



Salvation Blessings

What Happens When a Person Gets Saved

Note: Scripture used in this Bible Study is from the New King James Version.

When a man believes on the Lord Jesus Christ, many wonderful things take place as a new relationship is established between him and God. Of course, the new believer is unaware of all these things until he studies Bible doctrine and grows in the Word of God.

This study looks at twelve important things that happen to the believer when he gets saved.

For each of the following verses, describe what happens when a person gets saved...

1. His Sins Are Forgiven

Colossians 1:13-14 - He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.

What is the great comfort offered by this verse?

By the grace of God, all our sins have been forgiven and will never be brought up again by the Lord...

Ps 103:12 - As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

What is this power of darkness from which we have been delivered?

The consequences of not being in the light of God which is spiritual death, eternal separation from God.

I Jn 1:5 - God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.
John 8:12 - Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Why is the darkness called a power in Colossians 1:13?

The darkness has a hold on us, making us slaves to sin. The darkness is also personified by a powerful being, Satan.

What does the term "redemption" mean?

Our freedom has been purchased, we are no longer captive to the consequences of sin.

What is the penalty for sin?

Death, physical death is the consequences of the original sin of Adam (and our sin-nature) and spiritual death is eternal separation from God...

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

2. He No Longer Has To Die In His Sins

John 8:24 - Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.

What does life offer the unsaved sinner?

For the unsaved sinner, life offers no more than a few sinful pleasures, worldly gain, and passing fame. At death, he will lose everything he ever treasured: his family, friends, fortune, and fame. Worst of all, he will lose his eternal soul to Satan, and be punished forever in Hell.

What are the two options for the condition in which people will die?

Every man must die in one of two ways. He will die at peace with God, looking forward to a heavenly home with eternal rest from sin and the cares of the world, or he will die in his sin.

How will most people die?

Unfortunately, most people die in their sins, because most people die unsaved...

Matt 7:13-14 - Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

What does it mean to die in sin?

All the unsaved die in their sins, and must stand before the Great White Throne Judgment. Without the blood of Christ to take away their sin, there will be no mercy and no one to plead their case. Those who die in their sins will be cast into the Lake of Fire where they will be punished for ever and ever (Revelation 20:10). This being thrown into the lake of fire is called the second death in Revelation 20:14 & 21:8.

How do you avoid dying in your sins?

By believing that Jesus is the Savior ("that I am He" - John 8:24).

How should we view the reality of eternal damnation?

Not take it lightly... The horror of the Auschwitz prison camps in Germany, the Bataan death march in the Philippines, and the torture of millions of Christians in Europe by Roman Catholics in the Dark Ages will seem mild in comparison with the horrors of eternal damnation in Hell.

Hebrews 10:31 - It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Consider Matthew 13:49-50:

So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, and shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

What does the "wailing and gnashing of teeth" tell us what the greatest torment for the unsaved will be?

That they could have escaped. Having rejected the Lord Jesus Christ, the unsaved will perish without the Savior, and in Hell memories of the past will haunt them forever: they will remember how they mocked the Saviour when they rejected the gospel of the grace of God, and they will remember their friends and loved ones who received God's free gift of salvation.

Will there be anyone the unsaved can blame for their plight?

No, God is simply turning them over to what they have asked for with their unresponsiveness to Him...

John 3:17-18 – For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

As the thief on the cross, who said of how the two suffered on the cross:

And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds — Luke 23:40-41

What is one way a person knows they have passed from spiritual death into eternal life?

They "love the brethren" – they desire the fellowship of other Christians.

1 John 3:14 - We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren.

(While not all church goers are Christians, all Christians are church goers.)

3. He Becomes a New Creature in Christ

2 Corinthians 5:17 - Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

What things have passed away for the believer?

Old values that are focused on the material world which is passing away...

1 Jn 2:17 - And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

What has become new?

Our perspective changes to view all things in the context of eternity. Our values begin to be aligned with God's.

How do the "things" that have passed away contrast with the "things" that have become new?

...Consider Eph 2:1-7 and think about what things are contrasted here as I read it...

Eph 2:1-7

- 1 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins,
- 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,
- 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.
- 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,
- 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
- 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,
- 7 that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

What are the contrasts between the old and new things in Eph 2:1-6?

