



## THE FOUNTAIN OF ETERNAL YOUTH

*A Story Based on Biblical Truths – by Ron Myers*

Greetings. My name is Ron Myers. I want to tell you a story about *The Fountain of Eternal Youth*. This version is based on the Bible. As individuals, we like to think of ourselves as masters of our own destiny; what we decide to do, buy, eat, wear, and where we go or live. Yet, the card game of life deals both good and bad hands to each of us – joys and sorrows, failures and successes. Actually, we have little or no control over the weather, who our parents are, our place of birth, sickness, aging, and finally, death. We aren't even guaranteed our next breath!

King Solomon wrote in the book of Ecclesiastes, “*The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, or riches to those with understanding, since time, and chance, happens to us all.*”

But what if it were possible to stay young and enjoy life forever? There *is* a way, just one way. I'll explain how if you're interested. It's all based on Bible truths you can look up for yourself in your own Bible. Since the beginning of time, great fortunes have been spent by people consumed with finding the mystical and illusive *Fountain of Youth*, all in hopes of escaping the curse of death and attaining eternal youth with one sip of its magical waters. Yet no one can be sure this mythical fountain exists other than in fables and tales.

However, there is an actual fountain of eternal youth that does exist. It can only be found in one place – Heaven! It's called *The Fountain of the Water of Life*, of which the Bible speaks (Revelation 21:6), and God is its owner. It's an inexhaustable fountain, overflowing with God's Lovingkindness, fortified with His mercy and Grace. Whoever drinks its cool thirst-quenching waters will receive eternal life the moment they do so. That's because God is generous and provides eternal life freely for all who come humbly in repentant faith (Revelation 22:17).

Heaven. What is it like? The Bible describes Heaven as a celestial city adorned with gold, pearls, and precious jewels. It's surrounded by flowery fields, fruit orchards, hills, lakes, and forests, like the new Earth will be in the future – free from sin and evil. God and His Holy Angels live there. It's serene and peaceful, with streets of purest gold and mansions where Christians live – not sitting on puffy little clouds playing harps, as depicted in cartoons (Revelation 20:1–8).

God is holy and righteous, clothed with unapproachable light. He will not allow anything impure or unholy into Heaven. That being said, if God were to ask you right now, “*Why should I let you into Heaven?*” What reason would you offer God that He should open Heaven's gates and allow you to enter? The following are some of the reasons people might offer Him.

“*I'm very religious.*” “*I'm a spiritual person.*” “*I have my faith.*” “*My parents were good Christians ...Catholics.*” “*I've attended church and Sunday school all my life.*” “*I'm Baptized ...Sprinkled.*” “*I take Communion ... Eucharist.*” “*I'm a Baptist, Independent, Catholic, Lutheran, Methodist, Adventist, Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, Jehovah's Witness, ...Agnostic. I'm an Atheist, so I don't believe in you*” “*I say the Lord's Prayer ...confess my sins ... say the Rosary each night.*” “*I wear a Cross ...my favorite Saint medal.*” “*I attend Mass.*” “*Everyone says I'm a good person.*” “*I'm honest.*” “*I don't swear ...lie ...cheat ...steal ...smoke ...drink ...do drugs.*” “*I've never harmed animals.*” “*I give to good causes.*” “*I serve my community.*” “*I belong to a good organization.*” “*I live by the Golden Rule.*” “*I believe all religions are good.*” etc., etc.

Whatever reason you offer God, I'm sure you hope He'll show compassion and let you into Heaven. Yes, God *is* loving and compassionate. But no, although these reasons may sound good from a human perspective, not one is acceptable before God. That's because they are all based on trust in oneself, one's good deeds, good behavior, church affiliation, etc. Offering God your good deeds means you'll face His scrutiny at the coming *Great White Throne Judgment*, spoken of in the Book of Revelation 20:11–15. There, you will stand alone before a Righteous and Holy God – your Divine Judge. There, you'll have to account for every thought, intent, attitude, and action of your life. Nothing will be hidden from His sight, not even your secret sins that no one knows but you. *“For the Lord is the God of knowledge; And by Him, actions are weighed”* (1 Samuel 2:3).

