

THE ASSURANCE OF THE BELIEVER

JOHN 06: 37– 40

Introduction

The believer has great assurance and security.

- I. Assurance 1: God’s predestination (v. 37).
- II. Assurance 2: Jesus’ promise, His Word (v. 37).
- III. Assurance 3: Jesus’ purpose — to do God’s will (v. 38).
- IV. Assurance 4: God’s will for *those whom He gives* to Christ (v. 39).
- V. Assurance 5: God’s will for *the believer* (v. 40).

I. *John 06: 37 Assurance and Predestination*

The first assurance for the believer is God’s predestination. The meaning of the verse is clear. It is those whom “the Father gives” that come to Christ. However, note a critical fact. The stress is not predestination; it is assurance to the believer. Christ wants believers to take heart and to be assured of their salvation. It is God Himself who has drawn believers, who has moved upon and stirred them to *come to Christ*. (See *Draw*, Jn. 6:44-46.) Something should be noted at this point. There is a predestination thread that runs throughout John’s gospel. Things are controlled and happen as God means them to happen. The purpose of God is being done. He is God; therefore, He rules and controls all things (Jn. 1:12-13; 6:37; 6:44-46; 10:26; 16:8).

John 10:27-29 “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand.”

Rom 8:28-30 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the Firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

1 Pet 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade — kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God’s power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

II. *John 06: 37 Assurance of Security*

The second assurance for the believer is Jesus’ Word. Note the enormous security given to the believer.

1. Jesus clearly said that any man who comes to Him will never “be driven away”. This is a double negative, a strong, forceful promise: “Never, no never be driven away.”
2. Jesus was claiming the authority to accept and reject men (see Mt. 8:12; 22:13). He accepts the person who comes to Him, the person who turns from the world and the flesh (sinful nature) to Him.

The point is simply this. Jesus gives His Word: “Whoever comes to me I will never, no never drive away.” The believer’s assurance and security are as good as Jesus’ Word. If Jesus is who He claimed to be, “the Bread of Life,” then the person who comes to Him for spiritual nourishment can rest assured that...

- Jesus will receive him into God’s household.
- Jesus will feed, nourish, satisfy, and fill him.
- Jesus will not cast him away.
- Jesus will keep His Word with every generation of people.

Mat 5:18 “I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.”

Luke 21:33 “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”

Psa 111:7 The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.

Ezek 12:25 “But I the LORD will speak what I will, and it shall be fulfilled without delay. For in your days, you rebellious house, I will fulfill whatever I say,” declares the Sovereign LORD.

III. John 06:38 Assurance of the Will of God

The third assurance for the believer is Jesus’ purpose. He came to do God’s will. Note two points.

1. Jesus declared His origin: He came down out of heaven (See *Jesus Christ, From Above*, Jn. 3:31).
2. Jesus came *not* to do His own will, but the will of God.
 - a. Jesus had a mind and a will distinct and separate from the Father’s. He could will and act separately from God. In Gethsemane He prayed, “Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Mt. 26:39). He actually willed something different from God. He willed the cup to be removed, for some way other than the cross to be chosen for man’s salvation. Jesus had a distinct, separate will from God.
 - b. Christ subjected His will to God’s will. He fought and struggled to control His mind and will, to do exactly as God willed, and He conquered His will. He always succeeded. In every instance He subjected Himself totally to God. He always did what God willed — perfectly.

John 14:31 “But the world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me. Come now; let us leave.”

John 15:10 “If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love.”

Rom 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Heb 10:9 Then he said, “Here I am, I have come to do your will.” He sets aside the first to establish the second.

2 Cor 5:21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Heb 4:15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet was without sin.

1 Pet 1:18-19 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a Lamb without blemish or defect.

The believer’s assurance is Jesus’ purpose. He set out to do God’s will and He did it perfectly. The believer can rest assured — Jesus is the full revelation of God. Jesus revealed God perfectly. What Jesus did — everything He did — is a picture of the perfect will of God. Man can come to Jesus for spiritual food and nourishment and know that He is coming to God.

John 12:49 “For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it.”

John 14:9-10 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work.”

John 17:8 “For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.”

JOHN 03:31 JESUS CHRIST — “FROM ABOVE”

“The one who comes from above is above all; the one who is from the earth belongs to the earth, and speaks as one from the earth. The one who comes from heaven is above all.” **John 3:31**

Jesus came *out of* (ek) the spiritual world into the physical world, out of the heavenly dimension of being into the earthly dimension of being. Jesus came out of...

- the incorruptible and imperishable world into the corruptible and perishable world.
- the glorious world into the dishonourable world.
- the powerful world into the weak world.
- the spiritual world into the natural world. (See 1 Cor. 15:42-44.)

