

Can I Inherit Immortality?

1 Corinthians 15:53: (NASB) For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.



What does it mean to be immortal? In Greek Mythology, Zeus, Athena and Apollo were among their immortal gods, those who lived forever and had a powerful influence over the mortal world. When someone achieves extraordinary levels of greatness in their field, they are often spoken of as being immortal. In American baseball, Babe Ruth and Willie Mays are "immortalized" by the way they played the game. These examples show us that immortality can be applied to mean someone or something as never dying, be it in a physical or an intellectual sense. So,

how does the Bible define immortality? As we explore this question, we will see a clear and focused reasoning emerge that elevates what immortality is and who will have it.

Immortal: *merriam-webster.com*

adjective

1: exempt from death 2: exempt from oblivion: imperishable

Noun:

1a: one exempt from death

1b: immortals or Immortals plural: the gods of the Greek and Roman pantheon

2a: a person whose fame is lasting

2b: any of the 40 members of the Académie Française

"Immortal" and "immortality" do not appear in the Old Testament, but the New Testament definitions are interesting and will help us figure out who is given immortality.

There are two similar words for immortal or immortality:

1. Immortality: Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #110 *athanasia*; from a compound of #1 (as a negative particle) and #2288 *thanatos*; deathlessness



athanasia = deathlessness
"Not" → the word for death (thanatos)

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: undying, immortality, everlasting

This is a compound word derived from two words for "not" + "death." So, the word *thanatos* that it is derived from literally means death or dying. Immortality is the exact opposite: NOT death and dying.



2. Immortality: Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #862 *aphthartos*; from #1 (as a negative particle) and a derivative of #5351; undecaying (in essence or continuance)



aphthartos = undecaying
"Not"

the word for decaying (phtheiro)

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) uncorrupted, not liable to corruption or decay, imperishable 1a) of things 2) immortal 2a) of the risen dead

Aphthartos translated as "immortal" into English means incorruptible, imperishable, undecaying.

"Undecaying" is the opposite of "decaying." Think of a withering plant when it dries up and crumbles into nothing. Then put the word "not" in front of it. It is "not" decaying. It is full of life.



NOT DECAYING

Athanasia = the INABILITY to die Aphthartos = the INABILITY to degrade

Let's use one scripture to dramatically define the New Testament's meaning of immortality.

The Apostle Paul compares the sadness and ruin of sinful human nature with the unspeakable glory of divine nature:

1 Corinthians 15:50: (KJV) Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption <5356> (noun form of <5351>) inherit incorruption <861>.

Corruption and incorruption are opposites in Greek.



Incorruption =

"Not" the word for corruption (aphtharsia) = not able to decay or wither

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Corruptibility cannot inherit incorruptibility. This is the formula the apostle presents to us as an introduction to understanding immortality.

Paul's next statement dramatically shows this change from corruptible to incorruptible is not only possible but promised:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52: (KJV) 51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible <862>, (aphthartos, not able to decay) and we shall be changed (to make different, to transform).

That which dies from corruptibility is raised incorruptible because a change happened. This is obviously a miraculous transformation that leads to a spiritual life.



Here's the point that's beginning to emerge: The first scripture stated that *flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God*. HUMANITY CAN'T GO TO HEAVEN AS HUMANITY. Human nature is separate and distinct from spirit nature, which is separate and distinct from the nature of God. You can't mix and match. Something has to change in order to transform from one nature to another.

Paul continues building his reasoning by adding deathlessness to unending existence. Both words for immortality are here, along with their opposites:

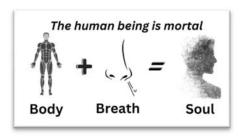
1 Corinthians 15:53: (KJV) 53 For this corruptible <5349> (adjective of <5351>) must put on incorruption <861> (aphtharsia—incorruptible, NOT decaying), and this mortal <2349> (liable to die) must put on immortality <110> (athanasia—deathlessness, NOT death, unending existence).

Mortal: Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #2349 *thnētós*; liable to die;--mortal(-ity)

- They must transform from the nature of being able to decay to that which can NOT decay.
- They must transform from the nature that dies to the nature that is deathless.

If we put on a coat, it means there was a time we were not wearing that coat. If a mortal has to *put on immortality*, there was a time they did NOT have immortality.