King David, the writer of Psalms, said: *“Who shall ascend to the hill of the Lord? Or, who shall stand in his holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart.”* All you've earned for your trying is an eternal death sentence alongside Satan and his fallen angels forever in the Lake of Fire. There's no such thing as purgatory. No second chances. Now is the time to do something – but what? That's the *Bad News*. Lost! Forever! With absolutely *no* hope! Unless there's some way to wash your sins away.

But wait! The Bible also has *Good News*! Excellent news. Despite your sin, the good news is that God loves you more deeply than you could ever know (John 3:16, Ephesians 3:16–21, 1 John 4:8 & 16). He doesn't want you to perish, but be saved and escape the great and terrible *White Throne Judgment* of sin. It's not about what you do or don't do (either good or bad) that counts, but in whom you trust. That's the key by which God will gladly grant you entry into Heaven – knowing and trusting in Jesus Christ, His beloved Son, as your own Savior.

Remember, the key is to trust in the Lord Jesus Christ's deeds on your behalf, not in yourself. Jesus said in John 10, *“I have come so they might have a more abundant life.”* In John, chapters 3:15–17 and 3:36, Jesus speaks of Himself, saying, *“Whoever believes in me will not perish but have eternal life. For God loved the world (humanity) so much, He sent Me, His only Son, so that whosoever trusts in Me will not perish, but have eternal life.”*

Jesus also said, *“God did not send Me into the world to condemn people, but deliver them, that all might be saved through Me. Whoever trusts in Me is not condemned, but whoever does not trust in Me is already condemned because they have not trusted in Me as God's only Son. Whoever trusts in Me has everlasting life; but whoever does not trust in Me shall not see life, because God's holy wrath rests upon him.”*

Now, replace the underlined words with your name. Repeat them slowly as you ask God for mercy. The Bible promises you will be forgiven and saved for eternity from that moment if you are truly serious and repentant of your sin. Open your Bible and read these verses yourself. These verses are found in John 3:15-17 & 36. Other Bible verses about God's gift of salvation are Acts 16:31, Ephesians 2:8-9 & 10, and Titus 3:3-6.

Now, when God asks you, *“Why should I let you into Heaven,”* the only correct answer you can give Him is: ***“I acknowledge my sin, accept Jesus' atoning sacrifice on my behalf, and embrace Him as my Savior.”*** You see, it's not a matter of trying or doing, but in whom you trust. Trusting in your own good deeds can *never* earn God's favor because your feeble efforts fall way short of God's righteous requirements.

The Prophet Isaiah said, our good deeds are like *filthy rags* in God's sight since they're tainted with sin (Isaiah 64:6). If you gave someone you loved a precious gift, how would you feel if they tried to pay for it with filthy old rags? That's how God feels if you try to offer your sin-tainted deeds in return for His priceless gift of eternal life, given freely to all who repent and trust Christ. On the brighter side, Isaiah also said, *“We have all gone astray like lost sheep; each one has gone his own way, and the LORD has laid on [Jesus] the iniquity of us all”* (Isaiah 53:6).

The Apostle Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome states that, as fallen creatures, sin is a part of our nature. As such, we all fall short of God's holy requirements. The penalty for sin is spiritual death (see Romans 3:23). Spiritual death means to be cast into *The Lake of Fire* for all eternity, separated from God and all things good forever. Remember, despite what you may have heard, there's no such thing as purgatory or a second chance.

**Note:** Read verses about the *Spiritual or Second Death* in Revelation 2:11, 20:6 & 14, and 21:8.

That doesn't mean we're incapable of performing acts of human kindness. But we're utterly incapable of pleasing God on our own, or meeting His holy standards (Romans 3:10-12). It isn't enough to believe certain facts about Christ. Even Satan and his demons believe in the true God and tremble (James 2:19).

God showed His great love for us by sending us His only Son, Jesus (John 3:16). Through Jesus, God provides forgiveness and eternal life as a gift, available for whoever will receive Him (Romans 6:23). Jesus took our penalty upon Himself, dying in our place, thereby setting us free. Jesus walked out of the burial tomb three days later in His resurrected body (Matthew 28:6, Revelation 1:18). He had conquered death and crushed Satan's power over our lives (Genesis 3:15, Hebrews 2:14). His resurrection also provided Justification for us before God, proving his death was sufficient and binding (Romans 4:5). In all this, He redeemed us, restored our peace with God the Father, and gave us right standing in His holy sight (Romans 5:1; 2 Corinthians 5:17 & 21).

