

Essential qualities

What is an essential quality of being...

a Michigander?

a visiting scholar?

a Spartan?

a human?



**Is it possible to be a human
and not act like it?**

**Is it possible to act like a human
and not be a human?**

1

The Essence

What is **the essential quality of being...**

a Christian?

**Is it possible to be a Christian
and not act like it?**

**Is it possible to act like a Christian
and not be a Christian?**

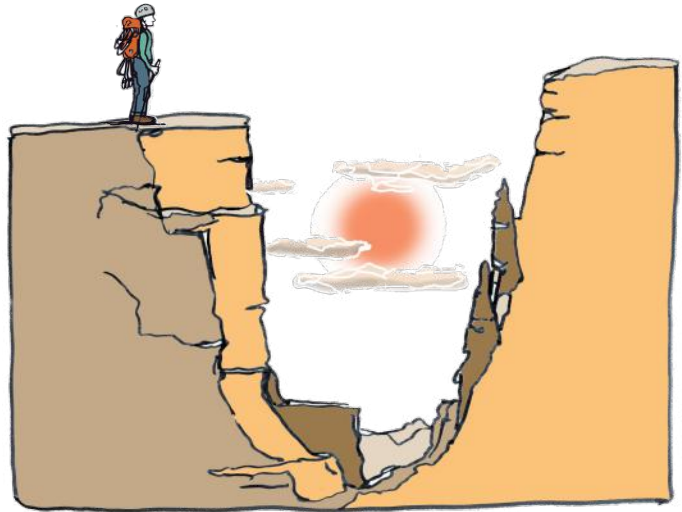


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The Life of God in the Lives of People

John 1:1-18

ref.ly/Jn1;niv



3

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word is Jesus Christ, the Son of God

The Word is in perfect fellowship with the Father

The Word is God just as the Father is God

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John 1:6-8

⁶ There was **a man** sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as **a witness to testify** concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

God sent a human witness (John)
to point to the Son of God in human form

God continues to send human witnesses
"that all might believe"

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John 1:9-13

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was **coming into the world** ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word entered the world to bring God's life

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John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Son has always been and always will be God

The Son became a human being

He brought God's glory, grace, and truth into the world

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John 1:15

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'")

John was a witness that Jesus is the Son of God

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John 1:16-18

¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

The Word makes God the Father known and experienced
 → His glory, grace, and truth
 → Most clearly seen in the cross

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The Son of God was rejected by people including His own

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The Word puts the Life of God into those who believe

