

## **Jesus Claims to Give Life**

### **John 5:24-27**

24 "Most assuredly, 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. 25 Most assuredly, 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. 26 For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. NKJV

What is life? There are millions of species of living things on earth. And life is one of the great mysteries yet to be fully discovered. And although life is still a mystery, it is not physical but spiritual life that Jesus is referring to. If we cannot fully understand physical life then when it comes to spiritual life we are but babies in understanding. But the word of God is our source of information. And as our passage today tells us, Jesus is the giver of spiritual life.

Now some will say how do we know that it is spiritual life and not physical life that Jesus here refers to. It is because of the verse that follows this that we did not read. John 5:28 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice. NKJV

Verse 28 is talking about physical death because it refers to those "in the graves." So if in the next verse Jesus is talking about physical death and says that they should not marvel for even those in the graves shall hear the voice of the Son of man, then in this passage He is talking about spiritual death.

- I. Why do people need to be regenerated or born again?
  - A. J.P. Boyce gives a short list of their condition as described in the Bible.
    1. As spiritually dead. Ephesians 2:1 (NKJV) And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, .
    2. As blind. Ephesians 4:18 (NKJV) 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;
    3. As slaves to sin.
      - a. John 8:34 (NKJV) Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.
      - b. Romans 6:17 (NKJV) But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.
      - c. Romans 6:19 (NKJV) I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as

slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.

4. As needing deliverance from the powers of darkness. Colossians 1:13 (NKJV) He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love,
5. As incapable of knowing or discerning the things of the Spirit.
  - a. 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
  - b. Ephesians 4:18 (NKJV) having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;
6. As incapable of changing himself. Jeremiah 13:23 (NKJV) Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.
7. As defiled in conscience. Titus 1:15 (NKJV) To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled and unbelieving nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled.

## II. What is spiritual life.

- A. Our New Hampshire Confession says “We believe that, in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with divine truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance, and faith, and newness of life.”
  1. John 3:3 Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."
  2. John 3:6-7 (NKJV) 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'
  3. 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.
  4. Ezekiel 36:26 (NKJV) 26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.
  5. Romans 5:5 (NKJV) Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of

God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

6. John 3:8 (NKJV) 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
7. John 1:13 (NKJV) who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
8. James 1:16-18 (NKJV) Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning. 18 Of His own will He brought us forth by the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures.
9. 1 Peter 1:22-25 (NKJV) 22 Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, 24 because "All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, 25 But the word of the Lord endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.
10. 1 John 5:1 (NKJV)1 Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him.
11. Romans 8:9 (NKJV) But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.
12. 1 John 5:4 (NKJV) For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.
13. 1 John 5:18 (NKJV)18 We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.

III. What Jesus is saying here is that He has the power to give spiritual life.

A. We are shut up to Him.

1. There is no other source of spiritual life.
2. There is no other access to God.

B. The only thing we can do is to humble ourselves and call on His mercy and grace.

1. The proud will not accept this.
  2. They will follow a development of good works to earn a place with God.
  3. But they are dead, a rotting corpse, disgusting, fit only for destruction by their actions.
  4. They are children of wrath, taken captive by Satan at his will, they are at enmity with God and can never by their own efforts be subject to the standards of God and cannot please God.
- C. Those Pharisees prided themselves on measuring up to the requirements of God but they are rejecting the only hope that they can ever have of spiritual life.
- D. Have you heard the voice of the Son of God?
- E. Has He given you life, eternal life?