened to you inwardly. It's your initiation into the family of God. It's about dying to your old ways and resurrecting to the newness of life. Be sure to ask your local Pastor about opportunities to get baptized.

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 6:5 Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?

3. Ask the Lord to fill you with His Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us the power we need to live a productive life, gain revelation from the scriptures, and overcome sin. The initial evidence of the in-filling of the Spirit is "speaking in other tongues". Read: Acts 1:8, Acts 2:38-39, I Corinthians 2:9-10, Romans 8:8-9

Act 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 10:44-46 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

4. Start Studying the Bible. Start with the book of Romans, Ephesians, and Colossians. These books really help you grow in your faith and help you to understand

who you are in Christ and what you have in Christ. Also listen to preaching as much as possible. You can listen to sermons at www.everywherenetwork.church. Some great preachers I suggest are: Mark and Trina Hankins, Rick Renner, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, and Bill Winston just to name a few. Also, a great tool and resource to purchase is Pastor Mark Hankins's "**Scripture Study Guide**". Go to his online store at www.markhankins.org and purchase it there.

John 8: 31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17-20 and I Peter 2:2

5. Start building a relationship with God through prayer. You can start praying 10-30 minutes a day. Just talk to God like you do with any other person (in total reverence and respect of course). I also encourage you to buy my book on prayer *called "How to Get God to Hear You"*. It is written to mature Christians, but I believe it will help you grow quicker if you're a new believer. You can order it on amazon.com. **Read Ephesians 6:18.**

6. Get Connected to the Church. Joining a local congregation provides great benefits. You will have spiritual leaders who will pray for you, teach you the Word of God, and help you grow in your faith (Romans 10:14-17). You will have other Christians to connect with. This is great because you shouldn't be alone on your journey. Being connected also gives you the opportunity to worship and serve. Find a church at www.everywherenetwork.church/churches

Hebrews 10:25 And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near

7. Serve in the Church. Serving in the church is great because you are able to use your God-given talents to help advance the Kingdom of God. There's no greater joy than to use what God has given you to serve Him through the local Church (Romans 12:4-8).

8. Serve in the Community. Get involved in helping people in the community. This helps you develop a servant's heart and gives you the opportunity to show the love of Christ to people who need it. Read Matthew 25:34-45.

9. Disciple others. The same way you are being discipled through this book, do it for someone else. Get a copy of this book for your friends, family, or co-workers and take them through this same process. If you're saved, you have the responsibility to win people to Jesus and help them grow in their faith.

2 Timothy 2:2 You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.