- verse 1 NEW: God made us alive (with Christ – verse 5) versus OLD: dead in our sins
- verse 3 OLD: conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath versus verse 6 NEW: raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus

How do these contrasts define who we are versus who we were?

We are now by definition children of God versus children of wrath.

What does verse 7 have to say about why God will raise us up together with Jesus?

So that God may demonstrate His grace and kindness toward us for eternity.

Consider Phil 3:18-21 and think about what things are contrasted here as I read it...

Phil 3:18-21

18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

What are the contrasts between the old and new things in Phil 3:18-21?

OLD: enemies of the cross of Christ (v18), whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame-- who set their mind on earthly things (v19)

NEW: our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior (v20)

How are these contrasts in the direction people are headed?

We were headed toward destruction, now we are headed toward heaven.

Consider Col 3:2 and think about what things are contrasted here as I read it...

Col 3:2 –

Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

What are the contrasts between the old and new things in Col 3:2?

OLD: mind on earthly things; NEW: mind on things of God

How are these contrasts in our desire?

- We have a choice in which things we set our minds on and we now have a desire to look at things from God's perspective.
- We do this out of gratitude for His saving us.

Consider Hebrews 12:25-27 and think about what things are contrasted here as I read it...

Heb 12:25-27

25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,

26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."

27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

What are the contrasts between the old and new things in Hebrews 12:25-27?

Things which are being shaken versus things which can not be shaken.

What are the things that are being shaken?

All of creation, the things that are made.

How is it that all of creation is being shaken today?

It is in the process of passing away, God will recreate all things...

Rev 21:1 - Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.

What are the things that can not be shaken?

The promises and gifts of God

How are these things contrasts in duration?

The things being shaken are temporal, they will have an end while the things that can not be shaken are everlasting.

Consider Revelation 21:4-5 and think about what things are contrasted here as I read it...

Rev 21:4-5

4 "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

What are the contrasts between the old and new things in Revelation 21:4-5?

OLD: tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain

NEW: an existence without tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain... inheriting all things as a child of God (Rev 21:7)

How are these things contrasts in destiny?

Those who don't know the Savior will spend eternity in tears, death, sorrow, crying, pain whereas those who are saved will inherit all things as a child of God.

What is the term that best describes the instant you are saved?

Born Again...

John 3:5-7 - Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

Is the water here a reference to water baptism?

If it was water baptism, then Jesus would be making it a requirement to enter the kingdom of God here. This can not be water baptism because one of the thieves who died on the cross next to Jesus was saved without having to be baptized (see Luke 23:39-43).

One verse that people use to argue that you must be baptized to be saved is Mark 16:16, how would you address this?

Mark 16:16 - He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. Being baptized is an act of obedience which will follow being saved but is not required to be saved. Mark 16:16 does not say that you'll be condemned if you are not baptized. Be careful not to read anything into the text that is not there.

So what else could the water refer to?

Many have said this is physical birth (amniotic fluid), see verse 6, but "water breaking" was not used as a description of physical birth for centuries later.

What does the water really refer to?

The term water is another reference to the Holy Spirit, or the cleansing and life-giving activity of the Holy Spirit. This is reinforced by the Greek grammar which indicates that the two items are one concept.

John 7:37-39 - On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation?

He sanctifies us and gives us a new nature.

Titus 3:5 - according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit

How does Revelation 22:1 show that water is used to represent the Holy Spirit?

This is a clear reference to the Triune Godhead: throne of God (Father), lamb (Son), pure river of water of life (Holy Spirit)

Rev 22:1 - And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Does the Old Testament use water to represent the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit was revealed by Christ, but since He has, there are some Old Testament references that reinforce the Holy Spirit as being represented by water, for example:

Isa 44:3 - For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;

How about God's Word, could the reference to water in John 3:5-7 refer to God's Word?

Certainly, this is not in conflict with seeing it as a reference to the Holy Spirit because God's Word was inspired to men by the Holy Spirit.

Eph 5:25-26 - Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

Also in the Lord's prayer for the church:

John 17:17 - Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

What is the difference of being born of the flesh and born of the Spirit?

Humans can only produce more flesh. Only God, the divine Spirit can give spiritual life. At the same time God puts his Spirit in us, we are given a new regenerated human spirit:

Eph 4:22-24 - put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.