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The Big Idea

Being a Christian

Having true Life and Glory

God's view

is by God giving Life =Born from God

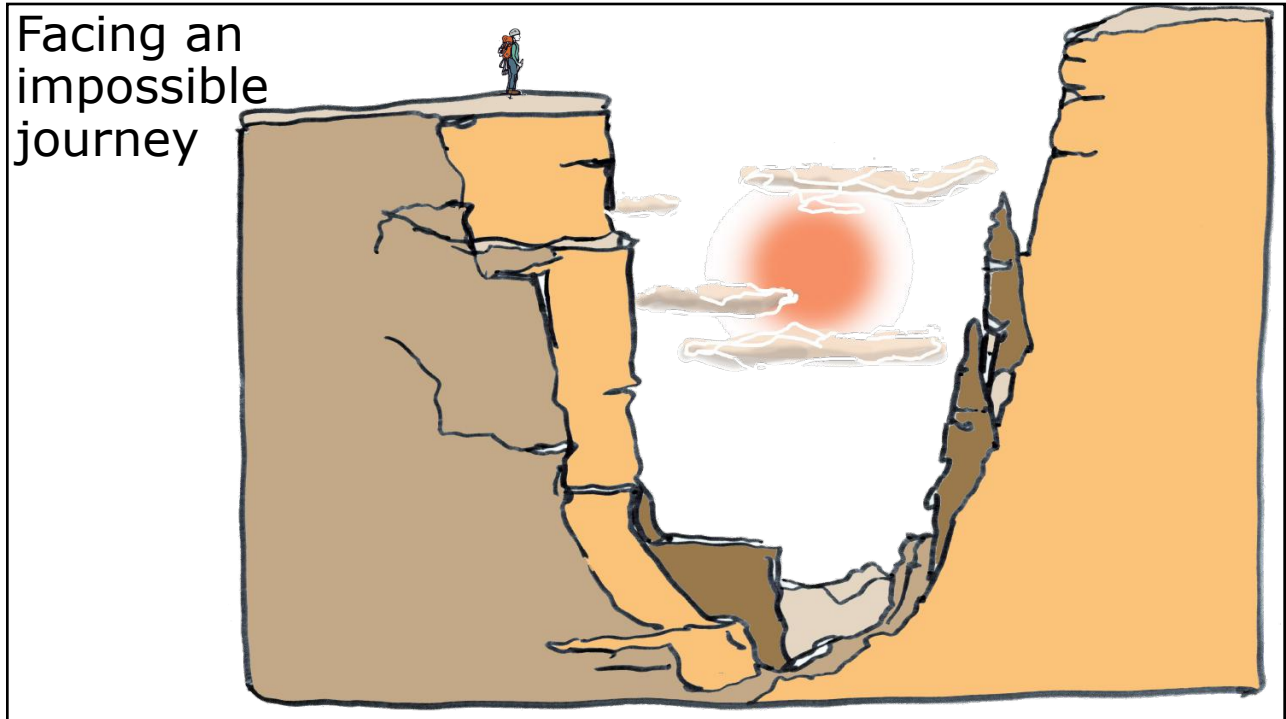
our view

as we receive/believe in Jesus Christ

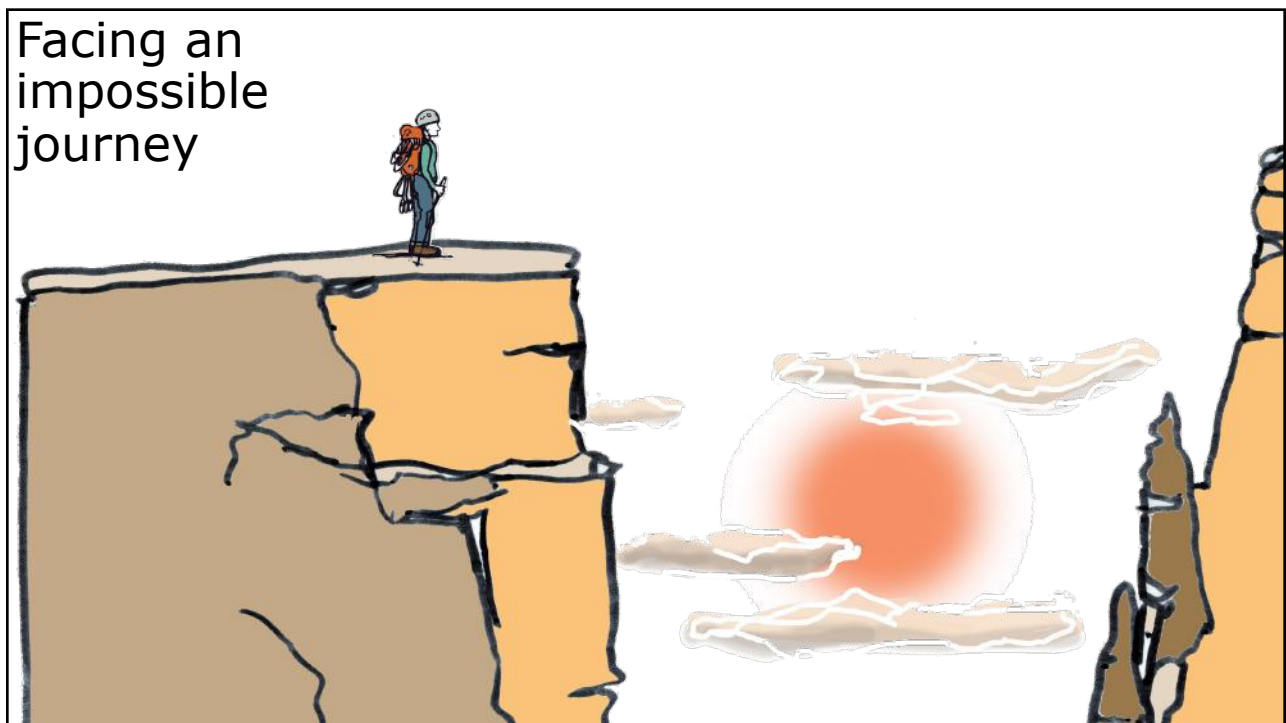
What makes someone a Christian is **not**
a particular belief or action ("human decision")

Rather it is Life given by God ("born of God")
which He gives to all who receive Jesus Christ

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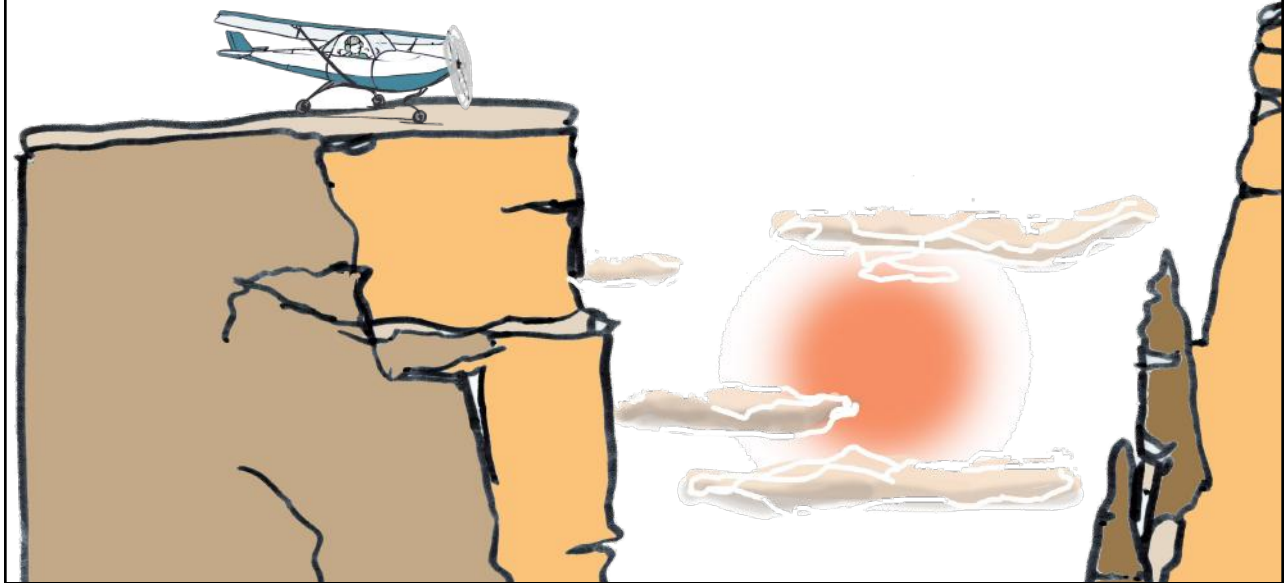


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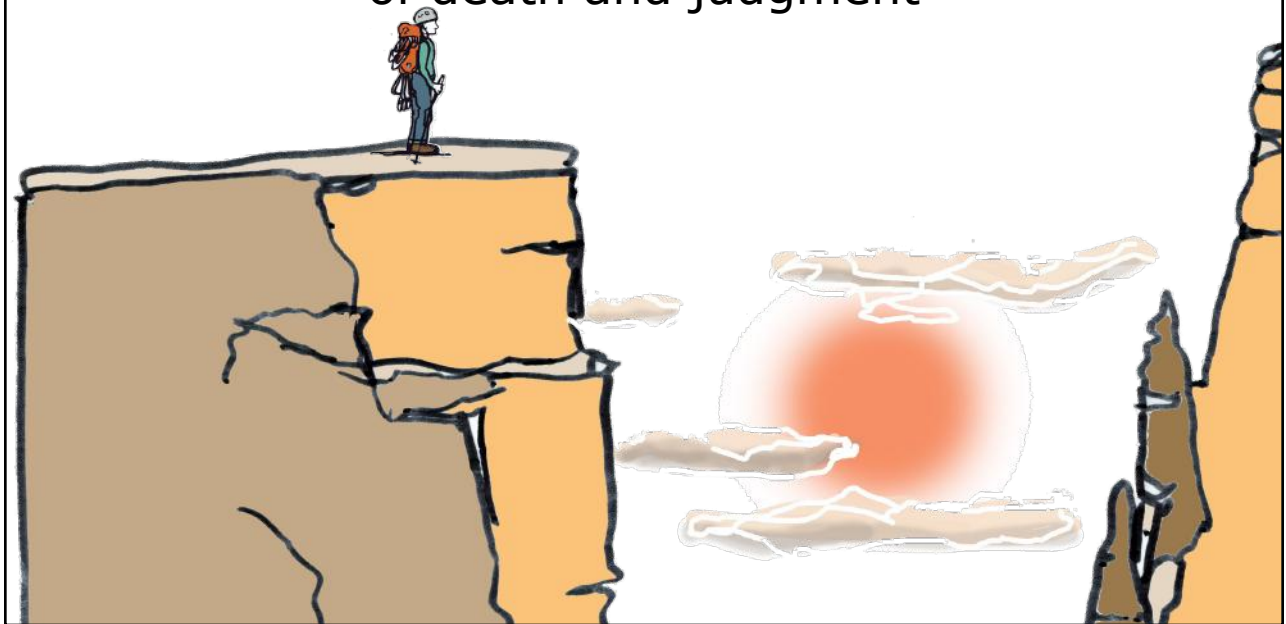
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And then being given a plane
to fly across