John 3:13 *No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven – the Son of Man.*

John 6:33, 38 *“For the bread of God is he who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” “For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.”*

John 6:41-42 *At this the Jews began to grumble about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I came down from heaven’?”*

John 6:50-51 *But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which a man may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”*

John 6:58 *This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever.”*

John 6:62 *What if you see the Son of Man ascend to where he was before!*

John 8:23 *But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.”*

John 8:42 *Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me.”*

John 13:3 *Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God.*

John 16:30 *“Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God.”*

John 17:5 *“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.”*

1 Cor 15:47 *The first man was of the dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. □*

IV. *John 06:39 Assurance for Those Given to Christ*

The fourth assurance is God's will for *those whom He* gives to Christ. Note: the fact that God sent Christ is stressed again (v. 38). Note also that Jesus calls God His "Father." This stresses the love and care of God. God's will is like the will of a father for His children. He wills only good and loving things.

1. God wills to give some followers to His Son: "All that he has given me." This has to do with predestination, but in the sense covered before (v. 37). God wills that His Son Jesus be the first, that is, the most preeminent Person, among many brothers. Jesus is to have many brothers and sisters (See *Assurance of God's Purpose*, Rom. 8:29). The follower of Jesus can rest assured that he is chosen by God to follow Jesus; therefore, he will not be lost, not ever.
2. God wills that Jesus should *lose nothing*. The words "I shall lose none" (*me apoleso ex autou*) mean that He will not lose anything, not even a fragment, not any part of what God has given to Him. No person, not a single one, will be lost. It was true while He was on earth: He lost none (Jn. 17:12). It will also be true of every believer throughout history.

John 17:11 *"I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name — the name you gave me — so that they may be one as we are one."*

Phil 1:6 *Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

Phil 4:6-7 *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

2 Th 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*

2 Tim 1:12 *That is why I am suffering as I am. Yet I am not ashamed, because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.*

2 Tim 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

Jude 1:24 *To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.*

Rev 3:10 *Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.*

Prov 2:8 *For he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.*

***Psa 31:23** Love the LORD, all his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful, but the proud he pays back in full.*

***Psa 37:28** For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones. They will be protected forever, but the offspring of the wicked will be cut off.*

***Isa 49:8** This is what the LORD says: “In the time of my favour I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances.*

3. God wills a most wonderful thing: Jesus shall save every true believer through all, even up until the final hour of the very last day — the day of the resurrection. The Lord’s salvation is complete, ultimate, and final. No matter the trials, the heartaches, the hurts, the attacks of the enemy and the evil persecutors, Christ will save His dear follower through all; and He will raise him up at the last day. The *genuine believer* is assured and secure in the will of God. God wills that His Son lose no one — that each one will be saved through all circumstances — saved right up to the point of being raised up at the last day.

ROMANS 08:29 ASSURANCE OF GOD’S PURPOSE: SALVATION

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 08:29

God has determined to fulfil His purpose for the believer. This is the assurance of deliverance. Note three significant points.

1. This passage is often abused and misused. It is not dealing so much with theology or philosophy, but more with the spiritual experience of the Christian believer. If the pure logic of philosophy and theology are applied, then the passage says that God chooses some for heaven and others for a terrible hell. But this is simply not the meaning God intends for the passage. What God wants believers to do is to take heart, for He has assured their salvation.

God knows the suffering that believers go through daily (see Rom. 8:28-39). God “foreknew” even before the foundation of the world (v. 29). But no matter how great the suffering, no matter how great the opposition, no matter how great the struggle, God is going to complete His purpose for believers. God has “predestined [believers] to be conformed to the likeness of His Son,” and absolutely nothing can change that. Why? “That Christ might be the firstborn [have the pre-eminence] among many brothers” (Rom. 8:29).

God loves His Son in the most supreme way possible. God has ordained that His Son shall have many brothers (adopted brothers) who will love and serve Him as the firstborn, that is, as the first Person or the most preeminent Person of the universe. God has ordained that Jesus Christ shall hold the highest rank and position: that He be the exalted Head of all creation and the One to whom all men look (see Col. 1:15, 18). Therefore, God is going to allow nothing to permanently defeat believers. God is going to allow no fallen child of His to ever remain down permanently. God is going to fulfil His purpose in every child of His, and nothing can stop His purpose. Jesus Christ, His Son, will have a *multitude of brothers and sisters* who worship and serve Him throughout eternity.

2. Believers will be conformed to the likeness of God's dear Son. The words "conformed to the likeness" (summorphous tes eikonos) mean both an inward and an outward likeness.
 - a. "Conformed" (summorphous) means the very same form or likeness as Christ. Within our nature — our being, our person — we shall be made just like Christ. As He is perfect and eternal — without disease and pain, sin and death — so we shall be perfected just like Him. We shall be transformed into His very likeness.
 - b. "Likeness" (eikonos) means a derived or a given image. The image of Christ is not something which believers merit or for which they work; it is not a likeness that comes from their own nature or character. No man can earn or produce the perfection and eternal life possessed by Christ. The likeness of Christ, His perfection and life, is a gift of God. To be conformed to the likeness of God's Son means...
 - to become a participant in the divine nature (2 Pet. 1:4).
 - to be adopted as a son of God (Eph. 1:5).
 - to be holy and blameless in His sight (Eph. 1:4; 4:24).
 - to bear the image of the heavenly: which is an imperishable, immortal body (1 Cor. 15:49-54; see 1 Cor. 15:42-44).
 - to have one's body transformed just like His glorious body (Phil. 3:21).
 - to be changed (transformed) into the same likeness of the Lord (2 Cor. 3:18).
 - to be recreated just like Him (1 Jn. 3:2-3).
3. Note what it is that assures the believer's deliverance from the suffering and struggling of this world. It is two things.
 - a. The foreknowledge of God. The word "foreknew" (proginosko) is used three different ways in Scripture. It means...
 - to know something beforehand, ahead of time.

