

December 5 - December 17

KEEPING OURSELVES
IN THE LOVE OF GOD
UNTO ETERNAL LIFE

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THE SEVEN CHURCHES
IN REVELATION

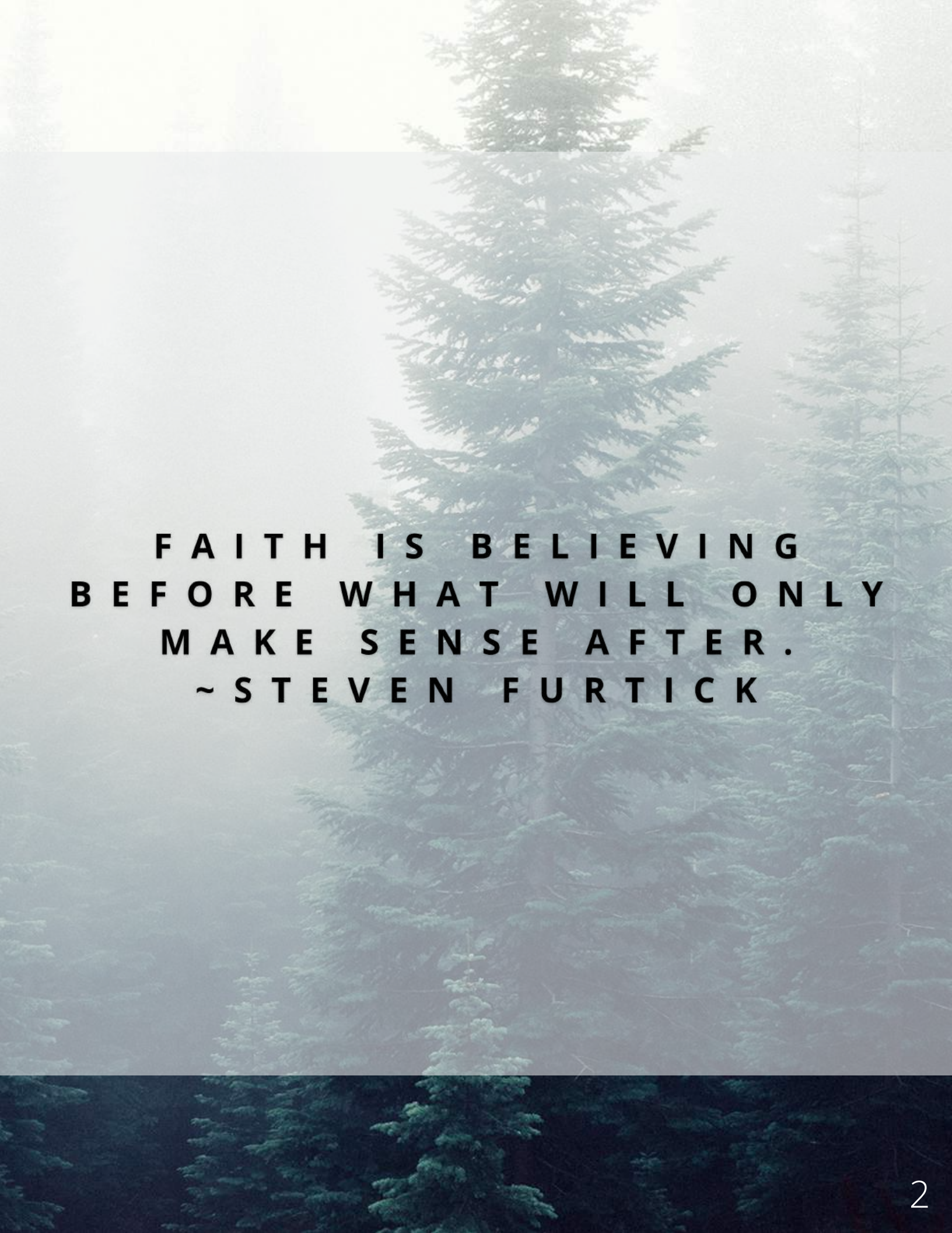
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WHAT DOES IT MEAN
TO WALK IN TRUTH
AND IN LOVE?

