

LEARNING 2  
LIVE

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# Life

What does it mean?  
Where did it all begin?  
How can I find my purpose?  
Is this even going anywhere?

What is your life? for you are a mist that appears  
for a little time and then vanishes. - James 4:14

The truth is, everyone struggles with questions like these. And depending on where you look, you can find all kinds of answers ranging from logical to outright crazy. The reason this search for answers continues on, though, is because no one who has experienced life can ever be fully satisfied in thinking this is all a cosmic accident. Yet despite the fact that we know there is more to life than what we can see, most of us don't know where to look to find the answers.

This booklet is about life. It is about meaning and purpose and destiny. It is about God. And most importantly, it is about you.

Everyone knows that something had to set this whole universe in motion, but what happened at the very beginning? What existed before the spark of this universe erupted into everything we see? The answer is God.

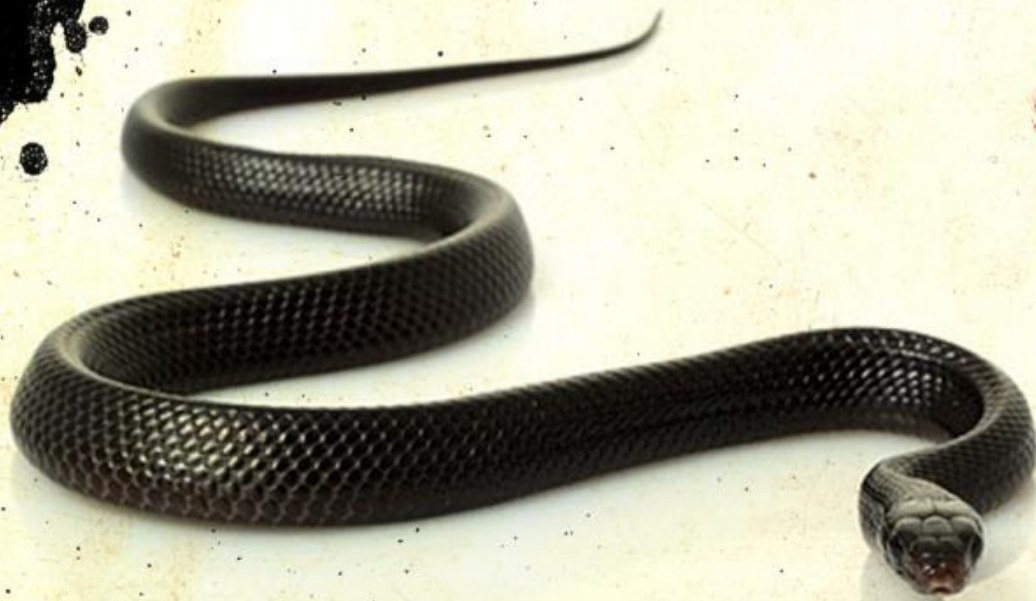
Because God exists outside of time and space, it is incredibly difficult for our limited human minds to understand. However, the Bible teaches that we can see the evidence of God in everything He created. And the fact is, He created *everything*.

The story of our universe and life itself began when God decided to create. He made the earth and the sky, the land and the sea; even light and darkness did not exist before God made it so. But at the center of God's creation was humanity. In a paradise He created called Eden, God created humanity from the dust of the earth and breathed life into mankind. Man and woman were designed by God's creative power for the purpose of worshipping and glorifying God with their lives.

Adam and Eve, the first man and woman who ever lived, were created without sin and walked with God as friends. Mankind was created to live in fellowship with and as friends of God, and this is how we find true meaning in life.

**But...**





# THE Fall

Although humanity was the greatest of God's creation, man and woman were not created as equals with God. As a symbol of His headship over them, God commanded Adam and Eve not to eat of one tree in the middle of the garden. The fruit of this tree, however, became a great temptation to the humans. It is where we get the phrase "forbidden fruit."

One day the devil showed up in the form of a serpent in the garden. He came to Eve and told her lies about God and His command not to eat the forbidden fruit. Believing the lie that by eating the fruit she would become like God in all His glory and power, Eve ate the fruit and gave it to her husband to eat as well.

This act of disobedience was the first sin ever committed by humans. The effects of this action were so dire that every person descending from Adam and Eve have been born sinners. Just as God gave life to humanity, the punishment for sin was death. Adam and Eve were declared enemies of God and kicked out of Eden. All of creation is now under a curse because of this first sin.

When we look at the world around us, it is obvious that sin and its effects have tainted every aspect of our lives. Lies. Violence. Theft. War. Poverty. This is the daily reality for all people across the world. And the ultimate destiny for us all is a grave.