How does Jesus' description of how we enter the kingdom of God correct human hopes that we may somehow inherit goodness from our parents, or earn it by good behavior or church background?

At some point we must answer the question: Have I been born of the Spirit?

Are the words of Jesus, "you must be born again" a challenge or an invitation?

Both - it is a challenge because you can not enter into the Kingdom of God without being born again. It is also an invitation in that it is not something we can do on our own, Jesus is saying, "allow me to do this for you".

Who would like to share their recollection of the occasion you were born again?

For me it was like a light going on in my head while discussing how Bible prophecy related to current events with

my wife before dinner one Fall evening in 1990. It suddenly dawned on me, if the Bible could be so helpful explaining the reasons for current events, why not the part about Jesus Christ? I instantly realized that in the eyes of God, I was a sinner who was destined for hell if I didn't receive Jesus into my life. It was a no-brainer, I yielded my life to Him and became excited that eternal life was real and I knew that trusting in Jesus, my sins had been forgiven and I was going to heaven. There was a lot for me to learn but I had a hunger for God's Word and committed to reading the Bible and praying in the next moment. I knew my life in this world would never be the same and that there was no going back to my former self.

4. He Receives the Holy Spirit

First, lets note that as the Godhead is made up of three parts, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, people have three parts: soul, body, and spirit...

1Thes 5:23 - Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor 6:19 - Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

How is the body the temple of God?

The Holy Spirit cohabits in the body of the believer with the born again spirit of the believer.

When does the Spirit take up residence in the believer?

When the believer becomes saved...

Rom 8:9 - But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

How is it possible for the Holy Spirit to indwell believers?

Because God has sanctified believers and sees them in their eternal forgiven state.

Heb 10:10 - we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

Jesus said the saving faith in Him is what sanctifies us:

Acts 26:18 - they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

Is the presence of the Holy Spirit apparent to others?

Yes because a by-product of walking in the Spirit is fruit of the Spirit...

Gal 5:22-23 - the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

How is the fruit of the Spirit a powerful witness to the world?

It is part of our passive witness...

1 Jn 5:10 - He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself

We can have love, joy, peace, etc. in the midst of circumstances that is beyond the understanding of those with only a worldly perspective...

Phil 4:7 - and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

A favorite "midrash" of mine is to combine the fruit of the Spirit with Philippians 4:7 so that we may have a love, joy, longsuffering, etc that surpasses all understanding.

How long will the Holy Spirit abide in believers?

Forever...

John 14:15-17

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.

16 "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever--

17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

5. He Receives An Inheritance

Romans 8:16-17 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs - heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

What does the Holy Spirit bear witness with our spirit about?

That if we are children of God then we are joint heirs with Christ

How are we joint heirs with Christ?

We will have the same kind of everlasting body He has now when we are resurrected. Also, we will be spending eternity with Him.

What makes us children of God?

Receiving Christ into our lives by believing Him...

John 1:12 - But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

What does it mean that we are "heirs of God"?

Of what are we heirs?

Eternal life in an incorruptible, permanent body...

1 Peter 1:3-5 - Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant

mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

What is the significance of the present tense here?

As far as God is concerned, our future glorified body is a present reality. God is outside the confines of time, what is future to us is present to Him.

What is that living hope to which God has begotten us?

Also called the blessed hope, which is to see the return and glorification of Christ. So if we are truly Christians, this is how we should be living...

Titus 2:13 - looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

What does it mean that we have an incorruptible inheritance?

That it is beyond decay and ruin, protected from the ravages or consequences of sin.

What does it mean that we have an undefiled inheritance?

It is beyond the reach of sin.

What does it mean that we have an inheritance that will not fade away?

It is beyond the reach of time and change. Like God, we will be outside the confines of time.

What are the implications of our inheritance being reserved for us in heaven?

- It is beyond the reach of loss. This reinforces the eternal security that we have. Once saved, always saved.
- This part of our inheritance (including our new nature, our new body, and our home in Heaven) is kept safe for us until we receive it in the last day...

John 14:2-3 - In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

When will we receive the promised inheritance?

In the last time, when Christ appears for the church at the rapture...

I Jn 3:2 - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

What does it mean that we will be like Jesus?

We will have the same kind of eternal, undefiled body that Jesus now has being the firstfruits of the resurrection...

