

What the Bible Actually Says
“Man and Eternal Life”

Our Progression: Spirit to Eternal Life

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This presentation is one of a series about *Man and Eternal Life*.
What the Bible Actually Says about the title topic will be presented in this one.
See the [Introduction](#) presentation for an overview of the series.

Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

Outline

- Introduction
- What the Bible Actually Says (WTBAS)
- Conclusion

Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

Introduction

- This set of slides concerned about the overall plan of salvation
 - From our spirit coming from God
 - To our receiving eternal life with God and Christ
- Important milestones along the way are identified
- This is a big picture presentation of the plan of salvation

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We come from God as spirits (Preexistence)

- Christ existed prior to being born into this world:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word [Christ] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-2,14)

- Like Christ, man existed prior to coming into this world:

*And the Lord God **(a)** formed man of the dust of the ground, and **(b)** breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)*

*Then shall **(a)** the dust return to the earth as it was: and **(b)** the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Eccl 12:7)*

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. (Jer 1:5)

- God is the Father of our spirits:

Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? (Heb 12:9)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We take on a physical body (Physical Birth/Creation)

- God created man in his own image:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. (Gen 1:26-27)

- Body created from earth; spirit comes from God:

*And the Lord God **(a)** formed man of the dust of the ground, and **(b)** breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen 2:7)*

*Then shall **(a)** the dust return to the earth as it was: and **(b)** the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. (Eccl 12:7)*

- Adam is in the image of God as Seth is in the image of Adam:

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created. And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth: (Gen 5:1-3)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We die spiritually when we sin (Spiritual Death)

- Adam sinned and brought about his spiritual death:

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (Gen 2:16-17)

And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. (Gen 3:12)

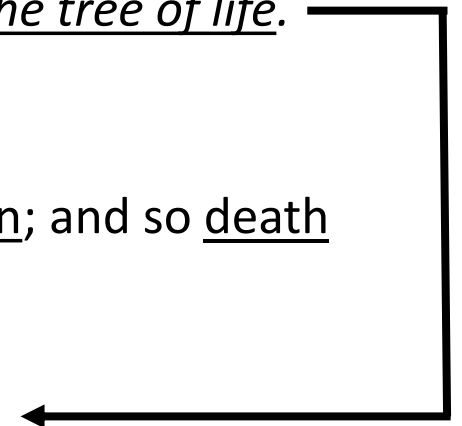
And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life. (Gen 3:22-24)

- Just as Adam sinned, all men sin and spiritually die:

Wherefore, as by one man [Adam] sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (Rom 5:12)

Spiritual death is being cutoff from eternal life.

(Gen 3:24)



WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We are born again by being baptized (Spiritual Rebirth)

- Spiritual rebirth requires repentance:

In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt 3:1-2)

- The repentant individual receives baptism by water:

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mark 16:16)

- Following baptism by water is the gift of the Holy Spirit:

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. (Acts 2:38-39)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We must work out our own salvation (Sanctification)

- Salvation is a process through which the Holy Spirit sanctifies the individual:
But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2Thess 2:13-14; see also 1Peter 1:1-2)
- We must work out our own salvation:
Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. (Phil 2:12-13; see also 1Peter 1:7)
- *We must fight the good fight of faith and endure to the end:*
But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. (1Tim6:11-12; see also 1Peter 1:6-9)
And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. (Matt 10:22; see also Matthew 24:13; Mark 13:13)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We die (Physical Death)

- The first man, Adam, died:

And all the days that Adam lived were nine hundred and thirty years: and he died. (Gen 5:5)

- Just like Adam all men will die:

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: (Heb 9:27; see also 1 Cor 15:20-22)

- Christ died:

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom 5:8)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We are given a spiritual body (Resurrection)

- All men will be resurrected:

Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. (John 5:28-29)

- The resurrected body will be a spiritual body:

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself. (Phil 3:20-21)

But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. (1Cor 15:35-50)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We are judged according to our works (Judgment)

- Men will be judged according to their works:

And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire. (Rev 20:11-15; see also Matt 16:24-27)

- Christ will give eternal life unto those who have sought for glory, honour, immortality and eternal life according to their deeds.

Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, (Rom 2:6-8)

These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. (John 17:1-3)

WTBAS: Our Progression from Spirit to Eternal Life

We become eternal lives like Christ

- We are the children of God and shall inherit all things:

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. (Rom 8:16-18)

And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. (Rev 21:6-7)

- Those who overcome shall sit with Christ in his throne and rule over nations:

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father. And I will give him the morning star. (Rev 2:26-28)

To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. (Rev 3:21)

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Conclusion

- We come from God as spirits (Preexistence)
- We take on a physical body (Physical Birth/Creation)
- We die spiritually when we sin (Spiritual Death)
- We are born again by being baptized (Spiritual Rebirth)
- We work out our own salvation (Sanctification)
- We die (Physical Death)
- We are given a spiritual body (Resurrection)
- We are judged according to our works (Judgment)
- We become eternal lives like Christ (Eternal Life)