

What Shall I Do To Inherit Eternal Life?

This is the most important question that you can ask. In fact, if it is not asked, in one form or another, you will never inherit eternal life.

Obtaining eternal life is really quite simple, yet at the same time it is the hardest, most self-denying, humiliating thing you will ever do. Why? Because in order to obtain eternal life you must unconditionally surrender everything to be controlled by God - everything. Not just your spiritual life, but your income, your career, what you do for pleasure, every aspect of your life is to be surrendered to God, to be controlled by Him. You must totally trust Him with every aspect of your life. It will not dawn on you how extensive and self-denying this surrender is until you begin to do so.

You may wonder, why does God think He has the right to control every aspect of my life? Well, you would not exist without Him, right? He may not have created you directly like He did with Adam and Eve, but He created the possibility for you to exist. Even if you don't believe it right now, He had an intimate part in your coming into existence. Also, even though God owns you by creation, He also owns you by redemption, due to the fact that Jesus died for your sins so your repentance of them and your surrender could be accepted, allowing you to be brought into a position where you could have the possibility and the hope of eternal life. Jesus loves you unconditionally so doesn't He deserve your unconditional surrender and devotion? Remember, it is only because of Him that you even exist.

The battle of surrender comes, due to the fact that our human nature wants to be in control -- not only of ourselves, but of others, as well. We see this every day, everywhere -- people wanting to control their lives and the lives of others. But God is the only one who has the right to control you. No one else has that right and you are never to allow anyone else to control you. Read the stories of Daniel and his three Hebrew friends in the book of Daniel (Bible). And there are other stories also. Did you realize that when you're tempted and fall, you're allowing someone other than God to control you?

God will never take control of your life without your permission. He will never force His will on you. He gives you free choice. You must give Him permission to control you. Not just once, but day by day, moment by moment. Very few people realize that when they surrender their lives to God, they will become totally and truly free in the process. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." John 8:36

When you surrender your life to God's control, He in turn says, 'Now, I am setting you free to do anything you want, as long as it fits within My will for your life.' But how do you know what His will is? You find His will by reading the Bible, His Word, and listening to His voice speaking through your conscience. Yes, it is that simple. Yet the battle to surrender and to remain surrendered will be the hardest battle you will ever fight. Your lower (sinful) nature and the devil will make very sure of that. But the more you surrender and the longer you remain surrendered the easier it will get. "O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day." Psalms 119:97 In time, it will become a joy to surrender and easy to remain in the surrendered position. You will find that you have peace and joy that will pass understanding. Before Jesus returns you will get to the place where you will be in a position of perpetual surrender and you would never want to have it any other way. "Consider how I love thy precepts: quicken me, O LORD, according to thy loving kindness." Psalms 119:159. Our only hope and safety lies in a total distrust of self and complete trust in God and what He can do in and through us.

If it is your desire to live a life like this and have a future that includes eternal life in a perfect world, with perpetual youth, the first thing you'll do when you wake up every morning is to surrender your life to God in prayer. You can find an example here: <http://www.thoughtsonchristianliving.org/pdf/the-prayer-of-a-victorious-christian.pdf>

To "pray without ceasing" (1 Thes. 5:17) is really important. This means to always be in an attitude of prayer. In everything you do and say you'll be asking, 'Is this pleasing to God and glorifying His name?' The more you do this, the more you'll find your words and actions glorifying His name. I can tell you that this results in assurance of salvation, peace, joy and satisfaction, even though you may never mention Jesus' name in your conversations and interactions with others, they'll know you have something special.

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