

John 5:24–25

<sup>24</sup> “Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

<sup>25</sup> Truly, Truly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live.

**“How Dead People Live, Part 1”**  
**John 5:24-25**

INTRO:

The last time we were here in the Gospel of John, we talked about the fact that although Jesus is equal to the Father, He is not a separate and competing God. He is the second person of the Godhead who is in complete harmony with the Father. One way in which our Lord’s unity and equality with the Father is expressed is found in **verse 21**. *“For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will.”* In **verses 24-25**, which is our text for our study today, the Lord expanded on how this “giving life” works. So, today we will study **“how dead people live.”**

*I. How the Bible Presents Salvation*

*II. Salvation from the Human Perspective (v. 24)*

*I. How the Bible Presents Salvation*

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A. We jump into our Lord’s discourse with these Jewish authorities as He underlined what He said by introducing it with **“amen, amen”** or **“truly, truly.”** Remember we said the “amen” was a statement signifying the seriousness of the statement. In effect, Jesus said here, *“Listen up, this is important.”* Then He told us how people are saved.

***“Amen, amen, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”***

B. We must understand how John portrayed our salvation experience in his book.

1. First, he looked at salvation from our perspective. In **John 1:12** we read, ***“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.”***

We’re saved by opening our arms by faith and embracing the Lord Jesus as our Savior.

2. John in the next breath described our eternal salvation from God’s perspective. **John 1:13** is actually the rest of John’s sentence.

***“Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”***

Here is the “rest of the story.” We receive Christ because we were born not out of anything we do, but out of God. We chose Him, because He first chose us.

3. We see both sides of the experience again in **John 6**. In **verse 37** we read, ***“All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.”***

We are saved by coming to Jesus. We recognize we are sinners and our only hope of salvation is to come to the One who died in our place and for our sin.

4. Jesus turned the salvation coin over in **verse 44** and said:

***“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.”***

We came not because it suddenly occurred to us that we needed to be saved, but because God the Father drew us to Christ.

5. Still, there are places in John’s Gospel where John displays one side of the picture. In **John 3:16** John presents the human responsibility side of the coin.

***“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”***

He did this because the most important thing we can do is believe. God can be trusted to do His part, we must do ours.

## ***II. Salvation from the Human Perspective (v. 24)***

***“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.”***

A. We will see here in **John 5** both sides of the salvation coin. In **verse 24**, we find the human responsibility side of eternal salvation.

1. When we come to Christ the first step is that we must hear His Word. The Word of Christ, the Bible, is the vehicle God uses to bring us to salvation. We see this in several places in the New Testament. For example, In **Romans 10:17** we read,

***“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”***

God uses His word to produce faith in us. Peter in **1 Peter 1:23** says the Word of God is the agent of salvation,

***“Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”***

So, the first step in our salvation is that we hear the Word of God. And implied in the hearing is that we do something about what we hear. The one who has eternal life comes to life by hearing the Word of God, but it doesn't stop there. He continues to hear the Word and be receptive to it.

2. Second, we must believe in the one who sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world. We hear and then we respond to what we hear with faith. Usually when we read of believing in John's Gospel, we read of believing in the Son. For example in **John 3:16** and **18** we read:

***“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” “He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”***

Our Lord's emphasis in this conversation with the Jewish leaders (in our text in **John 5**) is the unity of the Father and the Son. That is why when He speaks of saving faith, He highlights another facet of it. One does not believe in the Son of God without also embracing the Father that sent Him. Faith in Christ is not faith in the Son to the exclusion of the Father. Rather, it is faith in both the Son and the Father at the same time!

C. What happens when we do this? What happens when we hear the Word of Christ and believe in Him and the Father Who sent Him? The Lord Jesus lists three things.

1. First, we have life eternal. We, right here and right now, have eternal life. This is a major thrust of John's Gospel. Eternal life is not something in the sky by and by. It is a present possession of everyone who knows Jesus as his Savior and Lord. This is both the life that has no end, and the life that is filled with the presence of the Lord. We walk with Him and talk with Him and He makes our lives worth living. This is the aspect of eternal life that the song writer wrote about. ***“God and God alone/ will be the joy of our eternal home/ He will be our one desire/ our hearts will never tire/ of God and God alone!”***

2. Second, we will not come into the judgment. Will there be no judgment at all for the believer? No, the Apostle Paul wrote in **2 Corinthians 5:10**

***“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.”***

So, there is a judgment for Christians. The Greek word translated ***“judgment”*** can also mean ***condemnation*** in a context which assumes the result of the judgment. Jesus said that we will not come under judgment or condemnation for

our sins. This is because Jesus paid it all! In **Romans 8:1** the Apostle Paul reiterated the Lord's point.

***“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.”***

3. Third, we have passed from death to life. The word in our text translated ***“passed”*** means ***to pass from one state to another***. The action is completed. We have gone from being dead to being alive. We were dead in trespasses and sin and now have been made alive in Christ. We were dead in relationship to God. We were condemned and without hope. But now we are alive to Him. We can respond to Him. We can walk and talk and have fellowship with Him. We are to be dead in relationship to sin and alive unto righteousness. If we will let Him lead in our lives, we can have a measure of victory here!

### **WHAT ABOUT YOU AND ME?**

Is this true of you and me? Have we heard the Word of God and are we still hearing it? Have you and I understood that we are sinners and living under the condemnation of God? Has the reality of **John 3:36** taken hold of our souls? ***“He that believes on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that does not believe on the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abides on him.”***

Have you believed in the Son and in the One who has sent Him? Have you come to Him and asked Him to save you?

Do you know what it is to have life, or do you just exist? Do you walk in the wonder and blessing of fellowship with the living God?

Are you confident that you will not come into condemnation? Are you certain that the wrath of the Almighty God does not abide on you?

Do you know that you have passed out of the state of death into life? If you do not know, you can know today!

**Hymn #405 *My Faith Has Found a Resting Place***