1 Cor 15:20, 23 - But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep... But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming.

What does it mean in 1 John 3:2 that "it has not yet been revealed what we shall be"?

Our inheritance is too fantastic to comprehend in our current mortal bodies...

1 Corinthians 2:9 - But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

How do we know we have this inheritance?

God has given us the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of our salvation...

Eph 1:13-14 - In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

When did we receive this guarantee of our salvation?

After you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; and responding to it by believing.

How is receiving our inheritance to the praise of God's glory?

It is the culmination of God's plan for us. It is the completion of God's will that we would have an eternal relationship with Him. God's very character depends on what He has said will happen comes to fruition.

How is the Holy Spirit a guarantee of our salvation?

He helps us to believe and understand God's Word. He gives us the faith to trust God on the basis of who He is.

Rom 8:16 - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God

Because of the role of the Spirit, Jesus called Him the Comforter or Helper in John 14:26.

Rom 8:23 - Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

How should we respond to the knowledge of our inheritance?

We should be grateful to God for His wonderful grace...

Col 1:12 - giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.

6. His Name Is Recorded In Heaven

Luke 10:20 - Rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Where is it that our names are written in heaven?

In the Book of Life...

Philippians 4:1,3 - Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown... whose names are written in the book of life.

What does it mean that our names are written in the Book of Life?

That we are counted among those who have eternal life and do not have to face the lake of fire...

Revelation 20:15 - And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the Lake of Fire.

Why would God need to make a record by writing our names in the Book of Life?

God doesn't need to write our names in heaven, He does this out of His grace. God writes our names in heaven so that we may become part of His Word which never passes away...

Luke 21:33 - Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

God said it so that settles it!

What about Revelation 3:5 which sounds like our names are subject to being blotted out of the book of life? Does this indicate that we could lose our salvation?

Rev 3:5 - He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

No, this passage is an assurance that God will not blot out names from the Book of Life. Once written in the Book of Life, always written in the Book of Life. Once saved, always saved.

7. You have Eternal Security

John 10:28 - I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Is it possible for anyone to lose their salvation?

No... Jonah 2:9 - Salvation is of the LORD.

Salvation is a work of God and God never does anything half-way. If God saved you, you are saved forever. Paul put it this way:

Rom 8:35, 38-39 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ...For 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.

Can you be saved if you are not sure you have been saved?

It depends, what are you trusting in? We are called to examine ourselves regularly to make sure we are saved...

2 Cor 13:5 - Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?-- unless indeed you are disqualified.

If after examining yourself you have any doubt of your salvation, you probably aren't saved because those who are saved trust in the promises of God who can not lie and is ever faithful to His Word.

What are people generally trusting in who doubt their salvation?

They are probably trusting in their own efforts to earn salvation (a.k.a. "works"). If salvation is a result of human effort then it can be lost due to human imperfection. If salvation is of God, it can not be lost because God is perfect.

How may we now we have eternal security?

By believing God's Word...

1 John 5: 13 - 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.

What is it that we may know from reading the Bible?

The Bible says we do not have to wait until we die to know if we are going to Heaven.

When does eternal life begin?

Eternal life begins the moment our sins are washed away. At that very moment our names are written in the Book of Life. That's right, all believers have eternal life now. It began the day of our rebirth in Christ, and will never end.

John 3:36 - He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

8. The Wrath Of God Is Removed

How does God regard those who believe Him?

They have eternal life...

John 3:36 - He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.

How does God regard those who do not believe Him?

They will not have eternal life and must face the wrath of God

So when we become believers, what is removed off us?

The wrath of God.

What is God's wrath?

The punishment which is the consequence of making God angry. In this case it is eternal punishment.

Why would God inflict eternal punishment on people for not believing over a finite period of time? Is this fair?

Because unbelievers had their opportunity to choose a relationship with God and chose to reject Him. God is turning them over to what they have asked for. God can not overlook sin. They are without excuse because God has revealed Himself to all people through the creation (Romans 1:18-20) and by putting fundamentals of His Law in their hearts (Romans 2:15).

Why does John 3:36 say that unbelievers "shall not see life" instead of "will not see everlasting life"?

Because they will also miss out on the wonderful life of knowing Jesus in the here and now. Jesus said, *"I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly"* (John 10:10). God had blessed His people with not only a great length of life, but also a great quality of life.

