

Forever Free Ministries

AMAZING PROPHECIES

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“THE DAY THAT SHOOK THE WORLD!”

Discover the greatest revelation of Christ’s love now.
It required eternal death to bring eternal life!

By Pastor Mark A. Fox / Forever Free Ministries / Toll Free: 1-855-336-FREE

Jesus struggled with the most costly decision in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We cannot understand the sufferings of Christ on Calvary unless we understand His sufferings in Gethsemane. We must know the thoughts of Christ during His passion more than just His physical sufferings.

A KEY THOUGHT THAT IS AT THE CORE OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS: “IT REQUIRED ETERNAL DEATH TO BRING ETERNAL LIFE!” Just keep that in mind as you read and study about the Passion of Christ.

Key Scriptures to Study:

Jonah 1:17 – Three Days and Nights

Jonah 2:6 – Forever

Matthew 26:38 – I feel as though I am dying

Luke 22:42-44 – Angel strengthening

Matthew 27:46 – forsaken forever

Romans 6:23 – eternal death

Revelation 21:8 – second death

Psalms 88:4-6 – deepest pit

John 19:30-37 – blood and water

Psalms 69:20 – broken heart

Galatians 3:13 -- cursed

2 Corinthians 5:21 – became sin

Isaiah 53:1-12 – man of sorrows

Isaiah 59:2 – iniquities separated

Zechariah 12:10 – pierced

Habakkuk 3:4 – Hiding of His power



Introduction: Beginning in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus began to experience the most horrible separation from His Father’s love and light.

Why? Jesus took all our guilt, condemnation & sin. See Isaiah 53:3-5

The Movie Passion of Christ is misleading many to focus on the physical suffering And not upon the mental anguish of Christ. This Bible Study will reveal the truth About Christ’s passion. The most important revelation in the entire Bible. The Most powerful dimension of the gospel that has power to change our hard Hearts and help us to be on fire for Christ.

Let me make this abundantly clear. This revelation will make you a very Successful soul winner for Christ as you learn how to preach Christ and Him crucified.

1. When did Jesus begin to feel this separation? Garden of Gethsemane

2. Because of this new bitter experience of separation, what did Jesus pray?

“My Father, if it is possible, don’t make me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.” Matthew 26:39 CEV

What was in this cup put to the lips of Christ? It was the wrath of God because of all our sins.

Jesus knew He would go through suffering but it was far greater and more oppressive than He could ever have imagined. Like a woman who is told while she is pregnant that delivering a baby is incredibly painful and then the actual experience is far more painful than it was previously thought.

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The birth pangs of Christ's passion were becoming more pronounced in the Garden of Gethsemane and then with the greatest intensity on the Cross.

3. How does the Bible describe this separation that Jesus was beginning to feel in the Garden of Gethsemane?

"Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race." Desire of Ages, 804

Jesus experienced all of the following...

THE FATE OF THE WICKED!

- God's wrath – Rev. 19:15; Romans 1:24 "God also gave them up..." Left alone.
- Second Death – Rev. 21:8; Rom.6:23. Eternal death.
- Depart from Me – Luke 13:28
- Weeping – Luke 12:38; Matt. 13:42,50
- Outer darkness & Weeping – Matt.8:12; 25:30; 22:13
- Tormented – Rev.14:10,11
- Everlasting punishment – Matt.25:46
- Cursed, eternal fire -- Matt. 25:41
- God's Wrath = Eternal Separation

4. What was the most oppressive fear that oppressed the soul of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane?

"As Christ felt His unity with the Father broken up, He feared that in His human nature He would be unable to endure the coming conflict with the powers of darkness." "With the issues of the conflict before Him, Christ's soul was filled with dread of separation from God. Satan told Him that if He became the surety for a sinful world, the separation would be eternal. He would be identified with Satan's kingdom, and would nevermore be one with God." Desire of Ages, by Ellen G. White, p. 735

Jesus feared that the separation from His Father was eternal. Jonah feared and thought he would die an eternal death in the watery grave as a result of the wrath of God. Jesus took all the wrath of God upon Him. Jonah 2:6