This is a fundamental scriptural baseline of truth. Humanity, even in all of its greatest possible glory, is mortal. That's why the Apostle Paul says this mortal must put on immortality. Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom. We are mortal. The word "mortal" literally means liable to die. This is showing us that the human soul, made up of the breath of life and the body, is mortal.



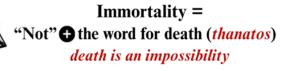
The Apostle Paul repeatedly lets us know this concept of immortality is beyond what we naturally have.

Paul repeats the equation and then shows the astounding and miraculous conclusion:

1 Corinthians 15:54: (**KJV**) So when this corruptible <5349> shall have put on incorruption <861>, and this mortal <2349> shall have put on immortality <110>, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death <2288> is swallowed up in victory.

Death: Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #2288 thanatos; (properly, an adjective used as a noun) death (literally or figuratively)

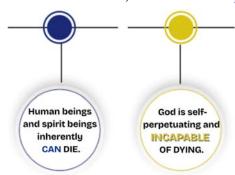
Even death "dies."





Again, Paul says when this corruptible (able to decay) human being puts on incorruption (the inability to decay) this mortal being that's liable to die puts on deathlessness. Death itself is no longer an issue. This is immortality.

Here's an interesting correlation: Like all spirit beings, human nature—even in its mot perfect form—is the opposite of God's nature. Why? Because both human beings and spirit beings have the ability to die. Think of Satan—a spirit being—as an example: Scripture makes plain that Satan is destined to be utterly destroyed. If Satan were immortal, that couldn't happen.



Because human beings and spirit beings inherently can die, they are in one category. On the other hand, God is selfperpetuating and incapable of dying.

This self-perpetuating, deathless capacity would be a foolish gift to give to untested beings because they would be out of God's control. He wouldn't have the ability to destroy them if they, like Satan, went down the wrong path.

Many Christians start with the non-biblical tradition that humans are born with a spark of immortal divinity. This erroneous idea then locks God into having to to do something with that spark that can't die, so they say He puts them somewhere—either heaven or hell or somewhere in between. But that's definitely NOT what the Apostle Paul is teaching. He repeatedly gives us a clear basis for understanding immortality.



Is it possible to become immortal? Yes! Jesus was the first to have this privilege:

1 Timothy 6:13-16: 13 I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, 14 that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 which he (Jesus) will bring about at the proper time—he (Jesus) who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone possesses immortality <110> and dwells in unapproachable light (God), whom no man has seen or can see. To him (Jesus) be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

God is that unapproachable light:

1 John 1:5: (KJV) This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all.

Jesus proved himself worthy and was given immortality—the inability to die—after his resurrection as a reward for his faithfulness. Because of that ultimate loyalty, God trusted him with everything for all of eternity.



Because of his sacrifice, Jesus has been exalted by God to heights never before achieved:

Philippians 2:9-11: 9 ...God highly exalted him (Jesus), and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Ephesians 1:20-21 describes Jesus as being at God's *right hand...far above all rule and authority and power and dominion*. This is the most immense power in the universe!



See Ephesians 1:18-23, 1 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 5:8,9, Colossians 1:18 and Hebrews 8:1.

Jesus, the Lamb of God, has received this ultimate incredible power!

Who else besides God and Jesus can have this honor?

Those called to follow Christ who answer that call and actually live the call receive this honor. What does this mean? We are not suggesting that someone who simply says, "I'm saved; Jesus has forgiven my sins" is in line for this reward of immortality. That's a beautiful place to start. But if we end at this starting place, we have not fulfilled what is required to obtain immortality.

Let's go through what is needed to answer and live that call:

1 Peter 1:3-5: (KJV) 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance incorruptible <862>, (aphthartos—NOT corruptible, NOT able to decay) and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

The faithful followers of Jesus are also given an incorruptible inheritance—immortality.

If we inherit a million dollars, that means we didn't already have those million dollars. It's given to us. So it's "NOT" having the million dollars versus having the million dollars—NOT corruptible versus incorruptible.

Those who answer and live that call and follow Christ *according to His* (God's) *abundant mercy* don't deserve it. WE DON'T AND CAN'T DESERVE IT. It comes from God's abundant mercy, this lively hope that comes through the begetting of God's spirit, that puts us in a position for attaining immortality. But that's just the beginning.

