

# The gospel of Jesus Christ: By Erica Jermanus

Many Christians are afraid of death and dying. I know we all have at times because we do not know what it is going to be like. We may not know if it is going to be painful or scary or not. We also may be afraid of going to hell when we die because of unrepentant sin. When our hearts are right with God, and we have confessed and repented of our sins, we can know where we are spending eternity. We can know that we have eternal life because we have put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ. 1 John 5:13 says, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." So, after we die, we will all face judgment. If you are a genuine believer or follower of Christ, you will have a different judgment than unbelievers. You will have a judgment on where you stand in the kingdom of heaven. You will have a judgment for rewards and crowns in the kingdom of heaven. You will have rewards for the work that you have done on earth. So, we do not need to fear death when we are in the will of God for our lives.

When we are doing the will of God by serving Him and fulfilling the call and purpose of God for our lives, we can know where we are going to spend eternity. We have been faithful to God with what He has given us, so we will reap eternal rewards in the kingdom of heaven. James 1:12 says, "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

We can know that we have eternal life because we have trusted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Not only that, but we have obeyed His commandments. We have chosen to follow Him and seek a relationship with Him. So, we do not need to fear going to hell. Yes, we all deserve to go to hell for eternity because of our sins. Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

None of us are perfect. We have all missed the mark, and we all deserve to be separated from God for all eternity. But there is good news. The good news is that

Jesus Christ took our just wrath and punishment in His body on the cross so that we could be saved and have eternal life. Romans 5:8 says, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 10:9 says, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Believing in Jesus Christ is not just with our words, but it is with our actions. If we say that we believe, our actions will follow our words. The Bible says in James 2:19, "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble." So, even the demons believe, but they do not obey the gospel of Jesus Christ. The demons do not follow Jesus Christ. So, that is the same with us if we want to believe that we should put our faith to work in action. Our faith will produce good works in our lives.

Ephesians 2:8-10 says, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good

works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

So, we are not saved by our works, but our works are evidence that our faith is genuine. Our works cannot get us into the kingdom of heaven. There is nothing we can do to earn our salvation. But because we are saved, we naturally want to do good works. We love Christ, so we want to obey His commandments and do the things that please Him. We want to naturally serve God because of His love for us and what He did for us on the cross. We do not love because we are trying to earn God’s love, grace, or favor. 1 John 4:19 says, “We love him, because he first loved us.” John 14:15 says, “If ye love me, keep my commandments.” 1 John 5:3 says, “For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

Jesus Christ wants more than our Sunday morning services. He wants a relationship with us and for us to seek Him and get to know Him and His voice. He wants to speak to us and give us guidance, direction, instructions, insight, and revelation. But we need to be

willing to get into His presence and read the Bible for Him to speak to us. He will speak through a still, small whisper when we are quiet. He will lead and guide us and teach us and instruct us in the way we should go.

If you want to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit, it comes by being still in His presence and listening. We may need to wait on Him to speak and answer our prayers. He may not answer right away, but He will come through right on time. Jesus Christ said in John 10:27, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." Psalm 46:10 says, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth."