

## Crown of Life

Have you ever wondered if it is worth it to be a faithful Christian? What is the eventual outcome of being a faithful Christian? In this lesson we will look and see what the Bible has to say is the end result, or outcome, of being a faithful Christian.

### Must be faithful to receive a crown

**1 Corinthians 15:57-58** “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” If a Christian is faithful, stays strong through adversity, and takes advantage of times when they can talk to others about the Bible, God gives them the ultimate victory. They get a crown of life, in other words, an eternal home in Heaven. This makes the ups and downs of trying to be faithful in this life worth the effort.

**2 Timothy 4:6-8** “For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.” A faithful Christian has the peace of mind to know that, if they have lived obedient to God, then they are assured an eternal home in Heaven. All of life’s difficulties and trials will be over when they leave this life behind and go on to eternal salvation. People that do not live as faithful Christians do not have this same reward waiting for them.

**James 1:12** “Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.” All Christians will go through temptations in their lives. Being tempted is not sin, giving into temptation is sin. Enduring temptations can make a Christian grow stronger. However, when this life is over so is having to endure temptation. A crown of life, or Heavenly home, is waiting for all faithful Christians.

### Description of the crown

**1 Corinthians 9:24-25** “Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.” Every human is in the, “race of life,” sometimes we look at those that are wealthy, successful, or powerful as the “winners” in life. There is nothing wrong with being wealthy, successful, or powerful if it does not involve sin. However, these things are all corruptible, like our earthly bodies are, and will eventually fade away. These things can not save your soul. The “winners” in life are those that have prepared themselves to be able to win a crown of life, which is incorruptible, and go to Heaven. Only those that are faithful to God are truly the “winners” in life because they will have saved their souls.

**1 Thessalonians 2:19** “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?” When the Lord comes again there will be

great rejoicing for all those that are faithful Christians, because they will have gained a crown of life. They will get to spend eternity in Heaven. Sadly, when Jesus comes again those who have not been faithful, will not be rejoicing because they will get no crown of life and will spend eternity in Hell.

**Philippians 3:14** “I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.” Becoming a Christian is not the end of the work of a Christian, it is a lifetime long pursuit. Being a Christian is something that can certainly be done, but it requires effort and must be worked at.

**1 Peter 5:4** “And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.” On Judgement Day when Christ returns the lifetime work of faithful Christians will be rewarded for all of eternity, with a home in Heaven.

#### Crown can be lost

**Matthew 10:22** “And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.” Faithful Christians are not promised that everyone will like them, or that life will be easy. They are promised something much more valuable, a home in Heaven. All Christians that remain faithful until their death will be in Heaven. However, if one does not remain faithful until their death and falls away from Christ, they will miss Heaven.

**Revelation 3:11** “Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.” If a Christian does not hold fast to their Christianity, it will be lost. If a Christian falls away they lose eternal salvation unless they truly repent and return to Christ.

#### Results of being faithful unto death

**Revelation 2:10** “Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” Even though Christians will face difficulties and trials here on Earth, all that are faithful unto death will gain an eternal crown of life in Heaven. This makes all of life’s trials and difficulties worth the struggle.

**Revelation 22:14** “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.” The Bible tells us plainly all that faithfully obey God will be in Heaven, those that do not will be in Hell. Don’t you want to do His commandments and go to Heaven?

#### Conclusion

Hopefully, we can see that the rewards of this life are fleeting, but the outcome for living as a faithful Christian is well worth the effort. A crown of life eternally in Heaven is worth more than anything else we can gain in this life. A soul making it into Heaven is more of a treasure than anything else could be.