- to know something intimately by loving and accepting and approving it.
- to elect, foreordain, and predetermine something.

The present passage is interpreted differently by scholars. Note that the second and third meanings are much the same. When a person is loved and approved, selection or election is involved. The person becomes a very special or select person.

Again, the point to see is not the pure logic of the theological or philosophical argument. This is not God's purpose in this passage. God's purpose is to assure the believer: the believer is going to be conformed to the likeness of Christ, and nothing can stop the glorious process. God foreknew the fact, saw it even before the world was ever founded. He has always loved and approved the believer, electing and ordaining him from the very beginning.

Acts 15:18 That have been known for ages.

Rom 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Rom 11:2 God did not reject his people [Israel], whom he foreknew.

1 Pet 1:18-20 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."

1 Pet 1:2 Who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance.

- b. The predestination of God. The word predestination (proorisen) means to destine or appoint before, to foreordain, to predetermine. The basic Greek word (proorizo) means to *mark off or to set off the boundaries* of something. The idea is a glorious picture of what God is doing for the believer. The boundary is marked and set off for the believer: the boundary of being conformed to the likeness of God's dear Son. The believer shall be made just like Christ, conformed to His very likeness. Nothing can stop God's purpose for the believer. It is predestined, set, and marked off. The believer may struggle and suffer through the sin and shame of this world; he may even stumble and fall or become discouraged and downhearted. But if he is a genuine child of God, he will not be defeated, not totally. He will soon arise from his fall and begin to follow Christ again. He is predestined to be a brother of Christ,

to worship and serve Christ throughout all eternity. And Christ will not be disappointed. God loves His Son too much to allow Him to be disappointed by losing a single brother. Jesus Christ will have His joy fulfilled; He will see every brother of His face to face, conformed perfectly to His image. He will have the worship and service of every brother chosen to be His by God the Father. The believer's eternal destiny, that of being an adopted brother to the Lord Jesus Christ, is determined. The believer can rest assured of this glorious truth. God has predestined him to be delivered from the suffering and struggling of this sinful world.

Eph 1:4-5 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will.*

Eph 3:11-12 *According to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. □*

V. **John 06: 40 Assurance of the Will of God**

The fifth assurance is God's will for *the believer*. This verse also concerns God's will, but it differs from the former point in that it centres upon those who *look to Jesus and believe* in Jesus. In the former verse the stress is upon *God choosing* those who come to Christ, whereas in this verse, the stress is upon *man choosing* Christ. Both are necessary steps in salvation as already discussed (v. 37. Note Jn. 6:44-46.)

A person must "look to" (behold, grasp) and believe Jesus...

- that God "sent" Him to spiritually feed and nourish man (to save and to give life)
 - that He is "the Son," the Saviour of the world
1. God wills that a person who *looks to Jesus and believes* Jesus should have eternal life (See *Saving Faith*, Jn. 2:24; *Life in Jesus Christ*, Jn. 10:10; *Eternal Life*, Jn. 17:2-3).
 2. The result of looking to Jesus and believing Jesus is being *raised up from the dead*. Jesus said very emphatically, "I will raise him up at the last day." "I" is emphatic. Jesus and no one else can raise the dead, and He will take the person who looks to and believes and raise him up. The believer is assured of three very significant things.
 - a. The believer is assured of eternal life.

John 3:16 *"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."*

John 5:24 *"I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."*
 - b. The believer is assured of victory over death.

1 Cor 15:52-57 *In a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.” “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Heb 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

c. The believer is assured of the resurrection.

John 5:25-29 *“I tell you the truth, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man. “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out — those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.” (see Jn. 11:25)*

Acts 24:15 *And I have the same hope in God as these men, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked.*

2 Cor 4:14 *Because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with you in his presence.*

1 Th 4:16 *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ■*

JOHN 02:24 SAVING FAITH: BELIEVE; COMMIT; ENTRUST

The word commit or entrust is the very same word “believe” (see Jn. 2:23). This gives an excellent picture of *saving faith*, of what *genuine faith* is — of the kind of faith that really saves a person.

1. Saving faith is not head knowledge, not just a mental conviction and intellectual assent. It is not just *believing the fact* that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. It is not just believing history, that Jesus Christ lived upon earth as the Saviour just as A J Abdul Kalam lived upon earth as the President of India. It is not just believing the words and claims of Jesus in the same way that a person would believe the words of Abdul Kalam.

2. Saving faith is believing in Jesus, *who* and *what* He is, that He is the *Saviour* and *Lord* of life. It is a man giving and turning his life over to Jesus. It is a man casting himself upon Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
3. Saving faith is commitment — the commitment of a man's total being and life to Jesus Christ. It is a man's commitment of all he *is and has* to Jesus. It gives Jesus everything; therefore, it involves all of a man's affairs. The man trusts Jesus to take care of his past (sins), his present (welfare), and his future (destiny). He entrusts his whole life, being, and possessions into Jesus' hands. He lays himself upon Jesus' keeping, confiding in Him about his daily necessities and acknowledging Him in all the ways of life. He follows Jesus in every area and in every detail of life, seeking His instructions and leaving his welfare up to Him. It is simply commitment of a man's whole being, all he is and has, to Jesus.

