



[John 17:3](#)

(3) And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

[John 17:6](#)

(6) "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

[John 17:11](#)

(11) Now I am no longer in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to You. Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me, that they may be one as We *are*.

[John 17:26](#)

(26) And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

New King James Version

[Jesus Christ](#) refers to God's name three times in this brief and exceedingly important [prayer](#)! The name represents what He spent His ministry revealing to us about [God](#). He keeps us through His name both by our trusting in what it means and our obedience to how it shows we should live.

He defines *eternal life* as "to know God." "Know" suggests a very close intimacy, just as a husband and wife are intimate in marriage ([Genesis 4:1](#)). It indicates experiential knowledge, not theoretical. In [Amos 5:4](#), God exclaims, "Seek Me and live!" He is saying, "Turn to Me and My way of life; seek to know Me," not "Search for Me," because

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He has already revealed Himself to us. He is saying, "Seek to know Me by living the same way I do." That is how experiential knowledge of Him becomes an intimate knowing of Him. He will walk with such people ([Amos 3:3](#)).

Aionis, the word translated "eternal," deals less with duration of life (although it is included), than it does with **quality** of life. Living endlessly is not necessarily good. Would anyone want to live forever with a demon's quality of life? True [eternal life](#) is the life of God. To possess it means experiencing *now* some of its splendor because it is being lived and producing its glorious fruits.

[Psalm 9:10](#) adds, "And those who know Your name will put their trust in You; for You, Lord, have not forsaken those who seek You." Those living by [faith](#) do not trust in what He is called, for that would be mere superstition. Their faith is in **what He is**, His character and nature, which they have experienced by seeking to live His way.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[The Third Commandment \(1997\)](#)

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