5. What was the result of Christ bearing our sins?

- "smitten by God and afflicted." Isaiah 53:4
- "He was wounded (pierced) for our transgressions." Isaiah 53:5
- "He was bruised (**CRUSHED**) for our iniquities." Isaiah 53:5
- What was being crushed? It was the heart of Christ. Jesus would end up dying from a broken heart.
- "And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:6
- "The sins of men weighed heavily upon Christ, and the sense of God's wrath against sin was crushing out His life." Desire of Ages 735
- "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise (**CRUSH**) Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin." Isaiah 53:10
- "He shall see the labor of His soul" Isaiah 53:11
- "For He shall bear their iniquities" Isaiah 53:11
- "He bore the sin of many" Isaiah 53:12
- The dying that began in the Garden of Gethsemane culminated on the Cross.
- It was not the nails or the whip or the thorns or the beatings that took Jesus life it was the sorrow of His Father separating from Him because of our sin that CRUSHED THE HEART OF JESUS.
- Every day of Christ's life He experienced sorrows that were crushing out His life but He prayed all night many times to be revived and renewed just like we need to. The promise is: "Come unto Me and I will give you rest" Matthew 11:28. "Those who wait upon

6. What did Christ cling to in the Garden of Gethsemane?

"In His agony He clings to **the cold ground**, as if to prevent Himself from being drawn farther from God." Desire of Ages 735

7. What did the disciples see in the face of Christ in the Garden of Gethsemane?

"They saw His face marked with bloody sweat of agony, and they were filled with fear. His anguish of mind they could not understand. 'So His visage was marred more than any man, and His form more than the sons of men.' Isaiah. 52:14." DA 738

8. Once again, what was Jesus experiencing in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Jesus felt totally.... ABANDONED / Jesus could only see....**DARKNESS!** / Jesus was now becoming...SIN

9. When did Jesus begin to feel this separation?

The Garden of Gethsemane. This was before the Cross. Jesus was plunged into abject darkness because of our sins.

10. How did Jesus express how this separation from His Father made Him feel?

"I feel as though I am dying" Matthew 26:38. In Isaiah 53:3-5 said that Jesus would be "crushed" by our sins. Jesus heart or mind was crushed by the displeasure of Christ. Jesus sorrow was so great beyond our comprehension.

11. What specifically was causing Jesus to begin to die in the Garden of Gethsemane?

The Bible says that the wicked suffer utter darkness for their sin and so Jesus as our substitute suffered great darkness in Gethsemane. "Turning away, Jesus sought again His retreat, and fell prostrate, overcome by the horror of a great darkness. The humanity of the Son of God trembled in that trying hour." "He prayed not now for His disciples that their faith might not fail, but for His own tempted, agonized soul." "The awful

moment had come—that moment which was to decide the destiny of the world. The fate of humanity trembled in the balance.” The Desire of Ages.

- “He Himself has suffered being tempted (tested)” Hebrews 2:18. Strong temptations to leave man to perish and go back to His Father was causing Jesus to SUFFER mental agony.
- “And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. Then His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.” Luke 22:44.
- “...He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death,...” Hebrews 5:7
- Why would Jesus pray that He would not have to die this death? Because it looked like it would be forever. Forever separated from His loving Father.

12. What agonizing decision did Jesus need to make in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Jesus could have made a decision to leave man to perish. Our destiny hung in the balance in the Garden of Gethsemane.

There could be no victory on Calvary without the total surrender and commitment to save man even if it cost His eternal life.

“Christ might even now refuse to drink the cup apportioned to guilty man. It was not yet too late. He might wipe the bloody sweat from His brow, and leave man to perish of his sin, and I will go back to My Father. Will the Son of God drink the bitter cup of humiliation and agony?” Desire of Ages 738 **“...His decision is made. He will save man at any cost to Himself.” DA 739**

Jesus made a decision to put us first, to die in our place and to be willing to die an eternal death if it meant we could be saved.

13. After Jesus made the decision to save man even if it meant eternal death, what happened to Him?

“Having made His decision, **He fell dying to the ground** from which He had partially risen.” Desire of Ages, 739

Jesus could have died in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was not the nails or the crucifixion that took His life.

