

"On EARTH as it is in HEAVEN" Taking hold of eternal life

1 John 4:9 says, "God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him." Throughout the New Testament, it is clear that Jesus was sent to give us access to a new and eternal kind of life that begins right now. This new and abundant life would be characterized by knowing God (Intimacy) and learning to live like Jesus (Imitation). But we will not passively experience this new life. This sermon will explore how we participate with God to "take hold of the eternal life to which [we] have been called." 1 Timothy 6:12.

"God sent His only Son into the world that we might *live* through Him."
—1 John 4:9

"A person is a spiritual person to the degree that his or her life is effectively integrated into and dominated by God's kingdom or rule."
—Dallas Willard

New and Eternal Life

- Completely upheld by God's undeserved love

1. He loved us first (1 John 4:9)
2. He caused our new life in Christ (1 Peter 1:3)
3. He gave us His Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5)

- Two Primary **Characteristics**

- 1) Intimacy (knowing God)

"I came that they might have *life* and have it abundantly."
—John 10:10

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

"Take hold of the eternal life to which you have been called."
—1 Timothy 6:12

- 2) Imitation (becoming like Him)

“Spiritual formation is the process through which those who love and trust Jesus effectively take on His character. When this process is what it should be, they increasingly live their lives as He would if He were in their place... They come more and more to share His vision, love, hope, feelings, and habits.”

—Dallas Willard

“Be kind to one another, and forgive each other, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.”

—Eph. 5:1

- Two Primary **Callings**

- 1) Submissive Student

Qualities of a Submissive Student

“A pupil is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like His teacher.”

—Luke 6:40

1. Sober-minded

Having an accurate view of oneself (Rom. 12:3)

2. Studious

Apply your mind to study His ways

3. Submissive

To learn from Jesus is to hear and obey (Jn. 13:17)

- 2) Purposeful Participant

Qualities of a Purposeful Participant

“Discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and for the life to come.”

—1 Timothy 4:7-8

1. In Position

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.”

2. In Practice

Persistent in the spiritual disciplines

3. In Process

No lightning strikes, sorry