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FAITH IS BELIEVING
BEFORE WHAT WILL ONLY
MAKE SENSE AFTER.
~ STEVEN FURTICK



KEEPING OURSELVES IN THE LOVE OF GOD UNTO ETERNAL LIFE



Jude 20 But you, beloved, building up yourselves upon your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

In verse 21 Jude says, “Keep yourselves in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” We should keep ourselves in the love of God by [21] building up ourselves in the holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit. In this way we should await and look for the mercy of our Lord so that we may not only enjoy eternal life in this age, but also inherit it for eternity (Matt. 19:29).

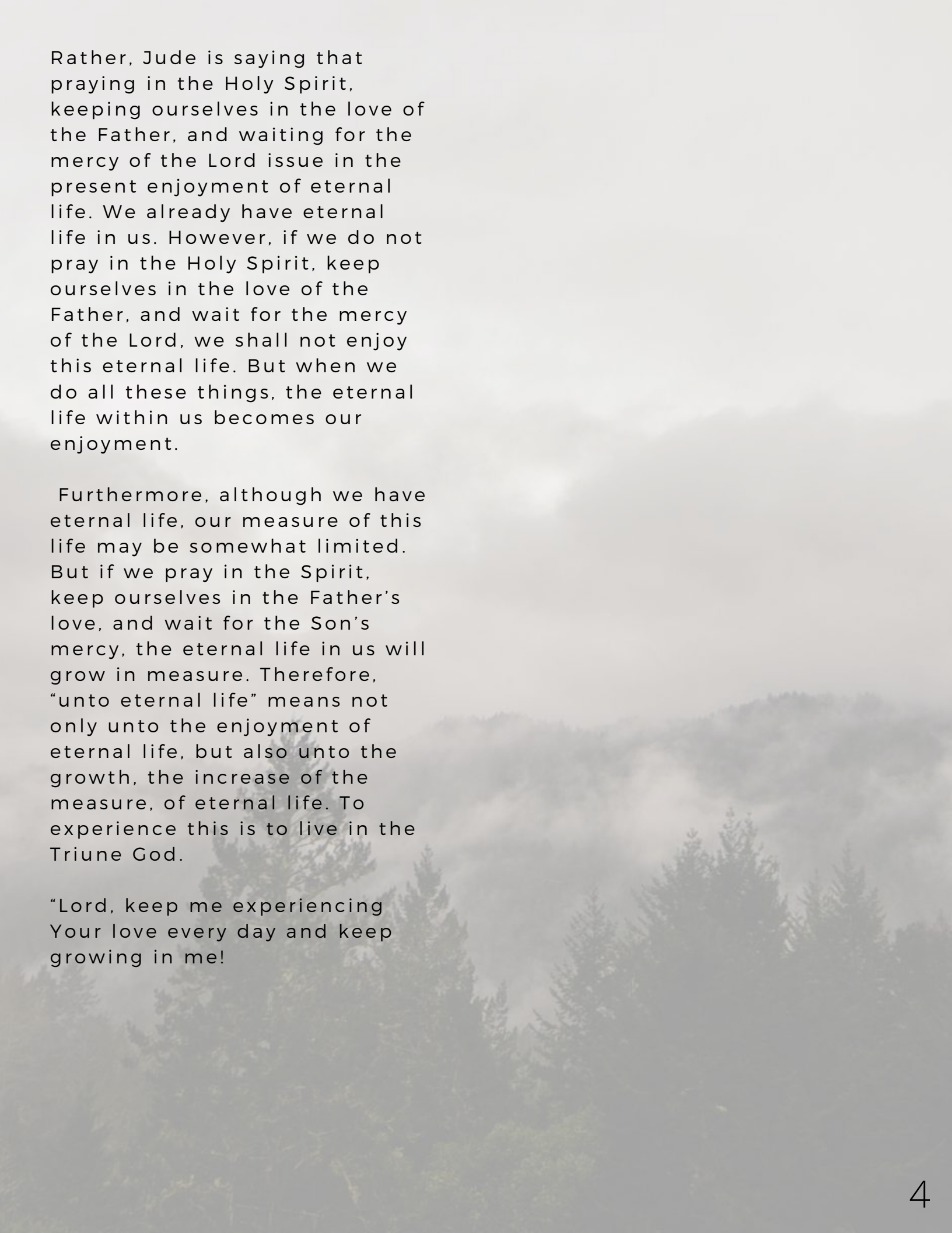
The way to keep ourselves in the love of God is by building ourselves up in our most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit. If we do not build up ourselves in the faith and if we do not pray in the Holy Spirit, it will be easy for us to depart from the love of God. Actually, the words “in the love of God” mean in the enjoyment of the love of God. Here Jude does not speak of

the love of God in an objective way; he speaks of the love of God in a subjective way, in the way of enjoying this love. Hour after hour, we need to enjoy the love of God. We should be in the love of God not only objectively but also subjectively. We need to keep ourselves always in the enjoyment of God’s love by building ourselves up and by praying.

