

ETERNAL LIFE

Today, I will speak about the importance of having Eternal Life. I believe, this topic is relevant to season of Advent, whereby Jesus Christ has called us to convert, repent and to live in His Spirit every day through prayers, confession, Eucharist and charity work in our family and within our neighbourhood. Advents remind us that life on earth is just a short passage, to which Heaven is our real home, with our Eternal Father God. Hence, as Catholics, the topic of Eternal Life is crucial to take into consideration.

I have two questions for you think of and if possible, you provide your own thoughts about it, and share it amongst us later. Here are my questions: **What is Eternal Life? What would you say, if you are given the Eternal Life by God?** (GOD i.e., The Blessed Trinity: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit)

Now, I would like to talk about the 'Eternal Life': *Eternal Life* is the ultimate gift of God to us. When will we merit it? Is it after we die and the final judgement of God? Or, is it given to us already today, on earth? Within my personal conviction and spiritual experience (in Christ), I believe eternal life is given already to those who have faith in Christ and believe that "JESUS CHRIST" is the Son of God, they were baptised by water and also, 'by the Holy Spirit' (Mark 1:8). That means, you received the baptism of the Holy Water when you were an infant, and what about the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Baptism of the Holy Spirit is received when one surrender all his iniquity through confession and then a priest or a prayer group minister prays over him, thus the subject may 'receive the gift of tongue' (Acts 2:1-4), and healing grace, etc. This marvellous gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, makes one eyes open to the faith in Christ and become new life in Christ. Jesus said to Nicodemus, "I am telling you the truth, that no one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit." (John 3:5). Here JESUS stress on, "*you must be born again,*" clearly, it was an answer that Jesus gave to the most vital question that one could have. The question, in a nutshell, is this: "*How do I gain eternal life?*" (Source¹). To understand in detail what Jesus said to Nicodemus about it, now, let us read in John 3:1-12.

To sum up, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is vital because when those already received the Holy Spirit, each of them have a "new life" in the Spirit of God, and the old life is gone. Consequently, I believe through my spiritual experience, that the gift of eternal life can be already merited when we still live on earth. And this eternal life will continue till the end of our lives, if we are constantly faithful to do the will of God and continue in the battle against our vices in order to live in holiness (in grace).

In order to live in sanctity, that is, to live in grace and to do God's will, we are to discipline our life, to take some time to pray daily, because prayer is the only way in which you can communicate with God, and to receive graces from Him so as to live in this "eternal life" on earth, with Him. If one does not pray, one's soul is in danger, because there is no life. One of the prayers, which is powerful, thus I recommend you to pray every day is, The Rosary. Also, upon meditating the Passion of Christ, you show to God: your Love for Him and Trust in His Mercy; so, another prayer that is powerful is, "The Chaplet of Divine Mercy." I would recommend you to pray the Chaplet every Friday, at 3 p.m.

I would like to share with you the most recent message of Mother Mary given to one of the visionaries in Medjugorje, called Marija. In Mother Mary's message, She emphasises the importance of prayer: Here it is...

5th November, 2022 - Monthly Message to Marija

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"Dear children! The Most High has sent me to you to teach you prayer. Prayer opens hearts and gives hope, and faith is born and strengthened. Little children, with love I am calling you: return to God, because God is love and your hope. You do not have a future if you do not decide for God; and that is why I am with you to guide you to decide for conversion and life, and not for death. Thank you for having responded to my call." (Source²)

Now, I return to my second question: **What would you say, if you are given the *Eternal Life* by God?** (God i.e., The Blessed Trinity: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?)

Given my message about the eternal life, frankly speaking, I have already experienced the eternal life on earth now, because I believe I have given by God the gift of baptisms, in Water and in the Spirit. I live in the life of God's Spirit and now, I am here to be with you to be His witness, in His Spirit and His Truth. Jesus said in John 8:31-32, *"If you remain in my Word (i.e., obey His teaching), you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* This word of God remains indeed in my heart and soul. I always want and to try hard to remain in His Word, so that I will always live in His Truth, and His Truth will set me free – I am free as I have peace and love, at all situations; through prayers and fasting, Eucharist and confession are my strength. Talking of eternal life, it reflects upon my life, which is beautiful and more positive looking forward in the future, as God has been all the Source I need daily. He has been my Saviour ever since I found Him in my life, and I know very well why it is so crucial to live in holiness despite all the challenges I have faced in my life. Thanks be to God for the gift of faith, through my fervent prayers, I am able to do His will and to humbly walk with Him wherever His Spirit leads me to. Praise the LORD!

Last but not least, I would like to share with you an excerpt about eternal life written by a Christian organisation, namely, "La Bonne Semence":

Let us listen first what Jesus said in **John 6:47**: Jesus said, ***"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life."***

The question asked: ***If you were offered eternal life?*** And here are the responses from several people:

- *You are offered eternal life. Are you signing?*
- *Rather die! exclaims a philosopher.*
- *No, the fragility of life is the price, answers another.*
- *Yes, but without illnesses and miseries, adds a third.*

Perhaps you envision eternal life as a life that continues indefinitely on earth? Many researchers are trying to find the magic bullet to increase human longevity.

*God offers us much more: **a life in relationship with Him, now and forever.** Man was created to live happily in paradise on earth. He was in relationship with God, but unfortunately, he ate the forbidden fruit, and death entered the world through this disobedience. God therefore drove him out of the Garden of Eden "so that he would not stretch out his hand and also take of the tree of life and eat of it and live forever" (Genesis 3:22)*

But God had prepared a plan of Salvation in Jesus Christ. Jesus said to His Father, "Eternal life is that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent" (John 17:3). To know God, our disobedience must be forgiven: if we believe that Jesus died on the cross for us, we obtain forgiveness by

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grace, and “new life”. “Whoever believes in Me has eternal life,” said Jesus. The believer possesses it: it is his life already on earth, in relationship with the Father. She/he will have her/his full development in the House of the Father with Jesus.

AMEN.

References:

Source¹ : https://www.groupbiblestudy.com/engjohn/5.-You-Must-Be-Born-Again!?gclid=EAIaIQobChMI-eG0_dDQ-wIV6AUGAB0bcwAaEAAYASAAEgKZGPD_BwE

Source² : The Medjugorje Web – <http://medjugorje.org>

Source³ : *La Bonne Semence* – 30 rue Châteauvert CS 40335 -26003 VALENCE CEDEX

Sharing Activity

So now, we return to the two questions, and if you want to you can share with us, in response to these questions.

1. **What is *Eternal Life*?**

2. **What would you say, if you are given the *Eternal Life* by God?**

(GOD i.e., The Blessed Trinity: The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?)

(Clarification: Have you already experienced (or received) of this spirituality gift?)