

## **We Are Living Eternal Life Now!**

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and from Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord!

This is the seventh and final Sunday of Easter. This week on Thursday many churches celebrated the Ascension of our Lord and Savior. Next Sunday it will be Pentecost. I love the seasons of the church year, but I think that when we start to prepare for the season of Easter it is the most important, exciting, and joyful time of the year. I am an Easter person! As a child of God our grace and the glory comes from nothing that we could do on our own. It was done by the true Son of God, the true Son of Man, Jesus Christ, He came to earth and he walked with us. Then he was crucified, died, was buried and rose again so that our sins may be forgiven once, for all of us.

Glory defines what the crucifixion is and the crucifixion defines what glory is. The crucifixion demonstrates the scope of divine power by showing us the depth of divine love. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. (John 3: 16)

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I must admit to you that I really struggled with putting this sermon on paper. How do I explain that we have eternal life now. I never thought of it before. That is what Jesus asked God for. There is a difference between eternal life and and life everlasting. We can live eternal life now and tell others that they can do so too. Jesus asked God to do this in the prayer that was our Gospel today. Eternal life for his people; It begins, has begun and continues because Jesus intervened on our behalf. We are living Eternal life now because he asked the Creator of the Universe so that we may know him. God said. Yes! He wants to have a loving relationship with us. A relationship with you and me.

Let me repeat that again: Jesus prayed for us; his disciples before he was crucified. He has been allowed to give all of us, ALL GOD'S CHILDREN, eternal life. "This is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent." Eternal life is knowing Jesus Christ and God the Father. It is being in a relationship with them. This is accomplished through our Baptism, prayer, reading the word, and wanting a relationship with God.

Jesus came to earth as a Baby, The word became flesh and lived among us to the glory of his Father in heaven. He understands us. During his time on earth he maintained his relationship with his Father through prayer. While here, he created many relationships with all of God's people. He had a relationship with his disciples, The Samaritan woman at the well and Nicodemus, who came in darkness. No one was perfect and yet he listened and loved. He developed relationships with them.

People are meant to have a relationship with God and Jesus. As my own search for faith started, so did my longing for a relationship with Jesus and God start. I started talking to God, ( 1Thess 5: 17). Pray ceaselessly. I noticed a difference in my relationship with God and in my life. My life was better, more fulfilling, happier. I was content. I saw the world through a different lens, a loving lens. It is described in 1 Peter 1: 8-9, "Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

When you are receiving the divine love of eternal life you need to understand that God's grace is limitless, it has no bounds and is an integral part of your life and relationship with God. This belief is my Hope.

In this Prayer Jesus told His Father he had finished what he had been sent to do . He had taught the people about his Father , the importance of a continuing relationship with God, of continuing the works he had started. They know of his healing and his miracles that revealed the power of God. They know that everything that they have comes from you, and could do

nothing on their own. They are mine; you gave them to me, and they are yours. We are God's!

Before Jesus was sent to begin his ministry on earth he had a place beside God and had Heavenly Glory. While praying he knows that his time on earth is soon at an end. He will return to share in God's divine honor, and divine majesty, and divine power. He does not leave us and forget about us. He prays that we will join him there. Remember last week, Jesus prayed to God not to leave us alone when he returned to his Heavenly Glory. We will have the Holy Spirit to walk with us.

Jesus prays for us and intervenes for us. We should be so full of joy every day. This gift of eternal life is limitless just as grace from God is limitless. It is an integral part of life. It is like each breath we take. A gift that flows through us: enlivens us, and empowers us.

I would like all of you to breathe in deeply: You have breathed in the spirit of all life. That spirit comes from the one who made us all. The one who made all of us. We are all miracles. The breath is the Spirit of all life, the eternal quality of our life, of all our lives is knowing, knowing and experiencing that deep relationship with God.

We grew up believing that the Holy Spirit was all around us. Breathe in. Breathe in the eternal life that enables you to know our God as you deepen your relationship and joy in knowing God, show that joy and love to others.

Each morning we wake up, God gives us a new day! I start each day with a small prayer. "I will be Happy today. Let me be joy and love to others." I don't always succeed. It may last only one minute. I breathe in and start over. In fact some days I breathe in a lot. Jesus on the inside of my eyelids helps me too. That's another story. The Holy Spirit and Jesus in Heaven who prays for me know that I really try. I talk to them all the time. Do You?

Let us Pray, May you know, may you experience deeply, the peace and intimacy of eternal life, here and now, now and always. May we all have a loving relationship with our God. This is what He desires and what we need. Go in peace filled with Joy. Amen