There are three steps involved in faith, steps that are clearly seen in this passage.

1. There is the step of *seeing* (Jn. 2:23) or *hearing* (Rom. 10:16). A man must be willing to listen to the message of Christ, the revelation of truth.
2. There is the step of *mental assent*. A man must agree that the message is true, that the facts of the case are thus and so. But this is not enough. Mere agreement does not lead to action. Many a person knows that something is true, but he does not change his behaviour to match his knowledge. For example, a man knows that eating too much harms his body, but he may continue to eat too much. He agrees to the truth and knows the truth, but he does nothing about it. A person may believe and know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and yet do nothing about it, never make a decision to follow Christ. This man still does not have faith, not the kind of faith that the Bible talks about.
3. There is the step of *commitment*. When the New Testament speaks of faith, it speaks of *commitment*, a *personal commitment to the truth*. A man hears the truth and agrees that it is true and does something about it. He commits (entrusts) and yields his life to the truth. The truth becomes a part of his very being, a part of his behaviour and life. □

JOHN 10:10 LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Life is one of the great words of the Scriptures. The word *life* (zoe) and the verb *to live* or *to have life* (zen) have a depth of meaning.

1. Life is the energy, the force, the power of being.

2. Life is the opposite of perishing. It is deliverance from condemnation and death. It is the stopping or cessation of deterioration, decay, and corruption (Jn. 3:16; 5:24, 29; 10:28).
3. Life is *eternal* (aionios). It is forever. It is the very life of God Himself (Jn. 17:3). However, eternal life does not refer just to duration. Living forever would be a curse for some persons. The idea of eternal life is also quality, a certain kind of life, a life that consistently knows love, joy, peace, power, and responsibility .
4. Life is satisfaction (Jn. 6:35).
5. Life is security and enjoyment (Jn. 10:10).
6. Life is found only in God. God is the source and author of life, and it is God who has appointed Jesus Christ to bring life to man. Jesus Christ gives the very life of God Himself (Jn. 5:26; 6:27, 40; 10:28; 17:23).
7. Life has now been revealed. It has been unveiled and is clearly seen in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ shows man what life is (Jn. 1:4-5; 5:26; 1 Jn. 1:2).
8. Life only comes to a man by believing in Jesus Christ. A man outside Jesus Christ only exists. He merely has the existence of an animal. Real life is found only in God. This is to be expected and it is logically true, for God is the creator of life. As the creator of life, He alone knows what life really is and what it is supposed to be (Jn. 3:36; 5:24; 6:47). This is the reason He sent His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, into the world: to show men what life is. When a person looks at Jesus Christ, he sees exactly what life is, exactly what it involves (Gal. 5:22-23):
=> love => patience => faithfulness => joy => kindness
=> gentleness => peace => goodness => self-control □

THE WAYS A PERSON PARTAKES OF THE BREAD OF LIFE

JOHN 06:41–51

Introduction

How one partakes of the Bread of Life, that is, how one comes to know Jesus personally, is the focus of this passage.

- I. A person must stop rebelling against the claims of Jesus (vv. 41-43).
- II. A person must be drawn by God (vv. 44-46).
- III. A person must believe in Christ (vv. 47-51).

I. *John 06:41–43 Religionists Opposed Jesus*

The religionists rebelled against the claims of Jesus. They grumbled (*gogguzete*) against Him. The word refers to the grumbling, the buzzing, the discontent that arises from a crowd that is upset and confused; that is, misunderstanding, rejecting, and opposing a speaker. They radically disagreed with Jesus' claim that He had come "down from heaven."

They questioned His origin. They knew Him personally; and they knew His father, Joseph, and His mother, Mary. They knew He was a mere man just as they were, having been reared by human parents. How could He possibly claim to be "from heaven"? Note: their problem was twofold.

=> They were ignorant of the incarnation (See *Birth of Jesus Christ, Son of God*, Mt. 1:16; *Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ*, Mt. 1:23; *Revelation*, Jn. 1:10; 1:14-18).

=> They were so fixed on His origin, on where He had come from, that they lost sight of His mission, which was to feed and nourish men spiritually (to save and to give life).

Jesus appealed to the crowd, "stop grumbling." He loved and cared for them and longed for them to listen to the truth. As long as they grumbled, they would never be willing to listen to the truth. (What a lesson for us all: "Be still, and know that I am God" [Psa. 46:10].)

MATHEW 01:16 BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD

*And Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. **Mathew 01:16***

Note the changed expression from "the father of". Jesus was born of Mary but not of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary, but Jesus was not born of Joseph. He was born of the Holy Spirit through Mary.

