

EVERLASTING VS ETERNAL LIFE – THE DIFFERENCE

INTRODUCTION

There are several words that are used interchangeably in the Bible which have similar meaning and are even used as synonyms for each other, but yet they are spiritually distinct. Such words are used throughout the Bible, and make for the coded nature of the letters of the Bible which constitute part of the mysteries therein. The lack of distinction in true understanding of these words makes for spiritual blindness and ignorance foundationally in Believers of God and His Christ. Therefore, by this lack of distinct differentiation of such words and their meanings, many Believers in their biblical knowledge do err in scriptures, not knowing the power of God or the wisdom of God. As it were, it is not given to the Many to know these differences, but only to the Few is it given to know spiritually. **Mtt 22:29; Mk 12:24,27**

Therefore, many end up mixing up the actual understanding of these terms to their confusion and hurt. Such are found in error where the decoding of the mysteries of God is concerned. Such terms are erroneously assumed to mean the same thing in the minds of many, but the slight differentiations between them are major at the end towards gaining spiritual insights into the mysteries of the kingdom, the gospel, and of God. The Scriptures and the gospel are coded to the carnally minded, but revealed or decodable to the spiritually minded as it pleaseth the LORD. **Mtt 13:9-17,34-35; Lk 10:21-24; 2 Pet 3:15-18; I Cor 1:18-21**

In this literature, by the grace of our Lord Jesus, we shall briefly be dealing with one of such overlooked concepts that make for greater spiritual understanding in the believer where the knowledge of life hereafter is concerned. The words we shall be differentiating majorly herein are “**EVERLASTING LIFE**” and “**ETERNAL LIFE**”. Do they mean the same thing or are they distinct? How are they related? Does one precede the other? Can one partake of one without the other?

It takes the Spirit of truth at work in a man to differentiate these words and to bring out the true meaning that they have. These things would sound foolish and too “technical” to the natural man. But they make for requisite wisdom taught by the Holy Ghost to those that are spiritually minded by which they can answer biblical questions and have insights to things of God that others can never know or understand.

The Church is meant to be the ground and pillar of the truth, and members of the body of Christ being the custodians of the mysteries of God, but that is not so with the Church as a business

organization (CAO) as we have them today. The CAO wallow in ignorance of these things, knowing more of the things that pertain unto men in carnality, than the things that pertain unto God in spirituality as they ought to. This is a grave error that gives rise to erroneous interpretation of biblical truths and make for confusion in religious doctrines being taught by them as opposed to the true doctrine of Christ not taught by them. **Mtt 15:1-9; Mtt 16:23**

THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LIFE

Every being created by our heavenly Father, God, He gives life to in order for them to live in the realms wherein He creates them in. But the life of God, the Creator is unique and distinct from the life that He gives to His creations as it were. There are spirit beings or spirits different from angelic beings and then there are human beings also. Each has a life different from the other by which they live in their realms. You can refer to our literature titled “Angels Vs Spirits” to get insight in the difference between this two.

We shall classify the different lives thus: i) **God’s life** ii) **Eternal life** iii) **Everlasting life** and iv) **Long life**.

#1 is exclusive to God the Father which He shareth with no other. It is the life of the Creator of all creations. You do not count years with it nor can you number this kind of life.

#2 God gives Eternal life to spirits who do not die, and so are not subject to any form of death.

#3 God gives Everlasting life to souls, angels, hosts of heaven – spiritual beings having celestial bodies which are subject to the second death if iniquity is found in them.

#4 God gives Long life to flesh and blood- Human beings having terrestrial bodies which are subject to physical death in the world.

God’s life is the only self existent life, while every other life is dependent on God as its source for existence. Every other life emanates from God. **Jn 6:57; Jn 5:26**

LONG LIFE

Long life is a kind of life that would terminate or end in physical death in this sinful world. It was given to the fallen man and to his offspring that were to come forth into the world through conception by woman. Long life became the inheritance of everyone born of woman in the world as a result of the fall of Adam, but from the beginning of the creation and formation of the man Adam it was not so. Long life is the default life of humans.

Gen 3: 11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? **Vr.12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. **Vr.16** Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; **Vr.17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; **Vr.19** In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art , and unto dust shalt thou return.