How did Jesus do this for us? He is called "*The Lamb of God Who Takes Away the Sin of the World*" (John 1:29). In Old Testament times, when Israel was under the Law, God required lambs – repeatedly sacrificed to cover their sins temporarily – to be perfect and without blemish. Jesus, who lived a holy, sinless life, is our perfect sacrificial lamb. However, Jesus died just once for all time to erase all sins for all humankind (read Isaiah 53:6).

So, when it comes time for you to leave this Earth, and you hear God ask, "*Why should I let you into Heaven?*" you can confidently say: "*Because I'm Trusting in Your Son Jesus as my Savior!*" (Hebrews 4:16). God sees your heart. He knows if you're genuinely repentant for your sinful thoughts and actions. To *repent* means to change one's mind or beliefs about things, which proceeds the change of behavior and deeds which will follow (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Acknowledging your lost, sinful condition and trusting in Jesus means you've drunk from the life-giving water of God's *Fountain of Eternal Life*. If you've indeed done that, it means you're now one of God's holy children. You're forgiven, washed clean of all your sin by Christ's Blood, and saved from God's *Great White Throne Judgment*. If you choose not to drink from the Fountain of Eternal Life (receive Christ), you will have to pay for your sins – die spiritually (the second death) in the Lake of Unquenchable Fire with Satan and his demon angels. It's your decision; *Eternal Life* or *eternal death*. I pray you will choose Life. Embrace Jesus in your heart personally *right now* as your own sin-bearing Savior!

In conclusion, we are Saved – given eternal life and spared from judgment – by God's loving Grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone, apart from good works of any kind, according to the Scriptures alone!

#### **BIBLE PASSAGES ABOUT SALVATION AND HOW TO BE SAVED:**

"As many as received Him ... He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe on His Name" (John 1:12).

"That whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:15-16).

"Nor is there salvation in any other [person], for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

"For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not by your own deeds; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast, for we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:8-10).

"For we were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when God's kindness and love appeared, He saved us; not by works of righteousness we have done (good deeds), but according to His mercy – through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Having been justified (made holy) by His Grace, we have become heirs according to the hope of eternal life" (Titus 3:3-7).

## **BIBLE PASSAGES FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION:**

### **The Great White Throne Judgment (See Revelation 20:11-15)**

*"Then I (John the Apostle) saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face both earth and the Heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead – both small and great – standing before God, and record books were opened. And another book was opened, the Lamb's Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works and the things written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then, Death and Hell were cast into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Lamb's Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire."*

### **Heaven Described, and Who Qualifies (See Revelation 21:1-8)**

*"Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first Heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also, there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down from Heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from Heaven saying, "Behold, the Dwelling Place of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God, Himself, will be with them; He will be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, sorrow, or crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."*

**The Greatest Promise:** *"Then He who sat on the throne said, 'Behold, I make all things new.' And He said to me (John), 'Write, for these words are true and faithful.' And He said to me, '**It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will freely give the fountain of the water of life to him who thirsts**' (John 4:14, Rev 21:6-8). He who overcomes shall inherit all things; I will be his God, and he shall be My son. However, the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone; this is the second death"( Revelation 20:14). **Note:** *"It is done!"* denotes the main purpose for which Christ came – to be the sacrificial *"Lamb of God Who Takes away the Sins of the World"* (John 12:27). Christ also proclaimed this in the Cross with His dying breath, crying out, *"It is finished"* (John 19:30).*

### **The Greatest Invitation – *Jesus' Words In Red:***

*'And behold, I am coming quickly (without warning), and My reward is with Me, to honor each [Believer] according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.' Blessed are those who do His commandments, have the right to The Tree of Life, and enter through the city's gates. But outside are dogs (people with impure minds), sorcerers and sexually immoral, murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie. 'I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify of these things to you in the churches. I am the Root (ancestor or progenitor) and the Offspring of King David, the Bright and Morning Star.' The Spirit of God and the Bride of Christ say, '**Come!**' And let him who hears say, '**Come!**' And let him who thirsts **come**. Whoever desires, let him (**come**) take the water of life freely.'* (See Revelation 22:12–21)

**The Greatest Warning:** *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds [any additional requirements] to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away [diminishes these truths] from the words of the book of this prophecy, God the Father shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, '**Surely, I am coming quickly.**' Even so, come, Lord Jesus! May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."*