This stresses a vital fact: Jesus was not born of a man, but of the Holy Spirit. He was Divine, yet human through His conception in Mary. He was God-Man, fully God and

fully man. The real significance of this is that as God, He had the *capacity not to sin*. No other man since Adam has ever had this capacity, for all other men have had a human father and human mother, a father and mother contaminated with a sinful human nature. Therefore, the child of a man is born with the same nature, a nature that *cannot help but sin*. However Jesus Christ, as the only begotten Son of God born of the Holy Spirit, had the capacity to live a perfect and righteous life. He had the capacity never to sin.

However, Jesus Christ, as man, also had the capacity to sin. He suffered the pull and strain and suffering of temptation as all men do. He could have *willed* to sin. (Jn. 6:38.)

But there is this glorious difference. He utilized the capacity never to sin. He learned obedience by the things that He suffered (Heb. 5:8). He never gave in to temptation; He never sinned (2 Cor. 5:21). Thereby He became the Perfect and Ideal Man in whom all men find their salvation. □

MATHEW 01:23 THE VIRGIN BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST, SON OF GOD

*“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” – which means, “God with us”. **Mathew 01:23***

Four convincing things about the virgin birth of Christ are:

1. The concern and great pains to which Mathew went in pointing out the supernatural birth of Jesus. He said very pointedly, “This is how the birth of Jesus Christ [not just Jesus, but “Jesus Christ, the Messiah] came about.”
 - a. “Mary...was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit” (v. 18).
 - b. “What is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit” (v. 20).
 - c. “All this took place to fulfill [the prophecy]... ‘The virgin...will give birth to a son. They will call Him Immanuel... ‘God with us.’” (v. 22-23)
 - d. “They will call Him Immanuel...God With Us” (v. 23)

Matthew was not interested in giving a detailed account of Jesus’ birth. His concern was simply to draw the reader’s attention to two important facts.

First, the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah’s birth were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Second, the Jews needed to know that Jesus Christ was born of a virgin, especially those who misinterpreted the Old Testament prophecies and who were not expecting the Messiah to be virgin born. One of the slanderous reports facing the early Christian believers was that Jesus was born out of wedlock.

Isa 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

Isa 9:6 *For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

Luke 1:31 *You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.*

Luke 2:7 *And she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

John 1:14 *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

Rom 8:3 *For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man.*

Gal 4:4-5 *But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.*

Phil 2:6-7 *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

1 John 4:2 *This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.*

2. The simple profession of Mary that shows shock and amazement: “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” (Lk. 1:34).
3. Note the mystery of life about which man knows so little.

Eccl 11:5 *As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things.*

Psa 139:13-15 *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth.*

4. Note the mystery of godliness.

1 Tim 3:16 *Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory. (see Gal.4:4; 1 Jn. 1:1-3)*

Heb 2:14-17 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — And free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

Phi 12:5-7 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, But made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

2 Cor 5:19 *That God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.*

John 14:9 *Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”*

John 10:33 *“We are not stoning you for any of these,” replied the Jews, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.” □*

JOHN 01:10 REVELATION

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. John 01:10

This verse gives the raw outline and supreme tragedy of revelation. (1) The supreme fact of history: “He was in the world.” (2) The supreme truth about the world: “The world was made through Him.” (3) The supreme tragedy of humanity: “The world did not recognize Him.” □

II. **John 06:44–46** *The Truth of Predestination*

A person must be drawn by God. These three verses have to do with predestination (see v. 37). The truth of predestination in the Bible is not so much a statement of theology or philosophy as it is a message that speaks to the spiritual experience of the believer. If the pure logic of philosophy and theology is applied, then predestination says that God chooses some for heaven and others for a terrible hell. But this is simply not what God means in the passages dealing with predestination, and this fact needs to be given close attention by all who so interpret the Scriptures. What God wants believers to do is to take heart, for He has assured their salvation. This is what He means by predestination. (Rom. 8:29.)

The person who comes to Christ is a person who has been *drawn by God*, a person who has experienced the *divine initiative*. A man does not act alone, coming to Christ by his own effort and energy, not by his own works, whether mental (thought or will, Jn. 1:13) or physical labour (good deeds, Eph. 2:8-9). A man is a dead spirit; therefore, he can do nothing spiritually just as a dead body can do nothing physically. The natural man prefers self and sin; therefore, if a man with a dead spirit is to come to Christ, he has to be acted upon and drawn by God. Both God and man have a part in salvation.

1. God's part in salvation is to draw man. God has to draw because man resists the gospel. Man's resistance is seen in the word *draw*. The word "draw" has the idea of both initiative and rebellion, of constraint and resistance. For example, the pulling in of a net loaded with fish involves both actions of pulling and resistance (Jn. 21:6); a person being dragged to court encounters both actions of pulling and resistance (Acts 16:19).

How God draws a man is clearly stated. He draws by teaching (v. 45). The teaching may come from the voice of a preacher, the observation of nature, the reading of Scripture, or a myriad of other sources. But one thing is always common: the movement of God's Spirit upon the human heart, teaching the need for God and drawing the heart toward God for salvation. The Spirit of God teaches a man and moves upon the heart of a man.

- a. The Holy Spirit quickens, makes the gospel alive to a man's mind so that he *sees it as never before*. He sees, understands, grasps as never before that "the Father ...who [has] sent" Christ to feed and nourish man (to save and to give him life).

