

AN ENDLESS FALLING IN LOVE

See With New Eyes, Session 3

THE ETERNAL LIFE promised in the Bible is more than merely endless days and months and years of existence. It is life of a very specific quality and content. Its quality is extremely high and its contents extremely pleasurable, because eternal life, in the truest biblical sense, is an endless falling in love with the most beautiful person in the universe.

A QUALITY OF LIFE DEFINED BY INTIMACY WITH GOD

Jesus defined eternal life in terms of its quality, not merely in terms of its quantity of time. To possess eternal life, He said, is to know God, to experience relational intimacy with God.

John 17:3—This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 17:20-26—²⁰“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; ²¹that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²²And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. ²⁴Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

TIME TO FALL IN LOVE

Throughout the Bible, God employs the language of matrimonial love as a way of communicating to us the quality of relationship He would like to have with us. Over and over again the message of the Bible—so simple and so profoundly beautiful—is that God is deeply in love with us and is longing for us to fall in love with Him.

Ezekiel 16:4-8, TEV—⁴When you were born, no one cut your umbilical cord or washed you or rubbed you with salt or wrapped you in cloths. ⁵No one took enough pity on you to do any of these things for you. When you were born, no one loved you. You were thrown out in an open field. ⁶Then I passed by and saw you squirming in your own blood. You were covered with blood, but I wouldn't let you die. ⁷I made you grow like a healthy plant. You grew strong and tall and became a young woman. Your breasts were well-formed, and your hair had grown, but you were naked. ⁸As I passed by again, I saw that the time had come for you to fall in love. I promised to love you. Yes, I made a marriage covenant with you, and you became mine.” This is what the Sovereign Lord says.

~NOTES~

Jesus lifted the word “know” from the Old Testament, where it refers to sexual intimacy (Genesis 4:1), and made it a symbol of the spiritual intimacy God desires with us.

NKJV—I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’ Yes, I said to you in your blood, ‘Live!’”

Hosea 2:19-20—¹⁹I will betroth you to Me forever; yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, in lovingkindness and mercy; ²⁰I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, and you shall know the LORD.

BETTER THAN LIFE

Imagine a love so good, so satisfying, so beautiful, so pleasurable that once you experience it, it becomes more important to you than life itself, life becomes meaningless apart from it, and you would rather stop living than live without it. That's the level of significance the Bible gives to the love of God. It is life itself.

Psalms 63:3-5—O God, You are my God; early will I seek You; my soul thirsts for You; my flesh longs for You in a dry and thirsty land where there is no water. ²So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, to see Your power and Your glory. ³Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. ⁴Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. ⁵My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips.

Psalms 36:7-10—⁷How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! Therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of Your wings. ⁸They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, and You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. ⁹For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light. ¹⁰Oh, continue Your lovingkindness to those who know You, and Your righteousness to the upright in heart.

RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW

Eternal life isn't something you get after this present life, way off sometime in the future. No, you can have eternal life right here, right now, in this present life, because, first and foremost, eternal life is quality of life defines by living within the joy and peace of knowing you are perfectly loved by God.

John 3:16-17—¹⁶For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. ¹⁷For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Here Jesus speaks of eternal life and salvation as one and the same thing. The New Testament word here translated "saved" is the Greek word *sozo*, which means *to heal, to make whole*. Jesus here teaches that, to be "saved" is to undergo a healing process by means of God's non-condemning love.

John 5:24—Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

John 10:10—The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

1 John 5:11-13—¹¹God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹²He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. ¹³These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.