No wonder Jesus prayed three times, “My Father, if it is possible, don’t make me drink from this cup. But do what you want, and not what I want.” Matt. 26:39 CEV. The separation that caused Him to say “I feel as though I am dying” also left Him “dying.”

14. How did His body respond to the mental anguish that He was experiencing as a result of the weight of our sins with it’s guilt and wrath of God?

The Sweat of great drops of blood revealed the mental anguish that Jesus was going through as He struggled in Gethsemane. Can you imagine the mental stress of this separation between He and His Father. It seemed as though He would die in vain with even His disciples sleeping and one of them who already betrayed Him.

15. Did Jesus know He would die for our sins?

Luke 9:22,23 Jesus repeatedly told His disciples that He would go to Jerusalem to be crucified and then rise on the third day.

John 12:27-32. Please read these verses prayerfully and make note if you want. Try to understand these words of Jesus.

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.” Verse 27 “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.” Verse 32

- a. Jesus knew He would be crucified
- b. This troubled Him greatly but He was submissive to His Father’s mission for Him to die for the sins of the world.
- c. Jesus asked the rhetorical question should He pray that His Father save Him from dying on the Cross? His answer was no. This is the reason I came into this sinful world.
- d. So Jesus was determined that He would not ask His Father to save Him from the great sacrifice He was destined for.
- e. The temptation in the Garden of Gethsemane and on the Cross was for Jesus to save himself.
- f. Jesus must have been tempted in the wilderness that He must have made a mistake to fast this long and He must not allow Himself to die and forfeit
- g. The religious leaders gathered around the Cross yelled out to Jesus to save Himself. This was a formidable temptation.
- h. Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane pleaded with His Father to save Him from this hour.
- i. But Jesus submitted to drink the cup of God’s wrath.
- j. I believe Jesus did not fully understand the magnitude of the sacrifice until that Thursday night in the Garden.
- k. Satan tempted Jesus to give up and go back to His Father because of the indifference of ALL His disciples.
- l. Jesus seemed to be changing His mind in Gethsemane. Now He prayed what He said He would not pray: For His Father to save Him. Jesus had the right of going back to His Father.
- m. I believe because Jesus began to experience for the first time the horrible separation from His Father and although knowing all the Messianic prophecies that indeed He would have to endure great mental suffering, He now was learning what was involved and He longed to be close to His Father and yet still pay the price for our sins.
- n. Luke 9:22,23; Matthew 16:23,24,25,26. Jesus knew He would be killed and yet be raised from the dead on the third day.
- o. Peter tried to talk Him out of being killed.
- p. Jesus rebuked Peter because He knew that Satan was the one who was trying to persuade Him to have second thoughts about paying the price for our sins.
- q. Why would Jesus then be so troubled in the Garden of Gethsemane if He knew He would be resurrected on the third day?
- r. Because now in total darkness of guilt and under the wrath of God, Jesus could not see how He would be resurrected if He drank this bitter cup of total separation from His Father.
- s. All during the life of Jesus, Satan tried desperately to separate Him from His Father but could not succeed.

- t. Jesus had to rely on the prophecies in the Bible and to not give up.
- u. But on the Cross it simply appeared that there was no way out of the pit of despair. It seemed there was no way He would ever be resurrected from the tomb.
- v. But Jesus made the decision to drink the bitter cup and just stayed with that decision while on the cross.
- w. **In other words, the decision that was made in Gethsemane was tested on the Cross.**
- x. The gold of Christ's love and faith was tested in the fire while on the Cross.
- y. Once again, Jesus knew He would rise on the third day but when all the sins were placed upon His heart He could not see how that was possible yet He made a decision that even if it meant eternal death He would die for the sinner.

16. What Apostle was ready to lay down His life for Jesus? The Apostle Paul said He was ready to give up His life.

"For I could wish that I myself were ACCURSED from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh, who are Israelites,.." Romans 9:3,4. Accursed = cut off and banished. See also Exodus 32:32. Moses was a type of Christ.

