

The Benefits of Hearing and Believing

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(John 5:24 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Background:

- The 5th chapter of John opens with a feast of the Jews in Jerusalem. Jesus went Jerusalem and while there He went to a pool that was by a sheep market. This place was called Bethesda. There was a man there who had been sick for 38 years and Jesus healed him. The problem was, however, that He healed him on the sabbath. In verse 16 we see that the Jews sought to Kill Jesus because he had healed this man on the sabbath day -- they were probably mad because they could not heal anybody on any day!
- We pick up our text in a passage where Jesus is confronted by the Jews and begins to explain to them the relationship He has with the Father. This gets them even more mad. Read verses 17-24.

5:24 *believes him . . . has eternal life.* Faith and life are connected (cf. 20:31). *has eternal life.* A present possession (see note on 3:15). *has crossed.* The decisive action has taken place, and the believer no longer belongs to death. ¹

Verily, Verily

- Meaning Amen, Amen or this is the truth, this is the truth. This reiteration is only found in the Gospel according to St. John and he states it 25 times. The other gospel writers said verily, but John reiterated that fact that this is the truth and it is something worth your consideration.
- (John 3:3 KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.
- (John 5:25 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.
- (John 6:47 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
- (John 8:51 KJV) Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

Hearing -- *He that heareth my word*

Heareth (akouo) ak-oo'-o

- to perceive by the ear what is announced in one's presence
- to comprehend, to understand
- This connotes more than just receiving into your ear pitches and decibels, but receiving into your heart understanding. It is to “perceive by the ear what is announced in one’s presence” and hence receive into one’s heart what one has perceived. It is hard to receive what you cannot perceive. So Jesus, in verse 24 sums up the gospel message, and begins with hearing!
- It does you no good to come to church and listen to the word of God if you are not willing to hear what the spirit is saying to the church. Some come in, as they did to Jesus, with preconceived notions and with hardened hearts. When we come to the house of the Lord, we ought to come ready, receptive, and willing to be responsive to what the spirit is saying to the church.
- So, are you hearing what I’m saying?
- Look at your neighbor and ask, are you hearing?
- What was Jesus saying that they should hear? What He had just said in verses 19-23. I have just identified myself as the Messiah, I have just identified myself as being God incarnate, I have just identified myself as being your Savior! **DID YOU HEAR?**
- (Rom 10:17 KJV) *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
 - If you HEAR what the preacher is saying, and that being the word of God. Your faith will increase and this faith will have an impact on your life. And hence the benefits of hearing and believing.
- (Rev 2:7 KJV) *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.*

Believing -- *and believeth on him that sent me*

- Believing is the bottom line of John’s message. He uses this verb believe over 50 times in his gospel, in message of the good news of Jesus. In his portrait of Christ.
- **To believe in Him that sent me was Christ’s design. Matthew Henry said; “Christ’s brought us God because God is the first original of all grace and the last object of all faith! Christ is our way, God is our rest!”**
- That you might believe, this is the fuel in the preacher’s fire. This is our mission and also our motivation. This is the reason for our coming, that you might believe.
- We are identified as believers, as those who have perceived, received, and believed! This is the bottom line.
- He closes the gospel with these words: (John 20:31 KJV) *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*
- Also, because of the preceding verses, Jesus is saying that if you believe in Him that sent me, you are believing in ME, because (Jn. 10:30) *I and my Father are one.*
- (Heb 4:2 KJV) *For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.*

Benefits:

Present Possession -- *hath everlasting life*

- This is to have everlasting life -- RIGHT NOW! In the present time. It is a RIGHT NOW message!
- What then is everlasting life? These are the two Greek words (*aionios zoe*). *Aionios* means perpetual and never ending and *zoe* means the God type of life. God wants

us to have His type of life perpetually yes, BUT STARTING RIGHT NOW! He does not want us to wait till we get to heaven to reap the rewards accepting JESUS. He wants us to make it to heaven, yes, but also enjoy the ride!

- The term is found 36 times in John, while no other NT book uses it more than 17 times. Life is Christ's gift

Future Exoneration -- *shall not come into condemnation*

- This word condemnation is the Greek word (krisis) which means judgment by tribunal. Once you accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior, the judgment has been passed! You are NOT GUILTY on ALL CHARGES! Free to live for Christ, by Christ, and through Christ! NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY!
- *(Illustration given by Rev. Jeffery Johnson)*
- Satan is the accuser of the brethren (Rev 12:10), but we have an advocate with the Father (1 Jn 2:1) that whispers into His hear and God (the Righteous Judge in the SUPREME COURT) comes back every time -- NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY, NOT GUILTY!

Eternal Security -- *passed from death unto life*

- This word passed is the Greek word *metabaino*, which means TO CHANGE PLACES!
- Once you hear and believe what Jesus has said, you have changed places!
- *(2 Cor 5:17 KJV) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- Changing places from Death unto Life! God's life -- RIGHT NOW! Because it is used in the passed tense. This is something that has already happened and cannot be reversed!