John 3:3 *In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."*

John 5:21 *"For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it."*

John 6:63 *"The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."*

Rom 8:11 *And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

Eph 2:1 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.*

Eph 2:4-5 *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions - it is by grace you have been saved.*

Eph 4:22-23 *You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds.*

Col 3:10 *And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.*

Ezek 37:10 *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet — a vast army.*

- b. The Holy Spirit convicts a man of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, that is, of his need to be fed and nourished (saved and given life).

John 16:8 *“When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.”*

- c. The Holy Spirit attracts men to the cross of Christ through its glorious provisions.

John 16:32 *“But a time is coming, and has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home. You will leave me all alone. Yet I am not alone, for my Father is with me.”*

1 Cor 1:18 *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

Gal 6:14 *May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*

Eph 2:16 *And in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*

Col 1:20 *And through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.*

- d. The Holy Spirit stirs a man to respond by coming to Christ.

Mat 11:28 *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

John 7:37 *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.”*

Rev 22:17 *The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.*

Isa 30:21 *Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, “This is the way; walk in it.”*

Isa 55:1-3 *“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost. Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labour on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.*

2. Man's part in salvation is threefold.

- a. Man must hear the voice of God when God draws. When the pull, tug or movement of God's Spirit is felt, man must listen to the conviction of the Spirit.
- b. Man must learn of God. However, he can learn of God only through Christ. If a man wishes to learn of God, He has to come to Christ. The reasons are clearly stated by Christ (v. 46):

=> No man has seen God.

=> Christ alone is of God.

=> Christ alone has seen God.

John 7:16-17 *Jesus answered, "My teaching is not my own. It comes from him who sent me. If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."*

John 8:31-32 *To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

John 17:3 *"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent."*

Jer 9:24 *"But let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight," declares the LORD.*

Hosea 6:3 *"Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth."*

- c. Man must come to Christ: he must yield to the drawing power of God. God reveals, pulls, and tugs at the heart of a man to come to Christ. Why? Because the only way a man can *learn of God* is to come to Christ, and God wants every man to learn of Him, to know Him personally.

Being self-centred and rebellious, man likes to feel independent; consequently, man resists the quickening pull and drawing power of God. However, those who give in to the godly constraint (Jn. 6:44) and who partake of Christ (Jn. 6:47-51) learn of God and are accepted into His household to partake and feast at His table.

III. John 06:47-51 Things a Man Must Believe

A person must believe on Christ. (See *Believe*, Jn. 2:24.) The person who believes has eternal life (See *Life in Jesus Christ*, Jn. 1:4; *Life in Jesus Christ*, Jn. 10:10; and *Eternal Life*, Jn. 17:2-3). Christ calls for man to pay close attention, "I tell you the truth," that is, "listen" (v. 26, 32). What He now says is critical: a person must believe four things.

1. A person must believe that Christ is *the* Bread of Life: the Bread that feeds and nourishes man spiritually, that saves and gives man life. Man cannot provide true bread, that is, true satisfaction. Only God can. Moses was not the one who gave Israel the manna from heaven; God was the One who gave the manna. A man has to do something if he wishes...

- to have his hunger met
- to be content
- to be truly filled
- to be completely satisfied
- to be comfortable
- to be at peace

A man must look both beyond other men and beyond the things of this world. Men and things cannot meet the gnawing hunger of man; they cannot provide true satisfaction, for they do not possess the *true* bread.

Note the Lord's claim: "I am the Bread of Life."

=> Note how straightforward the claim is.

=> Note how brief, clear cut, straight to the point, and unmistakable the claim is.

=> Note His claim to deity: "I Am." There is no hesitation - no reservation - no holding back. He pulls no punches: "I Am" (See "*I Am*", Jn. 6:20).

=> Note how Christ refers to the manna again (v. 32). Eating physical food will only sustain man temporarily; man still dies. The point is clear: man's concern should not be physical food. If it is, man has only death to anticipate.

John 6:35 *Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."*

2. A man must believe that Christ is "out of" heaven, that He has come to deliver man from death. Christ claims two things.

a. He has come "out of heaven," from God Himself. His origin was "from above" (Jn. 3:31). He was not of the earth, not earthly. Men are. Men are born of the flesh, that is, they are born of a man and woman who live on earth. Therefore, men are of the earth and are earthly. But not Jesus. He was "from heaven" — *out of* God Himself.

Therefore, He was superior and preeminent.

b. If a man eats and partakes of Him, that man will not die (See *Death*, Heb. 9:27). Note: the word *eat* (phagei) is in the Greek aorist tense. This means that a man eats and partakes (receives) of Christ *once-for-all*. It is a one-time experience.