17. Was Jesus changing His mind about dying for us?

No. He just was praying for a way to pay the price for our sins and yet not be separated from His Father. He was so close to His Father more than any other man and now He was feeling farther from God than any other man.

18. What was surprising Jesus at the Garden of Gethsemane?

The gulf between Him and His Father. Jesus had always been close to God.

19. How does God's punishments and judgments make the wicked feel?

"fearfulness" has surprised "the hypocrites" Isaiah 33:14. The Bible says that Fear brings "torment." 1 John 4:18. This Jesus experienced profoundly.

20. What was the overwhelming fear that was crushing, horrifying Jesus?

To be Forever separated from His Father. This is the greatest fear known to man.

21. What is the result of the wrath of God upon the sinner?

"God gave (abandoned) them over" Romans 1:28 Cursed or banished.

22. How does the Bible describe how Jesus experienced the wrath of God?

"I have trodden the winepress alone" Isaiah 63:3. Jesus was alone in His suffering for our sins. Alone because His Father was separating from Him. Alone because the disciples slept instead of supporting Him with their prayers.



23. What is the wrath of God against sin? ETERNAL SEPARATION.

24. What was being withdrawn from Jesus in His greatest time of need?

Jesus was suffering from the sense of the withdrawal of God's love and light.

"Could mortals have viewed the amazement of the angelic host as in silent grief they watched **the Father separating His beams of light, love, and glory from His beloved Son**, they would better understand how offensive in His sight is sin." Desire of Ages, 739.

25. Who did God send to revive Jesus and to help Him to have strength to endure separation with God?

The Angel next to the throne of God. This Angel revived Jesus enough to go to His trial and crucifixion. There was to be no deliverance, no way of escape for Jesus. Jesus must trod the winepress of God's wrath alone.

"And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven, strengthening Him in spirit." Amplified Bible

26. Who did Jesus die for? "God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Romans 5:8

"Christ died for the ungodly." Romans 5:6 / So Jesus took the penalty for sin.

27. What did Jesus die for?

"who gave Himself for sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age" Jesus took our sins upon Himself! Galatians 1:4 "Christ died for our sins." 1 Cor. 15:3 "Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew 1:21

28. Why was Jesus forsaken by God?

"He Who knew no sin, became sin." 2 Corinthians 5:21 "cursed" Galatians 3:13. Thorns were a symbol of the curse upon this earth as a result of sin. Thus thorns upon the head of Christ was symbolic of all the curse of sin being placed upon Christ. JESUS WAS CURSED BECAUSE OF OUR SINS, SO WE CAN BE BLESSED.

29. What kind of death did Jesus die?

Second death. Rev.21:8 No greater death! The great mystery is how can Jesus die the second death and yet be resurrected.

"The wages of sin is death (eternal, second death). Rom. 6:23 Jesus tasted death (eternal, second death) for every man. Heb. 2:9

30. What did Jesus say that revealed His dying despair on the Cross?

"My God, My God, Why has Thou forsaken Me." Matthew 27 DESPAIR! Yet He still committed Himself to His Father.

“Christ felt the anguish which the sinner will feel when mercy shall no longer plead for the guilty race.” Desire of Ages, 804

31. How did Jesus die?

Jesus died of a broken heart. Psalms 69:20; John 19:33,34. The pierced side produced water and blood: Jesus died of a ruptured heart. Why did Jesus die suddenly after just 6 short hours on the Cross? His final dying cry revealed that it was the price for sin: “It is finished.” Just as Jesus finished His work of CREATION on the SIXTH DAY and rested on the 7TH DAY. So Jesus said “it is finished” on the SIXTH DAY and rested in the tomb on the 7th DAY. Jesus is our Creator and Redeemer.

32. What broke the heart of Christ?

“It was the sense of sin, bringing the Father’s wrath upon Him as man’s substitute, that made the cup He drank so bitter, and broke the heart of the Son of God.” DA 753

33. Who took the life of Jesus? His death was His decision.

Jesus said no one could take His life unless He gave it. John 10:17,18 What was it that took the life of Jesus? Did man take it away? Was it the nails, thorns, whip, or the cross?