Building up ourselves is related to the holy Word, and praying is related to the Holy Spirit. Therefore, if we have the Word applied to us and the Spirit working within us, we shall be kept in the enjoyment of God’s love as we await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude concludes verse 21 with the words “unto eternal life.” Here the word “unto” means issuing in or resulting in. The enjoyment and inheritance of eternal life, the life of God, is the goal of our spiritual seeking. Because we aim at this goal, we want to be kept in the love of God and await the mercy of our Lord.

Jude is not saying that we do not yet have eternal life. Neither is he saying that if we keep praying in the Holy Spirit and remain in the love of God, awaiting the mercy of the Lord we shall eventually have eternal life.



Rather, Jude is saying that praying in the Holy Spirit, keeping ourselves in the love of the Father, and waiting for the mercy of the Lord issue in the present enjoyment of eternal life. We already have eternal life in us. However, if we do not pray in the Holy Spirit, keep ourselves in the love of the Father, and wait for the mercy of the Lord, we shall not enjoy this eternal life. But when we do all these things, the eternal life within us becomes our enjoyment.

Furthermore, although we have eternal life, our measure of this life may be somewhat limited. But if we pray in the Spirit, keep ourselves in the Father's love, and wait for the Son's mercy, the eternal life in us will grow in measure. Therefore, "unto eternal life" means not only unto the enjoyment of eternal life, but also unto the growth, the increase of the measure, of eternal life. To experience this is to live in the Triune God.

"Lord, keep me experiencing Your love every day and keep growing in me!



THE SCENE AROUND THE THRONES IN THE HEAVENS

Rev. 4:1 - After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, Come up here, and I will show you the things that must take place after these things.

God's plan is hidden in heaven. When God finds a man on earth after His heart, heaven is opened to him. It was opened to Jacob (Gen. 28:12-17), to Ezekiel (Ezek. 1:1), to Jesus (Matt. 3:16), to Stephen (Acts 7:56), and to Peter (Acts 10:11). Here, and in 19:11, it is opened to John, the writer of this book, and it will be opened to all believers in the Lord in eternity (John 1:51).

In Revelation 4, John first saw a scene in the heavens, which was the scene immediately after Christ's ascension into the heavens (Rev. 5:6). In this scene, God was sitting upon the throne like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance (Rev. 4:2-3).

Verse 2 says, "Immediately I was






in spirit; and behold, there was a throne set in heaven." In heaven, there is firstly a throne, and the book of Revelation is focused upon it. Beginning with chapter four, this book unveils God's universal administration. The throne of God in Revelation is the center of God's administration. While the throne in the Epistles is the throne of grace from which we receive mercy and find grace (Heb. 4:16), the throne here is the throne of judgment from which the world receives judgment. This is God's throne in heaven. The whole universe, especially the earth, is under this throne. Whatever Satan does in the air and whatever man does on earth is under God's throne in heaven.

Today, man may do anything he likes, but the throne of God in heaven is still the authority over all men and all things. No one can do anything and nothing can happen outside of the rule of God's throne. Apparently, this throne is invisible and is not

realized by man, but actually it is behind the scene ruling over everyone and everything. In God's time and for the fulfillment of God's purpose, the appropriate judgment always comes out of this throne to mankind and upon the things transpiring on earth. In the book of Revelation, the consummate issue comes from the completion of the execution of God's judgment. This judgment proceeds from the throne and clears up the confusion both in heaven and on earth caused by Satan's rebellion and man's fall.

Reference:

1. <https://www.timeanddate.com/astronomy/rainbow.html>
2. <https://www.etsy.com/no-en/listing/700596042/green-jasper-crystal-1-rough-jasper>
3. <https://www.dreamstime.com/illustration/sardius-stone.html>
4. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emerald>
5. <http://njkproject.blogspot.com/2011/01/four-living-creatures-throughout-bible.htm>