Long life is the life given to fallen man as a result of being made a little lower than angels as flesh and blood in this terrestrial world. It is for the mortal body of man that is subject to corruption in physical death. It is not the life for the soul and spirit of man but for his flesh as it were. Jesus Christ was made to partake of this life by being given a mortal body through birth by a woman in the world for the salvation of mankind. **Jn 1:14; Lk 1:31; Hebr 10:5; Isa 42:5**

Hebr 2: 6 But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man, that thou visitest him? **Vr.7** Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: **Vr.9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. **Vr.14** Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebr 9: 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die,

Lev 17: 14 For it is the life of all flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of all flesh is the blood thereof:

In the beginning, Adam's body was not created and formed to have or inherit this long life but was made to as a result of his transgression of God's commandment in the Garden of Eden. Adam fell short of the glory of God and was punished by being made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of physical death in the terrestrial world that was founded to accommodate him and his offspring. Long life is a result of Adam's punishment by God for disobeying His commandment. **Gen 2:5-7,16-17; Gen 5:3-5**

EVERLASTING LIFE

Everlasting life is the kind of life meant for spiritual beings with celestial bodies. Such have immortal bodies as clothing that are not subject to physical death as flesh and blood are, but are subject to the second death as flesh and bone if iniquity is found in them. This is the life of the holy angels of God and celestial hosts of heaven. It was also the life of the living soul from the beginning. Everlasting life is the default life of angels and celestial beings. **Gen 2:7**

Ezek 28:12-19 (Vr.15 Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. **Vr.16** By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Isa 14:4-20(Vr.12 How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! **Vr.13** For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: **Vr.14** I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. **Vr.15** Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Mtt 25: 41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Mtt 10: 28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Adam was created and formed as a living soul equal unto the angels as a spiritual being at the beginning and therefore had everlasting life. Man's body at that time being celestial was not subject to physical death but to the second death if he was to sin even as was the portion of Lucifer in his time.

Gen 2: 7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. **Vr.15** And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. **Vr.16** And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **Vr.17** But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

ETERNAL LIFE

Eternal life is the kind of life meant for spirits that have not bodies. Spirits do not die whether it be the physical or the second death, and therefore have eternal life as it were. For no creature of God that hath flesh had eternal life from creation, whether it be Man or angels. Such can only receive eternal life as a reward gift from God as He pleaseth to give it, an upgrade from an everlasting life status not from long life which is for mortals only.

Lk 24: 37 But they were terrified and affrighted, and supposed that they had seen a spirit. **Vr.38** And he said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? **Vr.39** Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Hebr 1: 6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. **Vr.7** And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

Eternal life is the life of Christ which he received of the Father to give unto all those that shall be given him by the Father from amongst men. **Jn 6:37-40**

I Cor 15: 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul [*with everlasting life*]; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit [*with eternal life*].

Jn 5: 21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will [*having been made a quickening spirit himself by the Father*]. **Vr.26** For as the Father hath life in himself [*God's life*]; so hath he given to the Son to have [*eternal*] life in himself;

Jn 6: 54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. **Vr.57** As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

Eternal life as a reward gift is given to those that previously had a life subject to death. Such now would have a life that death hath no dominion over any longer in any form or shape.

Rom 6: 8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: **Vr.9** Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more [*even the second death*]; death hath no more dominion over him. **Vr.10** For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God [*eternally*].

Rev 20: 6 Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power,

Eternal life is a promised life to those that shall be accounted worthy by God on earth to inherit the kingdom of God in heaven. It is an inheritance that they shall look forward to receiving as a reward for perfect obedience to the commandments of God, having been victorious over trials and temptations that they would have been made to undergo in this world. This was to have been the portion of the first man even before the world began, but who failed in his garden experience.

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

Tit 1: 1 Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness; **Vr.2** In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Gen 3: 22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever [*and have eternal life*].

EVERLASTING LIFE IS COUNTABLE

Everlasting life is counted as the days and years of heaven even as long life is counted in terms of the days and the years of the earth.

Deu 11: 21 That your days may be multiplied, and the days of your children, in the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers to give them, as the days of heaven upon the earth.

Ps 89: 28 My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. **Vr.29** His seed also will I make to endure for ever, and his throne as the days of heaven. **Vr.36** His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me. **Vr.37** It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven. **Vr.44** Thou hast made his glory to cease, and cast his throne down to the ground. **Vr.45** The days of his youth hast thou shortened: thou hast covered him with shame. Selah. **Vr.46** How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire? **Vr.47** Remember how short my time is: wherefore hast thou made all men in vain? **Vr.48** What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?

Eccl 2:3 till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life [*on the earth*].

Satan has life as the days of heaven, while fallen man has life as the days of earth.

Gen 3: 14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life [*the days of heaven*]: **Vr.17** And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life [*the days on the earth*]; **Vr.19** In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art , and unto dust shalt thou return.

Hebr 1: 10 And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: **Vr.11** They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; **Vr.12** And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years [*of heaven*] shall not fail.