34. Who made a decision to give up His eternal life and die the second death? Read Exodus 32:32

Moses was a type of Christ. What love did Moses have for his people? Moses was willing to die the second death in order to save his people, so was Jesus. Moses was willing to die an eternal death in order to have His people saved.

35. What incredible sign did Jesus say would help us to believe in Him as our Savior?

Matthew 12:39-40. The Sign of Jonah is the most important sign of Christ. The storm of God’s wrath beat upon the ship. Jonah said if you throw me over as a sacrifice you will be saved from God’s wrath. Jonah was thrown over the boat into the dark ocean feeling Cast out of God’s sight. How long did Jonah say the waters shut him in? “Forever”? (Jonah 2:6) It seemed forever to Jonah in the whale. But it was actually, “Three days” It was both forever and three days. Jonah 1:17. As Jonah could see no hope of coming out of the watery grave; so Jesus could not see any way out of His darkest grave. **When Jesus cried out “My God why hast Thou forsaken Me?” Jesus was feeling FOREVER forsaken by God.** Jesus and Jonah both had a miraculous resurrection or deliverance from the grave as it were. They both would come forth with a warning message: Repent. Jonah preached repentance for 40 days and then came forgiveness for Nineveh. Jesus appeared with a message of repentance and faith for 40 days after His resurrection then He ascended to heaven to plead His blood before His Father in Heaven. Then on the day of Pentecost thousands found forgiveness as they repented of their sins and believed in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. **See Psalms 88:4-6 that describes the deepest pit into which Jesus went – eternal death.**

36. What was the difference between the Christian martyrs and Jesus death?

There have been many martyrs but Jesus died for our sins and experienced eternal separation from God. Remember the movie Ben Hur that featured lions eating Christians in the Roman Coliseum. Peter was crucified upside down. Stephen was stoned to death.

37. What could Jesus not see through while on the Cross? “The Saviour could not see through the portals of the tomb. Hope did not present to Him His coming forth from the grave a conqueror, or tell Him of the Father’s acceptance of the sacrifice. He feared that sin was so offensive to God that Their separation was eternal.” DA, 753. Jonah said he was in the water forever as it seemed it would be. “My God, My God why has Thou forsaken Me” Matthew 27:46.

38. What was the very real temptation that Jesus endured on the Cross?

If you are the Son of God, save Yourself. He could not save Himself & us.

39. What did Jesus not have on the Cross that He did have all during His life?

Jesus always lived to please His Father. See John 8:28,29.

40. Was there any comfort from God for Jesus on the Cross?

While Jesus was on the Cross ...

- No Angel to help Him.
- No confirming voice from God.
- No Moses and Elijah.
- No comfort from His followers.
- No understanding from anyone.
- No Smile from His Father.
- Just darkness and lightning.
- Just condemnation and despair.

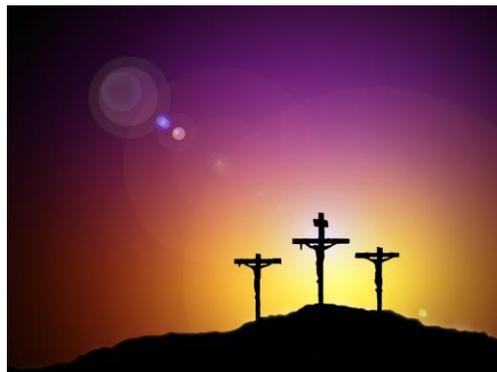
41. What did Jesus carry on the Cross?

“And carried our sorrows” Isaiah 53 NKJV. Sorrow of our sins.

42. What was the greatest sorrow of Christ?

No longer seeing the approving smile and love of His Father.

“Behold and see is any sorrow like my sorrow” Lamentations 1:12 NKJV



43. What is the most mysterious words that Jesus ever uttered?

For the first time Jesus prayed and got no answer from His Father.

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?” “you do not answer,...” Psalms 22:1,2 NIV. Jesus felt utterly abandoned by His Father. He felt total despair of a guilty man.

