

Life Eternal

UNDERSTANDING ETERNAL LIFE

John 3:36, "He that believes on the Son has eternal life, but he who does not believe on the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

Our attitude toward Christ (belief or unbelief) determines whether we have eternal life.

The Greek word PISTEUO in the present tense means you have eternal life the moment you believe, and you continue to have it.

A person has eternal life the moment he believes in the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior.

Eternal life is imputed to the human spirit, which is created for you by God the Holy Spirit at regeneration.

THREE CATEGORIES OF ETERNAL LIFE:

For the believer who dies in time prior to resurrection, there are three categories of eternal life.

1. The believer has eternal life while living on the earth, having both earthly and eternal life.
2. The believer has eternal life after death while living in heaven and waiting for his resurrection body. This can be classified as having both interim life and eternal life.
3. The believer has eternal life forever in a resurrection body, which is resurrection life and eternal life.

Those believers of the Rapture generation who do not die physically have two categories of eternal life

1. Temporal life plus eternal life.
2. Resurrection life plus eternal life.

Each category of eternal life reveals a new aspect of God's perfect integrity and plan.

Life Eternal (Continued)

THERE IS A BODY FOR EACH STAGE OF ETERNAL LIFE.

Temporal life plus eternal life has the body of corruption with the old sin nature.

The interim life plus eternal life has the interim body, which experiences no more pain, tears, sorrow, old sin nature, or sickness. In this interim body, you are recognizable. This is the body you occupy while awaiting your resurrection body. [II Cor. 5:8](#); [Rev. 21:4](#)

The interim life and eternal life stage makes no distinction between winners and losers in the Christian life. It provides sublime happiness for every believer.

This gives the greatest of comfort to loved ones at a funeral. Losers and winners have it just as good in heaven in an interim body.

Resurrection life plus eternal life has the resurrection body.

Therefore eternal life exists in two or more categories of life. The person who does not die experiences two categories of eternal life; the person who does die experiences three categories of eternal life.

A person can obtain eternal life only while he is alive on earth.

A person cannot get eternal life once he dies as an unbeliever.

Eternal life begins during a believer's lifetime. [II Cor. 6:2](#)

You cannot get eternal life in eternity; you have to get it now.

Eternal life belongs only to the believer.

The three categories of eternal life do not apply to the unbeliever, who is described by [John 3:18](#).

Eternal life belongs only to the believer who is never without a body. You always have a body with your eternal life.