John 6:38-40 *"For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."*

John 6:58 *"This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died, but he who feeds on this bread will live forever."*

3. A man must believe that Christ is the living Bread, the One who gives life to man forever.
 - a. The Bread is living; it is a life (Jn. 1:4; 5:26). The words are literally, “the Bread, the Living” (ho artos ho zon). (v. 35, 41, 48.)
 - b. The Bread “came down from heaven.” The phrase *came down* (katabas) is again in the aorist tense which means Christ *came once*. The incarnation had never taken place before, nor will it ever take place again. The miraculous entrance of the living Bread into the world is a *one-time-only event*.
 - c. The Bread, the Lord Jesus Christ, came to provide spiritual food for man: spiritual and eternal life.
 - d. The offer of eternal life is conditional, “If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever.”
John 6:53-55 Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink.”
John 8:51 “I tell you the truth, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death.”
John 11:26 “And whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”
4. A man must believe that Christ gave His flesh for the life of the world. Note that Christ identifies the Bread: it is His flesh which He gives for the life of the world.
 - a. Jesus Christ came in the flesh.
1 Tim 3:16 Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.
1 John 4:2-3 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.
 - b. Jesus Christ gave His flesh (life) for the life of the world.
Heb 2:14-15 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil — and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
Rom 8:3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man.
1 Pet 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.

1 Pet 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit. ■

JOHN 02:24 SAVING FAITH: BELIEVE; COMMIT; ENTRUST

The word commit or entrust is the very same word “believe” (see Jn. 2:23). This gives an excellent picture of *saving faith*, of what *genuine faith* is — of the kind of faith that really saves a person.

1. Saving faith is not head knowledge, not just a mental conviction and intellectual assent. It is not just *believing the fact* that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world. It is not just believing history, that Jesus Christ lived upon earth as the Saviour just as A J Abdul Kalam lived upon earth as the President of India. It is not just believing the words and claims of Jesus in the same way that a person would believe the words of Abdul Kalam.
2. Saving faith is believing in Jesus, *who* and *what* He is, that He is the *Saviour* and *Lord* of life. It is a man giving and turning his life over to Jesus. It is a man casting himself upon Jesus as Saviour and Lord.
3. Saving faith is commitment — the commitment of a man’s total being and life to Jesus Christ. It is a man’s commitment of all he *is and has* to Jesus. It gives Jesus everything; therefore, it involves all of a man’s affairs. The man trusts Jesus to take care of his past (sins), his present (welfare), and his future (destiny). He entrusts his whole life, being, and possessions into Jesus’ hands. He lays himself upon Jesus’ keeping, confiding in Him about his daily necessities and acknowledging Him in all the ways of life. He follows Jesus in every area and in every detail of life, seeking His instructions and leaving his welfare up to Him. It is simply commitment of a man’s whole being, all he is and has, to Jesus.

There are three steps involved in faith, steps that are clearly seen in this passage.

1. There is the step of *seeing* (Jn. 2:23) or *hearing* (Rom. 10:16). A man must be willing to listen to the message of Christ, the revelation of truth.
2. There is the step of *mental assent*. A man must agree that the message is true, that the facts of the case are thus and so. But this is not enough. Mere agreement does not lead to action. Many a person knows that something is true, but he does not change his behaviour to match his knowledge. For example, a man knows that eating too much harms his body, but he may continue to eat too much. He agrees to the truth and knows the truth, but he does nothing about it. A person may believe and know that Jesus Christ is the Saviour of the world and yet do nothing about it, never make a decision to follow Christ. This man still does not have faith, not the kind of faith that the Bible talks about.

3. There is the step of *commitment*. When the New Testament speaks of faith, it speaks of *commitment*, a *personal commitment to the truth*. A man hears the truth and agrees that it is true and does something about it. He commits (entrusts) and yields his life to the truth. The truth becomes a part of his very being, a part of his behaviour and life. □

JOHN 01:04 “IN CHRIST WAS LIFE”

“In Him was life, and that life was the light of men.” John 01:04

The simple statement “in Christ was life” means at least three things.

1. Life is the quality and essence, the energy and power, the force and principle of being. Christ is life; He is...

- the very quality of life
- the very energy of life
- the very force of life
- the very essence of life
- the very power of life
- the very principle of life

Without Christ, there would be no life whatsoever. Life is in Him, within His very being. All things exist and have their being (life) in Him.

2. Life is purpose, meaning and significance of being. Christ is life; He is...

- the very purpose of life.
- the very meaning of life.
- the very significance of life.

3. Life is perfection. Life is all that a man must be and possess in order to live perfectly. This is what is meant by life. Life is completeness of being, absolute satisfaction, the fullness of all good, and the possession of all good things. Life is perfect love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and self-control (Gal. 5:22-23).

Whatever life is and all that life is, is all in Jesus Christ. Even the legitimate cravings of man that are sometimes entangled with evil — such as power, fame and wealth — are all included in the life given by Jesus Christ. Those who partake of His life shall reign forever as kings and priests (Lk. 16:10-12). This is the very thing that is distinctive about life — it is eternal. It lasts forever and it is rewarding. It will eventually exalt the believer to the highest life and place and position. (Rev. 21:1f.)

Jesus Christ is the source of life: He is the way to life, and He is the truth of life. He is the very substance of life, its very being and energy (Jn. 5:26; 1 Jn. 1:2). □

JOHN 10:10 LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10:10

Life is one of the great words of the Scriptures. The word *life* (zoe) and the verb *to live* or *to have life* (zen) have a depth of meaning.