44. What Psalm describes the mental anguish of Christ while suffering on the Cross?

“You have put me in the deepest and darkest grave; your anger rolls over me like ocean waves. ... I am a prisoner who cannot escape and I am almost blind because of my sorrow.” Psalms 88:6-8 NIV “in the land of oblivion?” Vs 12 “hide your face from me?” Vs 14 “in the land of oblivion?” Vs 12 “hide your face from me?” Vs 14. Jesus found no escape from the “darkest grave.” It seemed to Jesus that He would go into the grave forever.

45. What was required from Christ to save us?

It required eternal death to bring eternal life. The eternal death of Christ was the only way to reveal the love of God for us. Just as Jonah said it seemed He would be in the water forever and yet it was three days. Jesus made the decision if it took His eternal death He would save man at any cost to Himself. Nothing was withheld to save man from sin.

46. Could Jesus have failed?

The fact that Jesus was tempted confirms that He could have failed.

GOD AND JESUS TOOK AN ETERNAL RISK: “He permitted Him to meet life’s peril in common with every human soul, to fight the battle as every child of humanity must fight it, at the risk of failure and eternal loss. The heart of human father yearns over His Son. He looks into the face of His little child, and trembles at the thought of life’s peril. He longs to shield his dear one from Satan’s power, to hold him back from temptation and conflict. To meet a bitterer conflict and a more fearful risk, God gave His only-begotten Son, that the path of life might be made sure for our little ones. ‘Herein is love.’ Wonder, O heavens! And be astonished, O earth!” DA page 49.

“Then as the glories of the eternal home burst upon our enraptured senses we shall remember that Jesus left all this for us, that HE not only became an exile from the heavenly courts, but for us took the RISK OF FAILURE AND ETERNAL LOSS. Then we shall cast our crowns as His feet, and raise the song, ‘Worthy is the Lamb...’ Revelation 5:12.” **Desire of Ages (JESUS COULD HAVE FAILED!)**

47. What is going to be the only reminder of sin throughout all eternity?

In heaven some will ask “What are these wounds between your arms (hands)?” Then he will answer “Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.” Zechariah 13:6

“One reminder alone remains: Our Redeemer will ever bear the marks of His crucifixion. Upon His wounded head, upon His side, His hands and feet, are the only traces of the cruel work that sin has wrought. Says the prophet, beholding Christ in His glory: ‘He had bright beams coming out of His side: and there was the hiding of His power.’ Habakkuk 3:4, margin. That pierced side whence flowed the crimson stream that reconciled man to God—there is the Saviour’s glory, three ‘the hiding of His power.’ ‘Mighty to save,’ through the sacrifice of redemption are His highest honor; through the eternal ages the wounds of Calvary will show forth His praise and declare His power.” Great Controversy by Ellen G. White, p. 674. **The wound at His side was the only one of the wounds that revealed how He died of a broken heart because of our sins. This reveals His decision to love us at any cost.**

Conclusion: Consider what Christ accomplished on the Cross:

- He uplifted the Law of God which everyone else had broken.
- He rested in the tomb on the Sabbath day thus even in His death Jesus honored and kept the Sabbath.
- His heart broke so He could heal the broken-hearted.
- **He bore His cross so He could help us bear ours.**
- **He died so we might live.**
- **He rose so that we could rise forever**
- The Cross provides No greater or clearer revelation of God’s love.
- The cross reveals the character of God, the Father.
- God gave Himself in the person of His Son, Jesus. John 3:16
- **The Cross reveals that “The Father Himself loves you.” John 16:27**
- The Cross reveals OUR NEED OF THE LOVE OF GOD.
- The Cross reveals Our Creator died for His Creation.
- The Cross of Calvary reveals no greater self-denial. Matthew 20:28
- The Bible is all about God’s great love for all of us.
- Jesus gave an example of never giving up. He said “Father, Your hands I commit My spirit.’ Having said this, He breathed His last.” Luke 23:46.



Appeal: IT REQUIRED ETERNAL DEATH TO BRING ETERNAL LIFE!

Do you surrender with all your heart to Our Father in Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ because they love you so much?