

Here are three of Jesus' promises to those who trust in Him:

*To all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.* John 1:12

*I tell you the truth, everyone who believes HAS eternal life.* John 6:47

Notice that it doesn't say "hope so", "maybe" but HAS eternal life, full and abundant, now and forever!

*I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* John 10:10

### Now what? How do you grow and further experience the full life God has for you?

Do you have a Bible? If not, seek one out. Begin by reading the Gospel of John. As you read it, ask:

- What is Jesus revealing about Himself?
- What is Jesus revealing about you?

Pray about the things you read in the Bible and as you go through the day. Jesus is right there with you... talk to Him.

To help you grow in your faith and friendship with Jesus, find a local church that teaches the Bible and focuses on Jesus Christ.

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FEEL loved, accepted AND forgiven



EXPERIENCE purpose AND fulfilment



KNOW GOD AS A true friend

### John 3:16 What does it mean?

In a nutshell, it tells the main message of the Bible, that is, how you can experience **life to the full** both now in this life... *and* forever. **What keeps us from experiencing this and how can we begin?**

*For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.*

By focusing on 5 key words...

**Life World God Son Believe**

God reveals what He wants you to know and experience.

### First, what does John 3:16 tell you about LIFE?

(What words fit with life?)

**eternal...** (*life is forever... with or apart from God*)  
Jesus rose from death. He is eternally alive. God desires for you to know and experience Him both now and forever.

### **not perish...**

God doesn't want you to be separated from Him. Not now or forever.

### **Real life is where God meets your deepest needs:**

- *To experience His acceptance, love and forgiveness just as you are.*

- *To live with purpose and experience significance in this life.*

- *To know God, our Creator, personally in Jesus.*

Jesus said...

*I have come so that they may have life, and have it to the full.* John 10:10

### What does John 3:16 tell you about the WORLD?

(What words reflect something about the world?)

### **whoever ...**

The world is us; every man/woman, boy/girl, you/me.

### **loved...**

The world (you) are loved by God.

We exist in 1 of 2 realities, either:

### **perish...**

This points to our sin problem. Apart from God's forgiveness, this is the road we are on. Our sin breaks our relationship and we ignore Him. This will lead to a permanent separation from God and His love. A place the Bible calls hell. This is not God's desire for you.

### **life...**

A full real life now *and* forever in heaven is what God desires for the world... and that means you! Either you have it or you don't.

The Bible says...

*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.* Romans 3:23

## What does John 3:16 tell you about GOD?

(Look closely; what words describe God?)

### **loved...**

He is a loving God who cares about you.

### **so (loved)...**

Emphasizes how much He loves you.

### **gave...**

He is a generous giving God, not wanting you to perish.

The Bible says...

*God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.* Romans 5:8

## What does John 3:16 tell you about the SON?

(What words fit with Son?)

### **His...**

Points to the special divine (God) nature of Jesus.

### **one and only...**

This refers to the uniqueness of Jesus.

- Unique in that He lived a perfect sinless life as 'God in the flesh'. He was both God and man.
- Unique in that He died on a cross, a death reserved for criminals, to take the punishment we deserve for our sin and restore a relationship with Him.
- Unique in that Jesus rose from the dead to offer and help us experience life to the full... now and forever.

The Bible says...

*In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the*

***For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.***

*Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.* John 1:1, 14

## What does John 3:16 tell you about BELIEVE?

(What words fit with believe?)

### **have (eternal life)...**

Not maybe, not hope so, but God wants you to be 100% sure you 'have' eternal life... now and forever. It's by 'believing' that you have eternal life.

### **not perish...**

This (eternal separation from God) is what you are saved from when you believe and trust in Him (Jesus).

### **in Him...**

You need to believe in the risen Jesus and what He did on the cross to experience 'life' as He desires for you, now and forever.

1) Believing is more than just knowledge about God and Jesus. 2) And you cannot in any way earn or deserve this gift of life. It is by trusting in Jesus alone that you are saved from a broken relationship and able to experience the full life He desires for you.

It's not what you know, or what you do, but what Jesus HAS DONE for you.

The Bible says...

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not of yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works so that no one can boast.* Ephesians 2:8, 9

## To summarize:

### **What does God want you to experience?**

**Life** – This is what God desires for you. Life to the full in relationship with Jesus, now and forever (eternal). To experience His love and discover real purpose in your life.

### **What keeps you from experiencing it?**

**World (us)** – Because of our sin we separate ourselves from God. This breaks our relationship with Him now that will result in a permanent separation from God (perish... that is 'hell').

### **How does God feel and respond?**

**God** – God loves you. He must punish sin but doesn't want you to perish because of your sin. But God solved your sin problem in Jesus.

### **How did God solve our sin problem?**

**Son** – Jesus, being both God and man, lived a sinless perfect life. He did not deserve to be punished. But Jesus died on the cross taking the punishment you deserve. He paid the penalty for your sin to restore your relationship with God. Then Jesus rose from death to live forever. Now you can be forgiven and live life to the full, without guilt or shame, now and forever.

### **How do we begin experiencing real life?**

**Believe** – Only by believing (trusting) in the risen Jesus alone and what He did for you on the cross, can you experience life as He desires for you now and forever.

To see how personally God loves and cares for you, place your name in the following blanks.

***For God so loved \_\_\_\_\_ that He gave His one and only Son that (if) \_\_\_\_\_ believes in Him, \_\_\_\_\_ will not perish but \_\_\_\_\_ (will) have eternal life.***

## Does this make sense to you?

Do you sense Jesus speaking to you to take this step of faith and believe (trust) in what He has done for you?

Take that step today:

- **Admit** that you have sinned and need His forgiveness.
- **Believe** in Jesus. That He died taking your punishment and rose forever to offer you life to the full.
- **Commit** to receive Jesus, choosing to follow Him as your leader and letting Him shape your life.

Prayer is simply talking to God. Here is a sample of how you can express your desire to follow Him:

***Dear Lord Jesus, I know that I am a sinner and need Your forgiveness. I believe You died on the cross to take the punishment for my sin. I believe You rose again and are alive to help me live a life in friendship with You. Thank you for Your love and acceptance. Jesus, I want to live for You. Come into my life and change anything that is not pleasing to You. Amen.***