If the purpose and meaning of life was found in our friendship with God then, as his enemies, we cannot live life to the fullest. The Bible calls this “spiritual death.”

**All have  
sinned and  
fall short  
of the  
glory of  
God**

**- Romans 3:23**



**The  
Wages  
of sin  
is death...  
- Romans 6:23**

The Good News is that “spiritual death” is not the end of the story. Before God cursed Adam and Eve and banished them from Eden, He made them a promise. One day, a Son would be born of woman who would crush sin and defeat death; one day God would send a Savior. Many prophecies spoke of His birth, His life, His death, and the kingdom He would build when He came.


# SALVATION

A few thousand years after the promise was given, the day finally came when an angel from God appeared to a young virgin girl named Mary and told her she would be the mother of God's promised Savior. Not yet having been married or intimate with a man, the Holy Spirit of God came to Mary, and she miraculously became pregnant with God's Son, Jesus Christ.

Every prophecy that had been given about this Savior was fulfilled in Jesus. He lived a sinless life. Gave sight to the blind. Made the lame to walk. Cleansed lepers. Gave hearing to the deaf. He even raised the dead from the grave. His message was simple. The Kingdom of God was now here for those who would repent and receive it.

There were, however, many religious people who refused to believe the message of Jesus, denied his miracles, and condemned him as a fraud. Through their own religious legal system, they devised a plan to have him put to death.

Condemned to death and taken high on a hill overlooking the city of Jerusalem, Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross. The only sinless man ever to walk the earth faced the punishment for crimes He did not commit. The Bible says Jesus took our sins into his body on the cross so that through repentance and faith in Him sin no longer reigns over us and we are set free from the curse put on Adam and Eve.



For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in Him should not perish but  
have eternal life. - John 3:16

Three days after His crucifixion, Jesus rose up from death and walked out of the tomb. The Bible says that because He conquered death, we can now have new life in Him -- life that is abundant and full, redeemed to live again as friends of God.

For those who will truly repent of their sins and place their faith in Christ and what He did for us on the cross, meaning and purpose in life will be found. Outside of repentance and faith in Him, death still rules. Only in Him can we have eternal life.

