

## Receiving the Gift

Eternal life in heaven is a gift. But it is a gift that you have to receive.

The gift of an eternal relationship with God is received by faith.

*Then they said to him, “What must we do, to be doing the works of God?” Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”* John 6:28-29 ESV

*But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,* John 1:12 ESV

That word “believe” is one that is easily misunderstood. In the Bible, it means more than simply accepting something as true. It is NOT just believing that there is a god or that Jesus is God.

*You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!*  
James 2:19 ESV

*And behold, [seeing Jesus] they [the demons] cried out, “What have you to do with us, O Son of God?”* Matthew 8:29 ESV

The demons know who Jesus is. But that doesn't get them to heaven.

So, what does it mean to “...believe in him...”, - to believe “...in his name...”?

A synonym for “believe” is “trust”. Synonyms for “belief” include “faith” and “trust”.

In John 1:12 and John 6:29 the word “believe” means have faith or to trust; to have faith/trust in Jesus. And by extension, trust that the things He said are true. (See note below.)

When it comes to eternal life, trusting in Jesus means that we trust that what He said about forgiveness and eternal life is true – that He paid the penalty for us and that, through Him, we can have an eternal relationship with God.

*Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”* John 14:6 ESV

*Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.* John 3:36 ESV

Are you trusting Jesus? Do you believe that what He said is true?

Right now, you can tell yourself and you can tell God that you are trusting in Him for your salvation.

No one knows how many days of life he/she will have. You have one life to live and

that's it.

*And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,*  
Hebrews 9:27 ESV

There is no reincarnation. There are no do-overs. The time to accept God's gift of forgiveness and eternal life could be right now. There may be no "later".

*For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.* 2 Corinthians 6:2 ESV

You may say that you are too old or that it is too late. You are never "too old" and "too late" only comes after you die.

You can make a decision to trust Christ right now.

To acknowledge your need of salvation and your trust in Christ, you could use this simple prayer:

Heavenly Father, I recognize and admit that, like everyone, I have often done wrong things or failed to do what is right. I also recognize that there is a penalty for these failures and that there is nothing I can do to make up for them. Your Word says that Jesus paid the penalty for my sins and that, by trusting Him, I can be brought into a right-relationship with You – an eternal relationship. I ask for Your forgiveness and right now state that I am taking You at Your Word and trusting that, through Jesus, my sins are forgiven and that I will spend eternity with You in heaven.

IF this is your sincere prayer and IF you are trusting in Christ alone for your salvation; that what He has said is true – that He has done everything necessary to bring you into eternal relationship with God and that there is NOTHING you have done/can do/need to do in order to have a place in heaven;

THEN

you are saved from eternal destruction and you will have a place in heaven.

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life.* 1 John 5:13 ESV

Now the only question remaining is, as one trusting in Christ for your eternal salvation, are you ready to embark on life as His disciple? as a Christian?

-----

Note: to understand the Biblical use of the word "believe", it may be helpful to have some understanding of the Greek word that the English word "believe" comes from. You can use the

internet to look up the original Greek or Hebrew words from which our English Bibles are translated. One site you could use is:

<https://biblehub.com/>

On the Home page, click the Strong's link near the top-center of the page and then enter the verse you would like the original language for. The original Hebrew or Greek words will be given with the English equivalent.

© 2020 Steven Hall  
All Rights Reserved

Bible quotations are from the  
English Standard Version  
© 2001 by Crossway