

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

May 27, 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 5:24 is part of a larger conversation in which Jesus explains His relationship to the Father. Earlier in John 5, Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. This miracle created conflict with the religious leaders because they were more focused on Sabbath regulations than on the mercy and authority revealed through Jesus.

Jesus then makes a profound claim: His works are the works of the Father, His authority comes from the Father, and His mission is inseparable from the Father’s will. He says, “The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do” (John 5:19). In other words, Jesus is not acting independently from God. He is revealing God.

When Jesus says, “He who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,” He is not simply offering religious comfort. He is declaring a divine promise. Eternal life is given to those who receive His word and believe in the Father who sent Him.

This verse is one of the clearest promises in the New Testament. It tells us what the believer has, what the believer escapes, and what the believer has already passed through.

**Central Thought**

The promise of eternal life is not merely a future hope after death; it is a present possession given by God to those who hear the word of Christ and believe in the Father who sent Him.

**Three Key Points**

1. Eternal Life Begins with Hearing the Word of Christ

Jesus says, *“He who hears My word...”*

This hearing is more than listening with the ears. It means receiving the word of Jesus with faith, reverence, and openness. Many people heard Jesus speak, but not all received Him. Some heard His words and resisted. Others heard His words and believed.

To hear Jesus truly is to recognize that His word carries divine authority. His word is not simply advice, opinion, or religious encouragement. His word reveals the will of God and calls the soul to respond. The promise of eternal life begins where the heart becomes attentive to the voice of Jesus.

### *Reflection*

A person can be around church, hear sermons, sing hymns, and know religious language, yet still resist the word of Jesus. The question is not merely, “Have I heard religious teaching?” The deeper question is, “Have I received the word of Jesus Christ as the truth by which my life must be shaped?”

## 2. Eternal Life Is Received Through Faith in the One Who Sent Jesus

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

Faith in Jesus Christ is never separated from faith in the Father. Jesus was sent by God. To receive Jesus is to receive the Father’s saving work through Him. To reject Jesus is to reject the One who sent Him.

This means eternal life is not earned by achievement, religious performance, or moral record. Eternal life is received by faith. The believer trusts that God has acted in Jesus Christ to save, forgive, redeem, and restore.

This faith is not a casual agreement. It is not just believing that Jesus existed. It is trusting the Father’s testimony concerning His Son. It is believing that Jesus is the One sent from God, the One through whom life is given.

### *Reflection*

This promise humbles human pride. We do not create eternal life. We do not deserve eternal life. We do not negotiate for eternal life. We receive it because God, in grace, gives life through His Son.

## 3. Eternal Life Changes the Believer’s Position Before God

Jesus gives three assurances:

*“has everlasting life”  
shall not come into judgment”  
has passed from death into life”*

These are strong and settled statements. Jesus does not say the believer might have eternal life. He says the believer has eternal life. This is present possession.

Then He says the believer shall not come into judgment. This does not mean believers will never be accountable to God. It means the believer will not face the condemning judgment of the unbelieving world. The saving work of God has already addressed the believer's deepest need.

Finally, Jesus says the believer has passed from death into life. This is a spiritual transfer. The believer has been moved out of the realm of death and brought into the life of God. Eternal life is not simply endless existence. It is life in relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

### *Reflection*

The believer still faces trials, grief, aging, suffering, and death. But those realities no longer have the final word. The believer belongs to God. Eternal life means that death is real, but it is not ultimate. Judgment is serious, but condemnation has been removed. Life in Christ has already begun.

### Spiritual Significance

John 5:24 teaches that eternal life is both a present reality and a future assurance. It is present because Jesus says the believer "*has everlasting life.*" The life of God has already begun in the soul of the one who believes. It is future because this life will be fully revealed beyond death, when the believer is brought into the fullness of God's presence.

This promise gives the believer confidence, not arrogance. It gives peace, not carelessness. It gives hope, not fear. The believer does not stand on personal goodness, but on the word of Christ and the faithfulness of the Father who sent Him.

### **Life Application**

The promise of eternal life reminds us that our future is not held by circumstances, disease, age, grief, or death. Our future is held by God. The believer can live with confidence because eternal life does not begin when the body dies. Eternal life begins when the soul is joined to God through faith in Jesus Christ.

### Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to truly "hear" the word of Christ rather than merely listen to religious teaching?
2. Why is it important that Jesus connects believing in Him with believing in the Father who sent Him?
3. How does the promise of eternal life give peace to believers who are facing aging, grief, uncertainty, or death?
4. What is the difference between having eternal life now and waiting for the fullness of eternal life in the future?

5. How should this promise shape the way believers live, pray, worship, and face difficult seasons?

### **Closing Summary**

John 5:24 is a promise of assurance. Jesus declares that the one who hears His word and believes in the Father who sent Him already possesses eternal life.

This eternal life is not fragile. It is not temporary. It is not based on human perfection. It rests on the authority of Christ and the grace of God. The believer has life now, hope for the future, and confidence before God. The promise is this: whoever believes has eternal life.