

ETERNAL LIFE.... STARTING NOW



Morning Star
Kate Austin

“You only go around once. So get all the gusto you can.”(TV commercial)

In the popular book *LONG FOR THIS WORLD*, we are told that researchers are seeking to extend human life to 120 years, even to 200 years or more.

Who knows what lies on the other side of death? Let’s figure out a way to extend life here.

Meanwhile, people are still dying by the millions from pandemics, bullets and bombs.

So we have one group of scientists making a good living researching ways to extend life, and another group of scientists making a better living pursuing more efficient ways to destroy and kill.

And lurking in the shadows of all these scientific projects is the specter of Death.

***Our bones are scattered at the graves mouth,
As when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth.
Psalm 141***

Maybe we don’t think about it, even when we go to funerals, but deep within we know our day is coming.

We’re going to die.



Birth Canal

Kate Austin

So what are we going to do about it?

Are we going to focus on seeing how long we can hang on to life in this world?

Or are we going to focus on Jesus' offer of a life that overcomes death?

Seven men were on retreat at a quiet lake in Nova Scotia. We were sitting around the fireplace after supper when the conversation took a serious turn. We were thinking about our lives and why we were even on this earth.

Someone wondered, if Jesus gives us new life, how come our lives are still so trivial and dull.

Next thing you know we were on our knees praying. I can still remember, after all these years, how John, a no-nonsense marine architect, suddenly began weeping.

We heard a distant clap of thunder, although the sky was studded with stars. It seemed like the fear of God had taken hold of us. Was the Holy Spirit paying us a visit?

When it was over, Harry stood by the mantle and matter-of-factly said, "Now I know that I'm never going to die."

What did he mean? Did Harry believe he was never going to leave this world? Not likely. Harry has since died, yet Harry's confidence that he would never die was valid.

Because that night Harry began to live in a way he had never lived before. He was not suddenly sinless. But he was now inhabited by the Spirit, flooding him with a life which would sustain him both in this world and the next.

***"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish,
and no one shall snatch them out of my hand."***

John 10

"I give them eternal life."

Jesus is talking about something more than life that has no ending. He's talking about life that is inhabited by the Eternal.

A life that knows God.

***"This is eternal life: that they know thee, the only true God
and Jesus the Messiah whom you have sent."***

John 17

Eternal life is to know God.

Not to know things about God.

Not to have opinions about God.

But to know God as our Father.

To know Jesus as our Master, Lord, and Friend.

To be connected to him.

To breathe his life.

To know his voice.

To do his will.

To be more certain of him than of anything else in all creation.

Eternal life, a gift from the Lord Jesus, begins on this side of the grave. It's a life we live here on this earth that continues right on through the door of death into the world beyond.



Well Done
Kate Austin

When we receive this gift, it's like stepping out of a tomb into blazing daylight.

This supernatural life consists of four things:

The *Breath* of the world to come *filling our soul*.

The *Truth* of the world to come *holding us to account*.

Love from the world to come, *turning our heart from stone to flesh*.

The *Risen Lord* ... *transforming our weakness into power*.

The proof that we have received this life is not a fuzzy feeling, or chills running down our spine.

The proof that this life has come to us is that we can no longer trivialize God or the things of God without consequences. Once we have this gift, every time we get flippant with the things of God, we pay a price.

Yes, this new life transforms our prayers, and gives courage to our heart. It empowers us. It causes God's love to burn like fire in our soul, affecting the way we see people, the way we treat them.

But the anchor that holds us close to the Lord Jesus is *holiness*...



All Love
Kate Austin

God's blazing holiness.

Once we begin to understand that God is holy, and everything connected with God is holy, our hearts are ready to receive the four springs of eternal life.

First, God fills our soul with the breath of the world to come.

The breath of the world to come is not a feeling, not an ecstasy but a *Person*: the Holy Spirit.

“The wind blows where it wills; and you can hear the sound of it, but you cannot tell where it came from or where it's going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3

Nicodemus needed this gift. The woman at the well needed this gift. You and I need it. Jesus' death and resurrection have made it available to us.

All we have to do is ask and receive----*and obey the Spirit.*

“If you who are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”

Luke 11

Being holy, the Spirit never responds to our glib prayers or shallow devotions. But when our hearts are bowed before him, the Holy Spirit begins to breathe into us his mysterious heavenly life.