Living the call means the purifying of our lives in accordance with God's word, will and way:

1 Peter 1:22-23: (KJV) 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: 23 Being born again, not of corruptible <5349> seed, but of incorruptible <862>, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever <165>.



Here are those opposites again: *aphthartos*—NOT corruptible, NOT able to decay versus corruptible. To gain immortality, we must go through a change from corruptible beings to incorruptible ones. How do we do that? The answer is, *you've purified your souls in obeying the truth*. Obeying the truth doesn't mean just declaring we're going to obey the truth and then ignoring it and doing whatever we want.



And whose truth? Is it my truth?

It is the truth through the spirit unto unfeigned love; through God's spirit. It's God's truth written in God's word. We receive this truth from God's word and spend our lives learning to understand it. It is living a life that continually works at purifying one's very being because that's how we honor and revere God.

Let's go a step further.

Living the call means pursuing victory in Christ with firm discipline every day in every way:

1 Corinthians 9:24-25: 24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win. 25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable <5349> wreath, but we an imperishable <862>.

These are the same opposites—the same Greek works for *corruptible* and *incorruptible* (immortality), now described in English as *perishable* and *imperishable* (immortality).

Revelation 2:10: (KJV) ...Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

In ancient Greece, a wreath was placed on the head of the winner of a race. The apostle is showing us this *crown of life* is an imperishable crowning of never-ending, deathless life.

Run in such a way that you may win. Will we obtain immortality? We have to ask ourselves:



How is my Christian training going? What is my Christian discipline every single day of my life? Do I just go to church, get all dressed up and start to feel good and holy on Sunday and then, by Wednesday, is it all gone?

This is not being focused and trained the way an athlete is. The greatest athletes in the world stand head and shoulders above everyone else in their training and discipline. The Apostle Paul is saying immortality is given to those who follow Christ with that kind of zeal.





It doesn't end there. Living the call means no longer living by our human thoughts and desires:

Romans 12:1-2: 1 Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

- Present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice. Everything I am about needs to be laid on the altar before God—here is me. What would You have me to do with myself? And when He says, go down that road. Well, what if I really don't like that one so much—that's not a conversation; that is an obligation!
- Our *spiritual service of worship*. We OWE God that service if we say we are following in the footsteps of Jesus.
- Be transformed—changed or metamorphosed—by the renewing of your mind. Your mind used to think one way. Allow God's spirit to change the way you think.

This is how we move forward down the road toward immortality. Immortality is only given to those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28) and who answer that call. God gives them His holy spirit with instructions to follow His son.

What about everyone else who aren't faithful followers of Jesus? What happens to them?

Well, there's good news. Through Jesus, everyone else is given the gift of *eternal life*. It's not *immortal* life; it is *eternal* life.

How do we know, and why are we making a distinction? Because Jesus told us to do that.

Here's probably one of the most quoted texts in the world, but have we given it much thought as to what it means?

John 3:16-17: 16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal <166> life. 17 For God did not send the son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

Eternal: Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #166 *aiōnios*; perpetual (also used of past time, or past and future as well)

The King James Version translates this as "eternal" 42 times, "everlasting" 25 times, "the world began + 5550" 2 times, "since the world began + 5550" 1 time, "for ever" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) without beginning and end, that which always has been and always will be 2) without beginning 3) without end, never to cease, everlasting

Forever: Strongs Exhaustive Concordance #165 $ai\bar{o}n$; properly, an age; by extension, perpetuity (also past); by implication, the world; specially (Jewish) a Messianic period (present or future):—age, course, eternal, (for) ever(-more), (n-)ever, (beginning of the, while the) world (began, without end)



They will *not perish*; they will have *eternal life*. *Eternal* here means perpetual. It is an adjective of a word that means age-lasting. Perpetual means it never stops; it keeps going. It is DIFFERENT from immortality that lasts forever.

What's the difference between *immortal* versus *eternal*?

Living perpetually is different from an inability to die. According to the Bible and the scriptures we just read, when a being is immortal, it cannot die, it cannot decay, and it is self-perpetuating.

CAN'T DIE, CAN'T DECAY, SELF-PERPETUATING: THAT'S IMMORTALITY!

When beings have eternal or perpetual life, they CAN live forever. However, they're dependent on some level of nourishment from outside of themselves to continually perpetuate their existence. They can't have life from within themselves. It has to be perpetuated from the outside.

