

THE NEW BIRTH

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Chapter 4 – Possessors of Life and Immortality

When Adam and Eve, or the first parents, sinned, they “died”. This means they became separated from God and lost the opportunity to receive the Divine Love which would have given them immortality. As a result of their disobedience, the potential for immortality through the Divine Love was withdrawn from humanity and all were counted “dead in sins” till the time determined by the Father.

That time came with the birth of Jesus, who had a special relationship with God and started receiving the Divine Love from birth. In maturing, he realized that he was called to be the prophesied Messiah (anointed for a special purpose). The purpose was to proclaim the good news about the re-bestowal of the Divine Love and the New Birth, and that in him the Old Testament prophecies of the new heart and new covenant were first being fulfilled. Metaphorically speaking, in the book of Genesis (3:22-24) Adam, because of disobedience and rejecting God's instruction, was banished from access to the Tree of Life, which would have given him immortality. According to the book of Revelation (2:7; 22:2 and 14), access to the symbolic Tree of Life is restored.

True Immortality

In TGRABJ/1/53ff (paraphrased) we learn that: Jesus was more than a mere reformer. He was not only a good and just teacher, but *he was the true son of God, and His messenger in bringing to the world the truths of immortality and the Divine Love of the Father, and the way to obtain it. He was truly the Way and the Truth and the Life as no other teacher before him ever was.*

Immortality means much more than a continuation of life. It means *a life that has in it the Divine Love or essence of the Father.* This makes the *spirit divine, and not subject to death of any kind.* No spirit has immortality just because it is continuing to live in the spirit world.

Before the coming of Jesus, immortality was not available to humankind – even though some believed in it. That belief was based just on hope derived from spirit communication which showed that death had not annihilated the individual. Jesus brought not just hope, but knowledge of the truth. However, the mere fact of Jesus' resurrection does not prove immortality. Only the Father is immortal, and only those to whom He gives His attributes of immortality can become immortal as He is.

The Divine Love – not the natural human love – is the key principle of immortality. The possessor of the Divine Love takes on the nature and likeness of the Father and thus a part of divinity. Consequently, they become immortal, and can never be deprived of their divinity.

Immortal Life in the Celestial Kingdom – and Now

The focus of Jesus' teaching was the Kingdom of God or Kingdom of Heaven, as shown by many references in the Gospels. Specifically, he brought the happy tidings (gospel) that every soul praying for, and receiving, the Divine Love could have eternal life in the Celestial Kingdom of God. The author of Ephesians tells us:

Ephesians 2:6 – And God raised us up with Christ and *seated us with him in the heavenly realms* in Christ Jesus.

Unlike the first parents, Jesus did not turn down the offer of the Divine Love received through fervent prayer, and so became the first human ever to have possessed this substance of the Soul of God. We can read this in 1 John 5.

1 John 5:11-12 – God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

In Bible language, through the New Birth, as soon as we start receiving God's Love, we "pass from death to life". Indeed, Jesus came so that humans could have – *upon receiving his teachings and applying them* – immortal life. He brought life and immortality to light and became impersonation of the resurrection. This immortal life is both a present and future reality.

Ephesians 2:1-10 – As for you, *you were dead in your transgressions and sins*, in which you used to live when

you followed the ways of this world ... gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. ... But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, *made us alive with Christ* even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you have been saved, *through faith* [in Jesus' teachings and God's Divine Love saving us]—and this not from yourselves, it is the *gift of God*—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are *God's workmanship*, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

John 10:9-10 – I [Jesus] am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. ... *I have come that they may have life*, and have it to the full.

John 11:25-26 – Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me [my teachings] will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die [because they have immortality].

John 5:24-26 – “I tell you the truth, *whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me* has eternal life and will not be condemned [by the law of compensation]; he has *crossed over from death to life* [through the Divine Love entering his soul and planting the seed of

immortality]. I tell you the truth, a time is coming and *has now come* [with the re-bestowal of the Divine Love] when the dead [in sins] will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear [listen and apply the teachings] will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself [through the Divine Love.]

2 Timothy 1:8-10 – God who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but *because of his own purpose and grace*. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, *Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel*.

1 John 3:14 – We know that we have *passed from death to life*, because we love our brothers [as a result of the Divine Love in our souls]. Anyone who does not love remains in death [doesn't have immortality].

In summary, the potential for immortality was lost to humans when the first parents rebelled against God. Jesus became the Messiah and Savior by announcing that the Father has re-bestowed the gift of immortality and showed the way that individuals could avail themselves of this gift. The only way is by asking for and being transformed by the Divine Love imparted by the Holy Spirit into our souls. The continuation of life in the spirit world is not a guarantee of immortality, only the New Birth is.