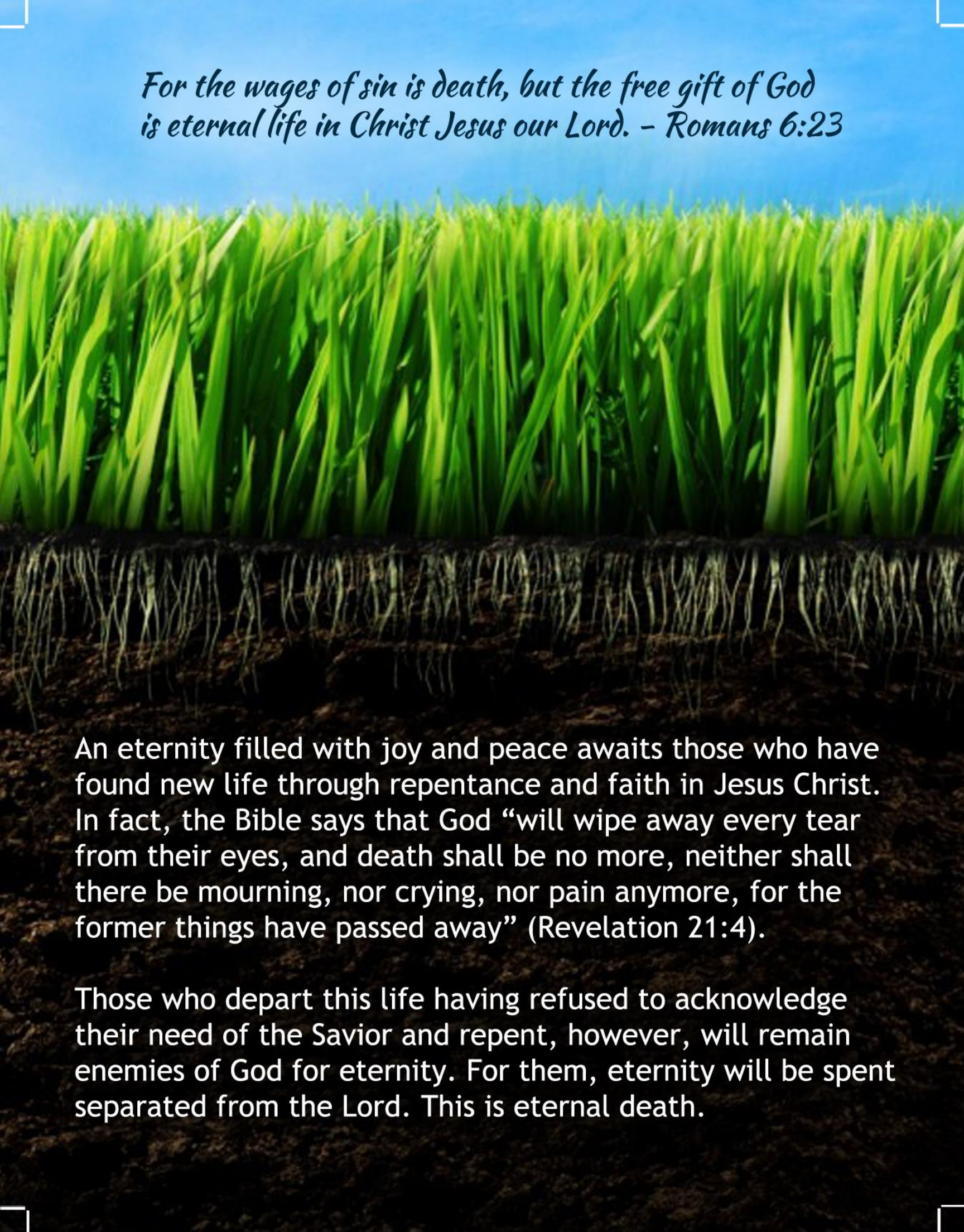
# Eternity

A photograph of a lush green wheat field under a clear blue sky. The wheat stalks are tall and vibrant green. In the foreground, a cross-section of the soil is visible, showing the intricate network of roots extending downwards from the base of the wheat plants.

Forty days after He rose from the dead, Jesus ascended to Heaven on a cloud and sat down next to God the Father. Now, seated on His throne, He prays for us, and is making preparations for the day when He will come again to claim His Kingdom.

On that day, Jesus will return to earth where He will once and for all defeat the devil. He will put an end to all the pain and destruction at work on the earth, and He will restore the world to how it was meant to be in the beginning -- a perfect paradise without suffering or death.



A photograph of a field of green grass with its roots exposed in the soil. The grass is vibrant green and stands tall against a clear blue sky. The roots are dark and fibrous, extending deep into the dark brown soil. The image is used as a background for the text.

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. - Romans 6:23*

An eternity filled with joy and peace awaits those who have found new life through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, the Bible says that God “will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4).

Those who depart this life having refused to acknowledge their need of the Savior and repent, however, will remain enemies of God for eternity. For them, eternity will be spent separated from the Lord. This is eternal death.

# — A NEW — *Beginning*

Renewed and eternal life is a gift from God, and it is intended for you. You don't have to earn this gift or repay God for giving it. All you have to do is accept it as your own. The search for meaning and purpose in your life can end today. God created you to find life in Him and, thanks to the gift of Christ, this can begin for you today.

The Bible simply says that forgiveness of sin and eternal life belong to the ones who believes in their heart and confesses with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord (Romans 10:9-10).

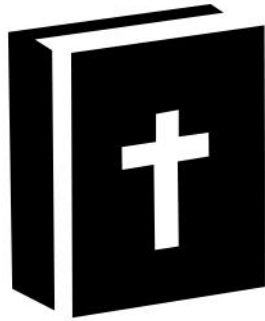
One way many Christ-followers first declare their faith in Jesus is through a simple prayer. The prayer itself does not save you, but is simply a declaration that you are putting your faith in Jesus alone as your Savior. If you believe that you have forgiveness and new life in Him, you are encouraged to take a moment to pray this prayer affirming your belief:

*“Jesus, thank You for dying for my sins. I now know that my life is only complete in You. Please forgive me of my sin and save me from death. Teach me to walk with You throughout my life, putting my trust in You as my friend and my Lord. I give myself to You. Amen.”*

# Whats Next?

SALVATION IS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF YOUR NEW LIFE IN **CHRIST**

— HERE ARE YOUR NEXT STEPS —



READ THE BIBLE



PRAY REGULARLY



JOIN A CHURCH



SHARE JESUS

We have created a special website to help you go further into what you have read in this booklet. Please take a few minutes to learn more or share your questions with us at:

[www.SoldiersBibleMinistry.org](http://www.SoldiersBibleMinistry.org)

If you have made a decision to place your faith in Christ or have any questions, please email us at [SBM@SoldiersBibleMinistry.org](mailto:SBM@SoldiersBibleMinistry.org)

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