That means they're still reliant upon God, and they <u>could</u> die. Death is a <u>possibility</u>, but not if they're living the way they're supposed to be living. In **John 3:16-17**, those who believe in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. This applies after they are resurrected; not now. After they have been resurrected and been given the time to be rehabilitated and reconciled back to God, they can continue to live forever.

Immortality is a rare gift.

It is "NOT" + death = deathlessness. It is "NOT" + decay = incorruptible. Immortality =
"Not" the word for death (thanatos)

death is an impossibility

We aren't born with immortality; Jesus' true disciples can inherit it at God's discretion after their resurrection.

But there are blessings in store for everybody, not just the followers of Jesus.

For the world, this gift of eternal life comes after their resurrection, when they reconcile with God in the Day of Judgment, making things right they have done in this life and learning loyalty to the heavenly Father. This is where the gift of eternal life is born. It comes through working their way into harmony with God's will.

1 John 2:2: and he (Jesus) himself is the propitiation (satisfaction; atonement) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.

THERE ARE TWO GROUPS OF PEOPLE:

The faithful followers of Jesus:

He is the propitiation (satisfaction; atonement) FOR OUR SINS The whole world:

He is the propitiation also for those of the WHOLE WORLD.



Jesus is the satisfaction for both groups. No one is left out. The world has the opportunity to be raised and to walk on that *highway of holiness* mentioned in **Isaiah 35**, a wonderful chapter that describes the coming earthly kingdom.

We'll touch on two verses that help us see what eternal life is built upon.

Isaiah 35:9-10: 9 No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, 10 And the ransomed of the LORD (everyone!) will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

This is not a literal highway, but it's a picture of the world learning to be reconciled, honoring to God the Father and Jesus His son. We have this incredible promise for eternal earthly life because that's what Adam was created for. The world will return to that.

So, can I inherit immortality? Ask these questions:



- Am I walking in the footsteps of Jesus, sacrificing my own will and doing what God would have me do?
- Have I been called? Have I answered that call?
- Has God accepted my sacrifice and given me His holy spirit?

Yes, we have the opportunity for immortality.

When we look at immortality in God's plan, the ability to have a <u>self-perpetuating</u> spiritual life, it's mind-boggling. In God's ultimate wisdom, this gift is only given to the very few who are called by God through Christ to live a self-sacrificing life, following in Jesus' footsteps. There is no other path towards that immortality!

God's plan of wisdom and love offers eternal life—not immortal life, but perpetual life—for all others who will prove faithful to His ways after their resurrection and the Day of Judgment. The bottom line here is that God's will is for all of His creation to live eternally in perfect harmony!

The spiritual creation and earthly creation (those resurrected on earth) are all to live forever in perfect harmony. That's why immortality is introduced to us in the New Testament as an important aspect of the inheritance of those who follow Christ. Their job is to be reconcilers for those who need reconciliation. Those given immortality will be with Jesus in heaven.

What a gift!

So, what was the message of Jesus after his resurrection?

For Rick and Jonathan and Christian Questions...

...Think about it!



All scriptures cited are from the NASB1995 translation unless otherwise noted.



Next episode

Episode 1383: Can I Find Balance When Overwhelmed with Anxiety? Part I











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Digging into the Old Testament teaching on the nature of humanity

https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1378-immortal-soul-part-i/

Ep.1379: Do I Have an Immortal Soul? (Part II)

Digging into the New Testament teaching on the nature of humanity

https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1379-immortal-soul-part-ii/

Ep.1100: Do People Turn Into Angels When They Die?

Establishing spiritual and human natures as separate and distinct

https://christianquestions.com/doctrine/1100-angels-life-after-death/



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The words used in the New Testament to express the properties of immortality:

Immortality: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #861 *aphtharsia*; from #862 *aphthartos*; incorruptibility; genitive case unending existence; (figuratively) genuineness

The King James Version translates this as "incorruption" 4 times, "immortality" 2 times, "sincerity" 2 times

Thayer's English-Greek Lexicon: 1) incorruption, perpetuity, 2) purity, sincerity, incorrupt

All uses of #861 in the King James Version:

Romans 2:7: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality <861>, eternal life:

- **1 Corinthians 15:42:** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption <861>:
- **1 Corinthians 15:50:** Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption <861>.
- **1 Corinthians 15:53:** For this corruptible must put on incorruption <861>, and this mortal must put on immortality.
- **1 Corinthians 15:54:** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption <861>, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
- **Ephesians 6:24:** *Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity* <861>.
- **2 Timothy 1:10:** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality <861> to light through the gospel:

Titus 2:7: In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity <861>.