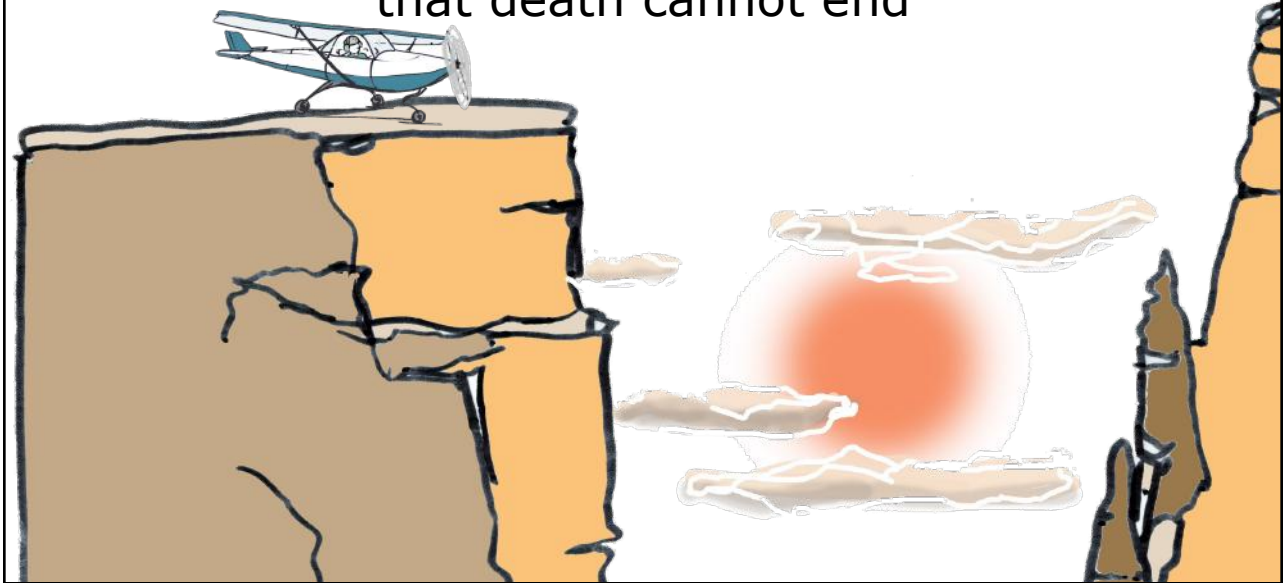
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Every human faces the impossible journey
of death and judgment



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Jesus Christ gives God's life to all who receive Him
 – the glorious Life full of grace and truth –
 that death cannot end



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The Big Idea

Having true Life and Glory
 is by God giving Life **that forever grows
 more glorious**
 as we receive/believe in Jesus Christ

**So many people don't recognize or receive
 this gift from God**

**To those who do, He gives
 the unending and glorious life of God**

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Action Steps

Find new life in Jesus, the Son of God

- Being born of God
 - so we have **His glorious life**
 - full of grace and truth
- By trusting in and receiving Jesus Christ...
 - as the Son of God
 - who died for our sins
 - so we can live

