

Union Baptist Church
31 Manhattan Avenue
White Plains, New York 10607
Pastor Verlin D. Williams, D.Min.

May 24, 2026

PROMISES OF GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT
LESSON 4: The Promise of Eternal Life

Scripture

John 5:24 NKJV

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.”

Biblical Context

John 5 takes place after Jesus heals a man at the pool of Bethesda. The man had suffered with an infirmity for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him, spoke to him, healed him, and commanded him to take up his bed and walk.

Because this healing occurred on the Sabbath, the religious leaders began to oppose Jesus. Their concern was not the man’s restoration, but what they believed to be a violation of Sabbath law. Jesus responded by saying, “My Father has been working until now, and I have been working” (John 5:17). This statement intensified the conflict because Jesus was speaking of God as His Father in a unique way, revealing His equality with God.

In the verses that follow, Jesus explains His relationship with the Father. He does not act independently from the Father. He does what the Father does. He gives life because the Father gives life. He exercises judgment because the Father has committed judgment to the Son.

John 5:24 stands within this larger revelation. Jesus is declaring that eternal life is given to those who hear His word and believe in the Father who sent Him. This promise is rooted in the authority of Jesus as the Son of God and in the saving purpose of the Father.

This verse is not merely a comforting thought about life after death. It is a present assurance for the believer. Jesus teaches that the one who truly hears His word and believes in the One who sent Him already has eternal life, is no longer under condemning judgment, and has passed from death into life.

Explanation of John 5:24

The Certainty of the Promise: *“Most assuredly, I say to you...”*

Jesus begins with a solemn and authoritative declaration. The phrase “Most assuredly” means that what follows is certain, trustworthy, and settled. Jesus is not offering an opinion, a possibility, or a religious wish. He is making a divine promise. This is important because eternal life is too serious to be based on human feelings, personal assumptions, or religious activity. Jesus speaks with the authority of the Son. What He promises can be trusted. The believer’s confidence rests on the word of Jesus, not on the instability of human emotion.

The Response to the Word of Jesus: *“He who hears My word...”*

To hear the word of Jesus means more than hearing sound. It means receiving His word with faith, humility, and openness to God. Many people heard Jesus speak, but not all truly received Him. Some heard Him and resisted. Some heard Him and argued. Some heard Him and walked away. True hearing involves the heart. It is hearing that allows the word of Jesus to confront sin, awaken faith, correct thinking, and call a person into relationship with God.

The Faith That Receives Eternal Life: *“And believes in Him who sent Me...”*

Jesus connects hearing His word with believing in the Father who sent Him. Jesus’ mission is not separate from the Father’s will. The Father sent the Son, and the Son reveals the Father’s saving purpose.

To believe in Him who sent Jesus is to trust God’s work in Jesus. It is to believe that God has acted through Jesus to give life, forgive sin, redeem the soul, and bring people into right relationship with Himself. This faith is more than believing that God exists. It is trusting the God who sent His Son. It is receiving Jesus as the One through whom the Father gives life.

The Present Possession of Eternal Life: *“Has everlasting life...”*

Jesus says the believer has everlasting life. He does not say the believer might have it, may eventually have it, or can only hope to have it later. He says the believer has it now.

Eternal life includes the promise of life beyond death, but it begins in the present. It is life in relationship with God through Jesus Christ. It is the life of God given to the believer.

This does not mean the believer will avoid sickness, sorrow, aging, grief, or physical death. It means the believer has already received a life that death cannot destroy. Eternal life is not just endless existence. It is life with God.

The Freedom from Condemning Judgment: *And shall not come into judgment...*"

Jesus is not saying that believers will never be accountable to God. Scripture teaches that all people must give an account before Him. However, Jesus is saying that the believer will not come under condemning judgment.

The believer's standing before God has changed. The one who hears Jesus and believes in the Father who sent Him no longer stands under condemnation. The judgment that would have resulted in separation from God has been answered through the saving work of Jesus.

This is why eternal life is a promise of assurance. The believer does not stand before God trusting personal perfection, religious performance, or moral achievement. The believer stands by grace through faith in the One sent by the Father.

The Transfer from Death to Life: *"But has passed from death into life."*

This final phrase describes a spiritual transfer. The believer has moved from one condition to another, from spiritual death into spiritual life. Apart from Jesus, a person may be physically alive but spiritually dead. Through Him, the believer is made alive to God. This is not a slight improvement of the old life; it is the gift of new life.

Jesus says the believer has passed from death into life. The language is decisive. A real change has taken place. The believer now belongs to God, lives under grace, and possesses life that comes from Jesus Christ.

Contemporary Summary

John 5:24 speaks powerfully to people living in a world filled with uncertainty. Many people are anxious about the future, afraid of death, burdened by regret, and unsure of where they stand with God. Jesus gives a promise that addresses the deepest concerns of the human soul.

He teaches that eternal life is not earned by success, status, church attendance, family background, or personal goodness. Eternal life is given by God to the one who hears the word of Jesus Christ and believes in the Father who sent Him.

This promise is especially meaningful because so much in life changes. Health changes. Family structures change. Financial conditions change. Communities change. The body ages. Loved ones pass away. But the promise of Jesus remains secure.

The believer does not have to live in constant fear of death or condemnation. According to Jesus, the one who believes has already passed from death into life. That means eternal life is not only something waiting in the future; it is a present reality that gives strength, peace, assurance, and hope now. This verse calls every person to take Jesus seriously. His word must be heard, His identity must be received, and the Father who sent Him must be trusted.

The promise is clear: the one who hears Jesus and believes in God has eternal life.

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to truly hear the word of Christ?
2. How is spiritual hearing different from simply listening to religious teaching?
3. Why does Jesus connect believing His word with believing in the Father who sent Him?
4. What does it mean that the believer has everlasting life now?
5. How does this verse give assurance to believers who struggle with fear, guilt, aging, or death?
6. What is the difference between accountability before God and condemning judgment?
7. What does it mean to pass “from death into life”?
8. How should this promise affect the way a believer lives each day?

Student Worksheet

Lesson 3: The Promise of Eternal Life

Scripture: John 5:24 NKJV

“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.”

Before Class Reflection

Take a few moments before class to read John 5:24 slowly. Pay attention to what Jesus says the believer hears, believes, has, escapes, and passes from.

1. Hearing the Word of Christ

Jesus says, “he who hears My word...”

In your own words, what does it mean to truly hear the word of Christ?

Why is it possible to hear religious teaching and still not receive the word of Christ?

2. Believing the Father Who Sent Jesus

Jesus says, “and believes in Him who sent Me...”

What does this teach us about the relationship between Jesus and the Father?

Why is faith in God connected to receiving Jesus Christ?

3. The Promise of Everlasting Life

Jesus says the believer “has everlasting life.”

Why is the word has important?

How does it encourage you to know that eternal life begins now and is not only a future promise?

4. Freedom from Condemning Judgment

Jesus says the believer “shall not come into judgment.”

What fears or burdens does this promise address?

How does this promise help a believer live with peace rather than fear?

5. Passed from Death into Life

Jesus says the believer “has passed from death into life.”

What does this phrase mean spiritually?

What should be different in the life of someone who has passed from death into life?

Personal Reflection

What part of John 5:24 speaks most deeply to you at this season of your life?

What is one way this promise can strengthen your faith this week?