



Life in Christ

ALL SAINTS DAY

Job 19:23-27 2 Corinthians 5:1-10 John 5:19-29

November 4, 2018

Pastor Dave Bolte

One of the blessings of salvation that the Bible talks about frequently is **LIFE**. God is the Author of life; He is the Creator and the Giver of all life. In Scriptures, there are two aspects to the life that you have *through faith in Christ*: **spiritual life** and **eternal life**.

The first is **Spiritual life**. **Spiritual life** is one of the **most common** ways that the Bible talks about **faith in Christ**. When the Holy Spirit creates faith within you, you become **spiritually alive**!

And we need that life; because sin and guilt have brought Physical, Spiritual, and Eternal death to everyone of us.

Spiritual death is a **life without Christ**; its a person living in sin and guilt with no hope of salvation. This is the state that we were all conceived and born into; **you were spiritually dead at birth**.

But this is exactly what Christ has rescued us from. Jesus came into the world and took your place under death when He died on the cross. All of your sin and guilt was placed on Him and He died; He died not for Himself, but for you, and in your place, to give you life!

If you are born once,
you will die twice.
If you are born twice,
you will die once.¹

When you believe this good news about Jesus, you are given **Spiritual life**: Jesus said that you **cross over from death to life**! The usual way this happens is in **Holy Baptism**; Baptism is a “**second birth**”, Jesus

¹ If you are born once (physically), then you will die twice (physically, and eternally).

If you are born twice (physically and spiritually in Holy Baptism), then you will only die once (physically – you have eternal life!)

called it being “**born again**”. In Holy Baptism you have **crossed over from death to life!** Baptism is where God gives you **New Life**: it is a “**new birth**”, it is **Spiritual Life**. It means that you will not die in your sin and guilt, but you have crossed over from death and will live forever in the Kingdom of God. *Here is how Scripture talks about it:*

Jesus said, “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but he has passed from death to life.” John 5:24

He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. John 5:12

God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, He made us alive together with Christ Ephesians 2:4-5

That means that right now – through faith -- you are “**alive in Christ!**”; right now you have “**Spiritual life!**”; in your Baptism you were “**born again**”. You have “**New life**” through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

This **Spiritual life** is seen in a life of holiness and godliness.

This **Spiritual life** means that you hear and respond to the Word of God. You shape your life, mind, words, and attitudes around Holy Scripture.

This **Spiritual life** means that you continually repent of your sin and trust in Christ to forgive you

This **Spiritual life** means that you love the Lord your God (heart); you grow in knowledge and understanding of the Christian faith (mind); you desire and strive after the things of God (will); and you are constantly doing good works to help others and glorify the Lord (actions).

Your heart, mind, will and actions have been transformed!

Spiritual life changes you! It gives you a new kind of life! A life in Christ shaped by His Holy Word!

And the Spiritual life that God has given to you now will result in Eternal Life when you die.

Eternal Life means that you will survive death and escape the final judgment. Physical death is simply the doorway to Heaven; at the moment of death, you will be in the presence of Christ in eternal bliss and unending joy. At death, your soul goes to be with the Lord; and your body returns to the ground. Both the saints on earth and the saints in Heaven are eagerly awaiting the Last Day and the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting!

On the Last Day Christ will raise up me and all the dead, and will grant me and all believers in Christ **eternal life**.

Luther's Small Catechism, Third Article of the Apostle's Creed

On the **Last Day**, when Jesus returns and we see Him with our very own eyes, and **three things** will happen:

1. All the dead --- believers as well as unbelievers --- will rise from the dead.
2. The Final Judgment will separate the believers from the unbelievers, and the unbelievers will be judged “guilty” of *rejecting* Christ and sent into the eternal death of Hell.
3. Believers will be declared “not guilty!” *through faith* in Christ, and they will live forever in Heaven with their resurrected and glorified body.

Eternal Life is our hope! It is what we are looking forward to!

Eternal Life is what we focus on at Christian funerals

Eternal Life what we are celebrating today on All Saints Day!

Keeping The Terms Straight!

Spiritual Death

No faith in Christ

Physical Death

The death of the body

Eternal Death

Eternity in Hell in both body and soul

Christ overturns death and gives life through His death and resurrection!

Spiritual Life

Faith in Christ

Resurrection of the Dead

Your dead, physical body will rise from dead on the Last Day and will be glorified

Eternal Life

At moment of death, your soul is with Christ in heaven, awaiting Resurrection of Dead on Last Day: at the Resurrection, you will spend eternity with Christ in the glory of Heaven in both body and soul!

Our loved ones who have died in faith are with Christ right now in their spirit. Their bodies are in a grave somewhere. When Jesus comes on the Last Day, their dead bodies will rise from the dead, be reunited with their souls, they will be judged “not guilty!” of their sins, and we will be reunited with them as we live forever in the Kingdom of Heaven in our resurrected and glorified bodies!

† This is what takes the sting out of suffering, death and dying.

† Eternal life is our [hope](#): our confident faith that Jesus will take both us, and our loved ones who died in Christ, to heaven with Him.

† Eternal life is what we are eagerly awaiting!

We believe in the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting! We have eternal life through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! Because Jesus lives; we too shall live. What happened to Jesus on Easter Sunday will happen to you and your loved ones who have died in Christ on the Last Day!

Today we thank God for Life: Spiritual Life and Eternal Life!

You are alive in Christ now; living a holy and godly life through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ – that’s **Spiritual Life**!

And we are looking forward to **Eternal Life**, the resurrection of the dead and the life everlasting in Heaven – where we will be reunited with our loved ones who died in Christ!

Amen!