What is the quality life that unbelievers miss out on in the here and now?

Not being under the bondage of sin. Not having that nagging worry just below their conscious thoughts that does not allow them to really enjoy living. Jesus came to *"release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"* (Hebrews 2:15).

When does this great quality of life for believers begin?

Upon believing - note that John 3:36 says, *"He who believes in the Son has everlasting life,"* present tense as in present ownership. Even past tense is used in some places:

1 John 5:11 - And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

9. He Has Peace With God

What does it mean in Romans 5:1 that we are justified by faith?

The just penalty of death for our sin was paid by Jesus on the cross. Our trusting in His sacrifice is what saves us.

Romans 5:1 - Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

What is the wonderful by-product of being justified by faith that this verse points out?

We now have "peace with God," we no longer have to worry about going to Hell, and we can really begin to enjoy life.

What is peace?

A cessation of hostilities. We are no longer warring against God, our desires begin to be aligned with His.

How does the world view peace?

They leave God out, it is a cessation of hostilities between people or an absence of turmoil in your life. The world believes that peace is happiness that comes with circumstances going your way.

Can you be in the midst of turmoil in the world and be at peace with God?

Certainly. To be in the world is to be in turmoil. But with Christ, this turmoil around us does not have to drag us down. We can have joy in the midst of turbulent circumstances.

The following story offers a good illustration of what

peace really is: Once, there was a contest offering a prize to the artist best able to portray the state of true peace.

Generally the entries portrayed a serene lake scene, beautiful majestic mountains, etc; but the prizewinning picture showed a rocky cliff, dropping off sharply into the sea. There was a great storm upon the sea, with waves rolling high and crashing upon the isolated coastline. The judges did not understand how this could possibly portray the subject, "Peace." So the artist explained: About halfway down the side of the cliff on a frail limb a small bird's nest was suspended over the turbulent sea. Inside was a mother bird and her chicks sitting quietly. "Peace," he said, "isn't the absence of turmoil. Rather, it is found only in the midst of turmoil."

Does the world notice the kind of peace that believers have?

You bet-yah. Our peace with God is rare in the world and is something they don't understand but deep down they wish they had it. Our peace with God is a passive witness to Him...

Phil 4:7 - the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

What are some other by-products of having a relationship with Jesus that are related to peace?

The fruit of the Spirit. All these are by-products of having the Holy Spirit resident in us. All like peace are passive witnesses to the world and part of our abundant life in Christ.

Gal 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

10. He Is Equipped By God For Service

What does the Holy Spirit give us?

One or more spiritual gifts...

1 Cor 12:7-11 - the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all... the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

What are the purpose of these gifts?

For the profit of all. To build up the church: encouraging one another in the faith and engaging in works that add to our number.

How do you know what your spiritual gift or gifts are?

What you are good at, what you enjoy, what you have the opportunity to exercise. Isn't God wonderful?

We'll take a closer look at spiritual gifts in a later study...

11. He Is Made An Ambassador

What role does Christ give us?

We become ambassadors for Him...

2 Cor 5:20 - Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

What does it mean to be an ambassador for Christ?

An ambassador is an authorized representative who carries a message to the nations, and every Christian, whether faithful or not, is an ambassador for Christ.

What should we do as Christ's ambassadors?

As His ambassadors we should implore people to be reconciled to God, so we carry the gospel message to all the world.

Why?

Because we are commanded to. Because He saved us for a purpose, to do good works (Eph 2:10). Jesus is not currently in the world, He is at the right hand of the Father in heaven: "*Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us*" (Rom 8:34). So if people are to see Him in the world today, they must see Him in His representatives.

12. Spiritual Priests

What else does God involve His followers in?

Every believer is made to be a priest unto God.

1 Pet 2:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

What is a priest?

Priests are mediators between God and men.

How do you reconcile the role of worldly priests with 1

Tim 2:5, "*For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus?*"

Jesus is our Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14). He is the ultimate Mediator, we only act on His behalf. We have direct access to God Himself through Christ.

What do priests do?

They represent God to others. God involves His followers in His work by using them to reveal Himself to others. They also intercede on behalf of others in prayer (James 5:16) and through sacrifices of service (Hebrews 13:15-16).