1. Life is the energy, the force, the power of being.
2. Life is the opposite of perishing. It is deliverance from condemnation and death. It is the stopping or cessation of deterioration, decay, and corruption (Jn. 3:16; 5:24, 29; 10:28).
3. Life is *eternal* (aionios). It is forever. It is the very life of God Himself (Jn. 17:3). However, eternal life does not refer just to duration. Living forever would be a curse for some persons. The idea of eternal life is also quality, a certain kind of life, a life that consistently knows love, joy, peace, power, and responsibility .
4. Life is satisfaction (Jn. 6:35).
5. Life is security and enjoyment (Jn. 10:10).
6. Life is found only in God. God is the source and author of life, and it is God who has appointed Jesus Christ to bring life to man. Jesus Christ gives the very life of God Himself (Jn. 5:26; 6:27, 40; 10:28; 17:23).
7. Life has now been revealed. It has been unveiled and is clearly seen in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ shows man what life is (Jn. 1:4-5; 5:26; 1 Jn. 1:2).
8. Life only comes to a man by believing in Jesus Christ. A man outside Jesus Christ only exists. He merely has the existence of an animal. Real life is found only in God. This is to be expected and it is logically true, for God is the creator of life. As the creator of life, He alone knows what life really is and what it is supposed to be (Jn. 3:36; 5:24; 6:47). This is the reason He sent His Son, the LORD JESUS CHRIST, into the world: to show men what life is. When a person looks at Jesus Christ, he sees exactly what life is, exactly what it involves (Gal. 5:22-23):

=> love => patience => faithfulness => joy => kindness
=> gentleness => peace => goodness => self-control □

JOHN 17:02–03 ETERNAL LIFE (AINIOS)

“For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. 03 Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.” John 17:02-03

Life, real life. It is the very life of God Himself. It is the very energy, force, being, essence, principle and power of life. It has more to do with quality and with what life really is than with duration. To live forever in the present world is not necessarily a good thing. The world and man’s body need changing. That changed life is found only in eternal life. The only being who can be said to be eternal is God. Therefore, life — supreme life — is found only in God. To possess eternal life is to know God. Once a person knows God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, that person has eternal life — he shall live forever. But more essential, the person has the supreme quality of life, the very life of God Himself.

John 3:14-15 *“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”*

John 5:24 *“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.”*

John 6:40 *“For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*

John 3:36 *“Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God’s wrath remains on him.”*

John 11:25-28 *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she told him, “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.” And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. “The Teacher is here,” she said, “and is asking for you.”*

John 12:25 *“The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”*

Rom 5:21 *So that, just as sin reigned in death, so also grace might reign through righteousness to bring eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Gal 6:8 *The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.*

2 Tim 1:10 *But it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Saviour, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.*

1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.*

1 Jn 5:11-12 *And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. □*

HEBREWS 09:27 DEATH (THANATOS)

The basic meaning of death is *separation*. Death never means extinction, annihilation, nonexistence, or inactivity. "Death is the separation of a person from the purpose or use for which he was intended." (H.S. Miller. Quoted by Lehman Strauss. *Devotional Studies in Galatians and Ephesians*. Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Bros. Copyright 1957 by Lehman Strauss, p. 137.)

The Bible speaks of three deaths.

1. Physical death: the *separation* of a man's spirit or life from the body. This is what men commonly call death. It is when a person ceases to exist on this earth and is buried (1 Cor. 15:21-22; Heb. 9:27).

1 Cor 15:21-22 *For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.*

Heb 9:27 *Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.*

2. Spiritual death: the *separation* of man's spirit from God while he is still living and walking upon earth. This death is the *natural state* of a man on earth without Christ. Man is seen as still in his sins and *dead* to God (Eph. 2:1; 4:18; 1 Jn. 5:12).

Spiritual death speaks of a person who is dead while he still lives (1 Tim. 5:6). He is a natural man living in this present world, but he is said to be dead to the Lord Jesus Christ and to God and to spiritual matters.

- a. A person who wastes his life in wild living is spiritually dead.

Luke 15:32 *"But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found."*

- b. A person who has not partaken of Christ is spiritually dead.

John 6:53 *Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you."*

- c. A person who does not have the spirit of Christ is said to be spiritually dead.

Rom 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

- d. A person who lives in sin is said to be spiritually dead.

Eph 2:1 *As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.*

Col 2:13 *When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.*

- e. A person who is separated from God is said to be spiritually dead.

Eph 4:18-19 *They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

- f. A person who sleeps in sin is spiritually dead.

Eph 5:14 *For it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."*

- g. A person who lives in sinful pleasure is dead while he lives.

1 Tim 5:6 *But the widow who lives for pleasure is dead even while she lives.*

- h. A person who does not have the Son of God is dead.

1 Tim 5:6 *He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.*

- i. A person who does great religious works but does the wrong works is dead.

Rev 3:1 *"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead."*

3. Eternal death: the *separation* of man from God's presence forever. This is the second death, an eternal state of being *dead to God*. (1 Cor. 6:9-10; 2 Th. 1:9). It is spiritual death, separation from God, that is prolonged beyond the death of the body. It is called the "second death" or eternal death.

Rom 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Rom 8:6 *The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.*

2 Th 1:9 *They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power. □*