Scene around the throne in heavens	Pictures	Intrinsic Significances	Verses
Rainbow		God is the covenanting God who will keep His covenant while executing His judgement upon the earth	Rev. 4:3
Jasper Stone		In the Bible, green signifies life. Thus, the color of jasper stone indicates that the God on the throne is the very God of life and source of life	Rev. 4:3
Sardius		Sardius, red in color, signifies redemption. God not only is the God of life but also is the God of redemption.	Rev. 4:3
Emerald		Emerald in the Bible signifies lives on earth. Rainbow around God's throne like an emerald indicates that while executing judgement, God will honor his covenant and spare lives on earth	Rev. 4:3
Ox, Eagle, Man, Lion		Ox: willing to bear burden and labor Eagle: transcendent and buoyant in the life of God Man: living in a proper humanity Lion: a symbol of Christ as a strong fighter against the enemy	Ezek 1:10, Rev. 4:7

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO WALK IN TRUTH AND IN LOVE?

2 John 4-6 "I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, even as we received commandment from the Father. And now I ask you, lady, not as writing a new commandment to you but that which we have had from the beginning, that we love one another. And this is love, that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, even as you heard from the beginning, that you walk in love."

Here we see two types of walk that the apostle John mentioned here. One is to walk in truth, and one is to walk in love. So in order to understand this one needs to find out what it means to walk and what is truth and what is love?

Here in 2 John 4 the walk here in Greek is περιπατέω (peripateo). Peripateo, means to have our being, to deport

ourselves, to order our manner of life, to walk about. It is used with respect to ordinary daily life. It denotes a common, habitual daily walk.

Now see what walking means, we need to see what the truth is. In the Bible, truth is closely connected to God. Apart from Him, there is no absolute truth – as many philosophers and scientists have experienced. We see in John 14:6 that the Lord Himself stated, "...I am the way, and the reality, and the life...", meaning that the truth is Jesus Himself. So to walk in the truth means to bring our lives into conformity with God's revealed truth. We should stand firm in the truth of God's Word, teach the truth plainly, and take it as the starting point for our decisions.

So then now what is love? Here in 2 John 6 the love here means obeying God's commandments. Love is not merely an emotion, but requires actions based on truth. Here, the exact Greek word is agape, translated as "love," specifically meaning a selfless focus on other people. John's use of it here certainly includes emotional aspects, but is much more specific than most modern definitions of love. The

primary example of this kind of love is Jesus, who showed it through His life and actions. It includes loving one another as well as walking in obedience to God's truth.

So in conclusion we see that to walk in truth is walk in the light of the truth of the Person of Christ. The truth should not be just knowledge to us but a living out of the Person of Christ in us. To walk in love is to obey God's commandments(John 14:15), which is to love our God with all our heart and to love other with the love of God (Matt 22:37-40; John 13:34).



A H Y M N A D A Y K E E P S
Y O U H U M M I N G A L L T H E
W A Y



BUT YOU, BELOVED,

1

But you, beloved, building up
Yourselves on your most holy faith,
Keep yourselves in the love of God,
By praying, praying
in the Holy Spirit.

2

Awaiting mercy of our Lord,
Mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ,
Which issues in eternal life—
The life of God—
the goal of our seeking.

3

All praise to Him who's able to
Guard you from stumbling and set you,
Set you before His glory then,
Yes, without blemish
and in exultation.

4

Praise to our only Savior God,
All praise to Jesus Christ, our Lord;
To Him be glory, majesty,
And might, authority
before all time and now,

5

Amen, unto eternity.
Amen, Your glory, majesty,
The might and the authority
Be Yours, be Yours,
our only Savior God and Lord.

6

Amen, unto eternity.
Amen, Your glory, majesty,
The might and the authority
Be Yours, be Yours,
our only Savior God and Lord.

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK ONE (12/05-12/10)

MONDAY: 2 JOHN

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/63_2John_1.htm

TUESDAY: 3 JOHN

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/64_3John_1.htm

WEDNESDAY: JUDE

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/65_Jude_1.htm

THURSDAY: REVELATION 1

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_1.htm

FRIDAY: REVELATION 2

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_2.htm#Rev2

B I B L E C H A L L E N G E

GOAL: TO READ THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT IN ONE YEAR

5 CHAPTERS A WEEK

WEEK TWO (12/12-12/17)

MONDAY: REVELATION 3

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_3.htm#Rev3

TUESDAY: REVELATION 4

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_4.htm#Rev4

WEDNESDAY: REVELATION 5

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_5.htm#Rev5

THURSDAY: REVELATION 6

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_6.htm#Rev6

FRIDAY: REVELATION 7

https://text.recoveryversion.bible/66_Revelation_7.htm#Rev7