

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RECEIVING ETERNAL LIFE AND RECEIVING SALVATION

Receiving eternal life and being saved from sin are not exactly the same. Each is arrived at by a different means.

To receive eternal life a sinner must cooperate with Holy Spirit conviction. I must believe that I am a sinner and that Jesus is able and willing to save me from sin and give me eternal life. I must believe in Jesus to receive eternal life. John 3:16

To believe in Jesus is to trust Him to save you from sin.

Salvation is much broader than having eternal life. Salvation is referring to living the new life "in Christ" and being rescued from sin in this life. Paul says, "Work out your salvation."

Scripture describes in detail how to live in confession and repentance and escape the consequences of sin (not that we live totally sinless). The better we obey the commandments of Jesus, the less we experience sin and its consequences.

Confession with our mouth the Lord Jesus is the first way we are aided in living the Christian life.

Romans 10:9 If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. (Saved from sin in our daily walk with God.)

Only born again cooperating believers who already have eternal life can confess with their mouth the Lord Jesus and start their journey of being saved from sin.

Romans 10:13 Whosoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved. (Saved from daily sin and its consequences. Only born again cooperating believers who already have eternal life can call upon the name of the Lord.

As the believer confesses Jesus with his mouth and calls upon Jesus, deliverance from sin and its consequences can be experienced. "Will be saved" is referring to daily deliverance from sin throughout the believer's life here on earth. "Saved" is not referring to receiving eternal life.

John 6:47 Assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has eternal life.

Having eternal life is to be released from the penalty of sin, but not the power of sin in daily life.

To overcome the power of sin in the believer's life, cooperation with Holy Spirit conviction is still essential. All through Scripture believers are challenged to cooperate with God's instructions.

John 16:8 Respond rightly to conviction. Mark 12:30 Pursue love for God. Romans 10:13 Call upon the Lord for rescue from sin. 1 John 1:7 Romans 8:1-17 Walk in the light of the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18 Be filled with the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-26 Pursue the fruits of the Spirit.

1 John 1:9 Confess sin. 1 Thess. 5:17-18 Pray continually and give thanks in all circumstances.

1 Thess. 5:19 Don't quench the Spirit. Study to show yourself approved. 2 Timothy 2:15

Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized by immersion for the remission of your sins.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Repent by turning to Christ. Be baptized by immersion in obedience to Christ.

Only believers can repent of sins they are convicted of. Only believers can be baptized by immersion confessing their faith in Jesus, resolving to live by faith and forsake sin.

Only believers can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit. Being filled with the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. Don't grieve and don't quench the conviction of the Holy Spirit in your life.