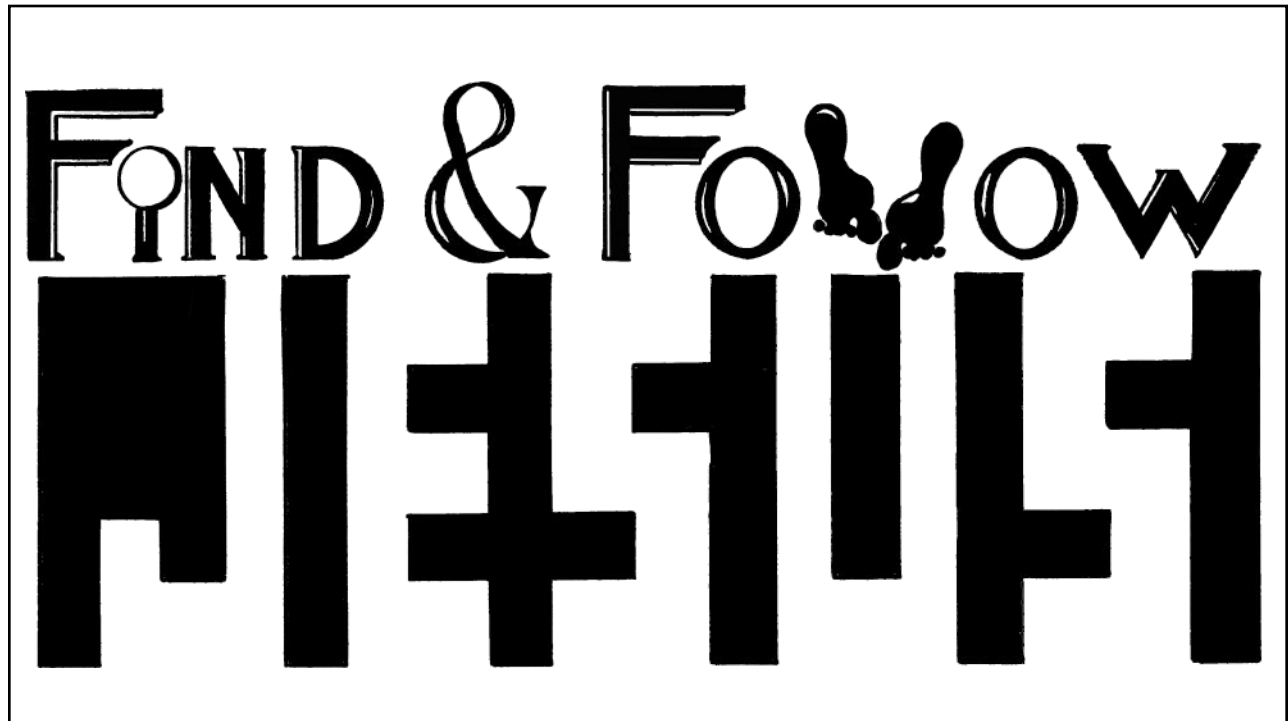
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Action Steps

Find new life in Jesus, the Son of God

- Have you?
- If not, is there a reason not to?
- "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children." Romans 8:16

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Action Steps

Find new life in Jesus, the Son of God

- Baptism is a wonderful celebration of this new life
- This spring and summer

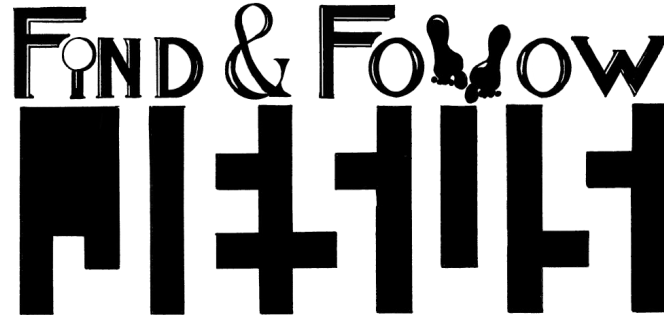


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Action Steps

Point to the Light/Life in the Son of God

- God sends people to point to Jesus
- We invite people to find and follow Jesus



- **That all might believe**

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Action Steps

Live in the glorious life that God gives

- Tragically, genuine Christians can live as if God has not given new life!

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The tragedy of having Life in Jesus
yet living as if He had never come



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Action Steps

Live in the glorious life that God gives

- Tragically, genuine Christians can live as if God has not given new life!
- "After beginning by means of the Spirit, are you now trying to finish by means of the flesh?"

Galatians 3:3

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The Big Idea

Having true Life and Glory
is by God giving Life
as we receive/believe in Jesus Christ

The essential quality of being a Christian
is having received life from God in Jesus

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FIND & FOLLOW


- **Having New Life from God**
- **Growing in relationship with Christ**
- **Growing into godliness**
- **Living on Christ's mission**

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The Essential Quality of being a Christian

Having life that is given by God

- “Born again” and “Born from above”
- For all who believe and receive Jesus as the Son of God who became a human being and lived and died and rose again to give us life from God