

# DEFENDING THE FAITH

## Lesson 1

### What Must I do to Gain Everlasting Life?

**1. Because of Adam's sin, mankind is born in sin:**

- Ro. 3:23 All have sinned – man cannot save himself

**2. Because of God's love, He provided a Way:**

- Matt. 20:28 (Jesus, a ransom – what Adam lost – Jesus gained)
- Jo. 14:6 (Jesus, is the ONLY way do we recognize Jesus as the “only way” or do we say we need Him plus something else?)
- 1 Cor. 15:22 (death through Adam, life through Christ)

**3. Eternal life is a free gift from God:**

- Ro. 6:23 (Sin brings death – Jesus brings life)

**4. Must we work for this gift?**

- Eph. 2:8,9 (Not by works, but it is a free gift)

**5. Jesus said we must be born of the Spirit**

- Jo. 3:5-7 (born of the Spirit)
- Jo. 3:16, 36 (Must believe – what does “whoever” mean, v 36?)

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (Jo. 3:16)***

**The word “believe” in context of John 3:16 has this to say, according to THAYERS GREEK LEXICON:**

*“Used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus – a conviction full of joyful trust that Jesus is the Messiah, divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the Kingdom of God, conjoined with obedience to Christ, rest our faith relationship of Christ with God and close ethical intimacy with him...that therefore not a single thing can happen, not even a sparrow can fall which does not, in the final analysis, serve our best eternal interests.”*

- The word “believe” that Jesus is the Son of God, has a far greater significance than mere intellectual knowledge. It means we desire to “**know**” Christ Jesus and actually fellowship with Him, as 1 Jo. 1:3 says, “...and our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

- The word “believe” in John 3 does not have the same meaning as Jas. 2:18, 19 *“But someone will say ‘You have faith, I have deeds.’ Show me your faith without deeds and I will show you my faith by what I do. You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that – and shudder.”* (Believe here is intellectually knowledge – not heart knowledge)

**6. We must repent of all our sins:**

- Luke 13:3 (ask God to forgive us for every sin we’ve committed)
- Acts 2:38 (get baptized)
- Col 3:8,9 (make a change – turn around)

**7. Must receive Christ Jesus, personally:**

- Rev. 3:20 (Jesus is always knocking)
- Jo. 1:12, 13 (become children of God – to all who receive Him)

**8. We can have the assurance of salvation:**

- 1 Jo. 5:13 (May “**know**” you have eternal life)
- 1 Jo. 5:1 (**EVERYONE** can be born of God)

**9. To continue our walk with God, we need to “know” Him:**

- *“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”* (John 17:3 NIV)

The NWT changed the world “know” to “knowledge.” The men who interpret the Bible for the Witnesses believe they have accurate knowledge, in other words taking in knowledge of their biblical interpretation can bring the hope of eternal life.

- *“This means everlasting life their taking in knowledge of him, the only true God and the one he sent forth, Jesus.”* (John 17:3 NWT)

When we marry, do we just want to take in knowledge of our spouse or do we want to “**know**” them? The most meaningful event in the Christian’s life is “getting to know” God! Having a relationship with the Father AND the Son is what it’s all about. By demising the personage of Jesus, one can replace Him with an organization in effect saying, “Come to **me** for salvation.”

You can use this prayer, if you like: Lord, thank you for loving me and coming to earth to show us the way. I believe you died to pay for my sin and you were raised from the dead to give me eternal life. I want to turn from my sin and place my faith in you right now. Please come into my life and be my Savior and Lord. Show me how to live and help me to follow you always. In your name I pray, amen.