

# “God’s Wonderful Gift of Eternal Life”

## Ephesians 1:3-14

June 14, 2026

- I. The Bible clearly teaches that the Christian life is to be characterized by spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

**Ephesians 2:8-10 (NIV)**

“For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.”

**2 Peter 1:5-7 (NIV)**

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.”

**Philippians 3:10-12 (NIV)**

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

**John 15:5 (NIV)**

- II. The Bible clearly teaches that some Christians \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ spiritually growing nor are they very Christ-like.

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But whoever does not have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.”

**2 Peter 1:8-9 (NIV)**

“Brothers and sisters, I could not address you as people who live by the Spirit but as people who are still worldly—mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were

not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?”

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)**

“It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and of a kind that even pagans do not tolerate: A man is sleeping with his father’s wife.”

**1 Corinthians 5:1 (NIV)**

“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”

**1 John 2:1 (NIV)**

- III. The Bible clearly teaches Christians that it is \_\_\_\_\_  
not to grow spiritually and be Christ – like.

“And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” ... “No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”

**Hebrews 12:5-6, 11 (NIV)**

“So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.”

**Hebrews 10:35-36 (NIV)**

“For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.”

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NIV)**

“For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.”

**1 Corinthians 11:29-30 (NIV)**

- IV. The Bible clearly teaches that some people will look like a Christian and even be associated with Christianity, but they are \_\_\_\_\_

““On hearing it, many of his disciples said, “This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it?” ... Yet there are some of you who do not believe.” For Jesus had

known from the beginning which of them did not believe and who would betray him. He went on to say, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled them." From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him."

**John 6:60, 64-66 (NIV)**

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

**Matthew 7:21-23 (NIV)**

"It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, who have shared in the Holy Spirit, who have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the coming age and who have fallen away, to be brought back to repentance. To their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace... Even though we speak like this, dear friends, we are convinced of better things in your case—the things that have to do with salvation."

**Hebrews 6:4-6, 9 (NIV)**

"Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him."

**Psalms 34:8 (NIV)**

"Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repentance? But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed."

**Romans 2:4-5 (NIV)**

V. The Bible clearly teaches that those who turn away from Christianity or decide they "no longer believe" didn't lose their salvation but they \_\_\_\_\_ !

"For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not combine it with faith. Now we who have believed enter that rest, just as God has said, "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.' And yet his work has been finished since the creation of the world"

**Hebrews 4:2-3 (NIV)**

"They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us."

**1 John 2:19 (NIV)**

"They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for "people are slaves to whatever has mastered them." If they have

escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and are overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning. It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them. Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A sow that is washed returns to her wallowing in the mud."

**2 Peter 2:19-22 (NIV)**

"But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved."

**Hebrews 10:39 (NIV)**

"The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons."

**1 Timothy 4:1 (NIV)**