Incorruptible: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #862 *aphthartos*; from #1 *alpha* (as a negative particle) and a derivative of #5351; undecaying (in essence or continuance)

The King James Version translates this as "incorruptible" 4 times, "uncorruptible" 1 time, "immortal" 1 time, "not corruptible" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) uncorrupted, not liable to corruption or decay, imperishable 1a) of things, 2) immortal, 2a) of the risen dead

#862 is the opposite of #5351:

Corrupt: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #862 *phtheirō*; probably strengthened from *phthio* (to pine or waste); properly, to shrivel or wither, i.e. to spoil (by any process) or (generally) to ruin (especially figuratively, by moral influences, to deprave)



The King James Version translates this as "corrupt" 4 times, "corrupt (one's) self" 1 time, "be corrupt" 1 time, "defile" 1 time, "destroy" 1 time

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: 1) to corrupt, to destroy, 1a) in the opinion of the Jews, the temple was corrupted or "destroyed" when anyone defiled or in the slightest degree damaged anything in it, or if its guardians neglected their duties 1b) to lead away a Christian church from that state of knowledge and holiness in which it ought to abide 1c) to be destroyed, to perish 1d) in an ethical sense, to corrupt, deprave

The noun form of #862:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #861 *aphtharsia*; incorruptibility; genitive case unending existence; (figuratively) genuineness:—immortality, incorruption, sincerity

All uses of #862 in the King James Version:

Romans 1:23: And changed the glory of the uncorruptible <862> God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

- **1 Corinthians 9:25:** *And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible* **<862>**.
- **1 Corinthians 15:52:** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible <862>, and we shall be changed.
- **1 Timothy 1:17:** Now unto the King eternal, immortal <862>, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.
- **1 Peter 1:4:** To an inheritance incorruptible <862>, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
- **1 Peter 1:23:** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of **incorruptible** <862>, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
- **1 Peter 3:4:** But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible <862>, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.



Immortality: Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #110 athanasia; from a compound of #1 alpha (as a negative particle) and #2288 thanatos; deathlessness:—immortality

Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon: undying, immortality, everlasting

#110 is the opposite of:

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance #2288 *thanatos*; from #2348 *thnēskō* (a verb meaning "to die"); (properly, an adjective used as a noun) death (literally or figuratively)



All uses in the King James Version:

- **1 Corinthians 15:53:** For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on *immortality <110>*.
- **1 Corinthians 15:54:** So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality <110>, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.
- **1 Timothy 6:16:** Who only hath immortality <110>, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.



Ep.1382: Can I Inherit Immortality?

https://christianquestions.com/program/1382-immortality/



- 1. Define and describe the Greek words athanasia and aphthartos.
- 2. What cannot inherit the kingdom of God? What is first necessary for the dead to be *raised incorruptible*? (1 Corinthians 15:50-52)
- 3. What are Jesus' positions since his resurrection? (Philippians 2:9-11, Ephesians 1:18-23)
- 4. What did Jesus inherit when raised from the dead? Does that apply also to us? (1 Peter 1:3-5)
 - a. Living the call: How do we purify our lives? (1 Peter 1:22-23)
 - b. Living the call: Describe what God's call is likened to. (1 Corinthians 9:24-25, Revelation 2:10)
 - c. Living the call: What do we have to do? (Romans 12:1-2)
 - d. How are you living your Christian faith? How can you make sure you are training every day, not just on Sunday?
- 5. Who is given immortality? What about everybody else?
- 6. What do "eternal" and "forever" mean in the Bible? What's the difference between immortal life and eternal life? (Romans 8:28, John 3:16-17)
- 7. Why will the world gain eternal life? How do they earn the right to keep it? What will the world they live in, and their lives, be like? (1 John 2:2, Isaiah 35:9-10)
- 8. Do you feel you have been called by God? Are you walking in the footsteps of Jesus? How do you sacrifice your own will and desires to follow what God would have you do? How do you see God's holy spirit working in your life?