Everlasting as the days of heaven is counted or reckoned on earth as a 1,000 year per continuum. Angels live everlasting in heaven in righteousness but fallen angels shall live everlasting in unrighteousness in the lake of fire at the end. **Rev 20:10**

Even as men live long lasting on earth, angels live everlasting in heaven, and are subject to sustenance and renewability of life by God, but death due to rebellion can creep in unto such heavenly living too.

Ps 90: 4 For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.**Vr.2** even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.

Eccl 6: 6 Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?

2 Pet 3: 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. **Vr.7** But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

The Millennial Reign of Christ over the earth shall be for everlasting, which is for a thousand years. Therefore, a thousand years on earth beneath can be likened unto a day in heaven above as everlasting.

Rev 20:1-7(Vr.2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, **Vr.7** And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, **Vr.4** and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Rev 12: 12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time [*before he faces his death*].

Ps 103: 17 But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children' children;

It is by reason of God's making that angels live from everlasting to everlasting being in righteousness. If not then as Satan, rebellious ones being cast out and reserved for the everlasting punishment of fire. There is no eternity to eternity but there is everlasting to everlasting, because everlasting is of a time range or period by period thing. **Isa 57:15**

Adam who was created and made having everlasting life counted in thousands of years multiples had to be downgraded or made a little lower than the angels as a human being by reason of his fall. Fallen man was to live a life span on earth that could no longer even get to a thousand years count at the least. A thousand years being the minimum for everlasting years count but not for long life count of fallen man thereafter. The longest years lived by humans on earth began to fall short of everlasting as a result of sin and death.

Gen 5: 5 And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years [*930 years*]: and he died. **Vr.27** And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years [*969 years*]: and he died.

CONCLUSION

As many as have understanding of the mysteries of the kingdom of God as revealed by the Spirit of truth within them seek for eternal life not long life. Eternal life is the ultimate in life that created beings of God can attain, which is only possible through His Son, Christ Jesus. Eternal life is an upgrade of everlasting life even as everlasting life is an upgrade for long life as it were. Eternal and everlasting life is for immortals, while long life is for mortals. **Jn 17:1-3**

The first man Adam was created and formed with everlasting life even like the angels of God. He was to be rewarded with eternal life if he had walked in obedience to God in the Garden of Eden episode. How? he was to have eaten of the tree of life and live eternally in the kingdom of God, but rather in disobedience he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil and lived long life in the world instead.

Gen 3: 22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever [*for eternity*]: **Vr.23** Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till

the ground from whence he was taken. **Vr.24** So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

The human offspring of Adam who are to be found in the last Adam, Jesus Christ, in righteousness at the end of the world shall first be restored to everlasting life at the resurrection of the just from death. And be subsequently rewarded with eternal life in Christ Jesus, an upgrade of life above that of the holy angels. As it was with Christ so shall it be for us that are of Christ that follow after him. **I Cor 6:3; Hebr 1:2-6,13-14; Hebr 2:5-6; I Cor 15:20-23**

Lk 20:34-36 (Vr.35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, **Vr.36** Neither can they die any more [*when they receive eternal life*]: for they are [*first*] equal unto the angels [*having everlasting life*]; and are the children of God [*having eternal life*], being the children of the resurrection.

Jn 11: 25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live [*everlasting*]: **Vr.26** And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die [*but live eternally*].

Jn 10: 10 I am come that they might have life [*everlasting at resurrection*], and that they might have it more abundantly [*as eternal life without the possibility of dying any longer*]. **Vr.27** My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: **Vr.28** And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,

Jn 5: 24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life [*eternal*].

Eph 1: 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: **Vr.20** Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, **Vr.21** Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **Vr.22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Eph 2: 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) **Vr.6** And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: **Vr.7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

The children of God as the children of the resurrection shall be granted access to eat of that tree of life in the midst of the paradise of God. Such shall inherit the kingdom of God as it were.

I Cor 15:50

Mtt 25: 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

Rom 6: 22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. **Vr.23** For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Rev 2: 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Every human being that dieth in this world, whether he be a sinner or a saint, shall arise from the grave at their own resurrection and have everlasting life as the angels have. The just shall resurrect unto receiving life eternal as a reward and being with Christ, while the unjust shall resurrect unto everlasting damnation, being with the Satan and his cohorts. **Lk 14:12-15; Mtt 25:34,41; Rev 20:4-15**

Jn 5: 28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **Vr.29** And shall come forth [*all having everlasting life*]; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life [*eternal*]; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation [*everlasting*].

Mtt 25: 46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Mtt 13: 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; **Vr.42** And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. **Vr.43** Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. **Vr.49** So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, **Vr.50** And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

May the eyes of your understanding be opened that ye may walk in the truth unto possessing eternal life at the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

FEEDBACK

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God bless and keep you heaven bound while ye still walk on this earth. MARANATHA.