Wind of God

Kate Austin

Secondly, God causes the truth of the world to come, to hold us to account.

Truth in this world is under constant attack from the father of lies. Many a man or woman who starts out as a champion of truth, ends up compromised by this world's power. It happens, not only of politicians and celebrity evangelists, but of ordinary folks like you and me.

The truth of the world to come is incorruptible. We can't twist it to suit our agendas. It stands over us like a plumb line from heaven and holds us to account. Once we begin walking in the Spirit, every time we deceive, or exaggerate, or manipulate, we pay a price. Heaven's truth is teaching us that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

Now that we belong to God, we are required to walk in the light and leave the darkness of deceit behind.



Exchange

Kate Austin

Thirdly, God's Spirit causes love from the world to come, to turn our heart of stone into a heart of flesh.

A heart of stone is *stingy*. A heart of flesh is *generous*.

A heart of stone is always *busy with itself*. A heart of flesh *takes time to listen*.

A heart of stone *manipulates people*. A heart of flesh *serves people*.

A heart of stone is *always complaining*. A heart of flesh is *always giving thanks*.

The hand of the Lord Jesus reaches into this heart of stone, touches it, and slowly it begins to soften.

Then in his wisdom the Lord places us together with a motley crew like your church or mine---to teach us how to be patient, how to forgive and ask for forgiveness.

Gradually we change as God's love is shed abroad in our hearts.



In our Hearts
Kate Austin

Finally, the Lord Jesus turns our weakness into the power of the world to come.

By this power Jesus healed the sick and opened blind eyes.

By this power his words burned their way into hearts and caused them to repent.

By this power he was raised from the dead, the Firstborn of the New Creation.

This power seemed trivial to John the Baptist, as he sat in prison, waiting for Jesus to do something “significant.”

To this day the power of the world to come walks the earth in ragged clothes.

Nobody knows where he came from, or where he lives. It's hard to remember what he looks like. He's a nondescript man like a thousand others. Yet this man has a strange impact on your soul. You might find him sitting with a group in a coffee shop, or chatting with an old woman at a bus stop. Sometimes he appears in the park pushing a child in a wheelchair.

Rumor has it that this man has a healing touch. A month ago you talked with a woman who was in the final stages of cancer, only to discover her a week later the picture of health. “What happened?” you asked.

“You wouldn't believe it. A stranger shook my hand at a bus stop and told me to go home and take a nap, ‘Jesus has a surprise for you,’ he said. When I awoke from my nap, all pain was gone. I feel fine. My doctor put me through a series of tests, and just shakes his head.”

Of course, we do not control this power. It comes and goes at God's pleasure. It moves where it will.

But once we abandon ourselves to the Crucified One, the power of the world to come makes its dwelling in us, flowing out of us where and when it chooses.



Abandoned

Kate Austin

This power is simply the life of God: Eternal Life.

***“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.
And I give them eternal life.”***

What waits for us beyond the grave, what happens to us at the Lord's glorious return, depends on one simple question:

Will we receive and live the Life which the Master offers?

Is it in us now?

If we have begun to breathe the breath of heaven,

If heaven's truth is holding us to account,

If heaven's love is burning in our hearts,

If the power of the world to come has found a home in us....



Then we have Eternal Life...

and we are even now walking this earth as Sons and Daughters of the World to Come.

Lord Jesus, may it be so for every thirsty soul who reads these words!

Prayer- Holy Lord, we want to hear your voice, to know you so we can be inhabited by your eternal nature now. Breathe into us your Holy Spirit so that we can bow before your holiness and our hearts are ready for this supernatural gift that you offer us. Teach us to desire truth and reject darkness so that darkness and deceit can't separate us from you. Reach into us and soften our hearts so they can be filled with your eternal love. Help us to stay abandoned to you so that your eternal, healing power can dwell in us and flow through us. May this thirst to know you, to seek your eternal goodness never leave us and continue to help us to find eternal life now.

REB 2014 edited February 2021

Art: Kate Austin christart.co.uk

Maranatha Mirror Messages

mmirror.net

maranathamirror18@gmail.com

586-530-6983 (text or call)

