

I read the story of a man who had walked with the Lord all of his life, but in his later years, when he was 88 years old, something happened to him that really stumbled his faith.

His family lived in a rough neighborhood in New York in what was described as one of the toughest neighborhoods in America.

In this neighborhood, this elderly man was beaten up by thugs on two occasions.’

The first time he was knocked down two flights of stairs and went to the hospital.

The second time he was beaten up and developed a hernia.

This elderly gentleman didn’t know what a hernia was, he was a simple man, with a very simple faith in God.

He had prayed and asked the Lord to heal the hernia, and he really believed that the Lord would heal him.

He prayed and prayed, but no healing came. It was explained to him that the hands of the Physician were the hands of the Lord, that many times the Lord uses everyday naturally occurring circumstances to bring answers to our prayers.

That the ability to heal through surgery is a gift from God and therefore the answer to his healing.

But this elderly man shrugged that off and said that **“If the Lord wanted him to be healed He would do it himself.”**

This healing never came, and the last 8 years of this mans life were not only years of declining health, but also of diminishing faith.

Why is it that if the Lord does not answer our prayers the way that we want Him to or are expecting that He will answer, we sometimes lose our trust in Him?

☞ **Maybe this morning in your life**, you have asked the Lord to help you with something in your life, and as of today, that answer has not yet come.

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- ☞ **Or maybe the answer** that you received was not the answer you wanted.
- ☞ **Or perhaps** the answer has already come but you didn't notice it because it was so different from what you expected.

As we pick up our study this morning in John chapter 9, Jesus is going to meet people that are very much like you and I.

- ☞ **They really need His help**, but the help that Jesus gives them, is not what they expected.
- ☞ **And their ideas** of how God works in our lives, is much different from how the Lord actually works.

JOHN 9:1-3

- 1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind **from birth**.
- 2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, **who sinned, this man or his parents**, that he was born blind?"
- 3 Jesus answered, NOTICE: "**Neither this man nor his parents sinned**, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

Why is it, that when we are suffering, or we see someone else going through a difficult time, one of our thought is, "I wonder what they did that caused this?"

- ☞ **I talk to people every week** who come to me and tell me that the reason that they are suffering or that they don't get answers to their prayer or the help that they need, is because they have done something wrong in their life.
- ☞ *"If I was just more obedient, then the Lord would help me..."*

One of the results of sin is suffering, but not all suffering is caused by sin.

- ☞ **Here in John 9:1-3**, this man was born blind and it was not because of the sin of his parents or anything that he had done, it was simply the results of a fallen world.
- ☞ **Notice that Jesus said** that "*Neither the man or his parents sinned*", the reason that this man was born blind **was so that the Lord could be glorified in his life**.

One of the big lies that has been taught in churches in the past is that if you are suffering it is because of some sin that you have done.

- ☞ **This is the same proposal** that job's friends brought to him in chapters 3-30 in the book of Job, that Job's suffering was somehow caused by his own sin.

JOB 1:8-12

- 8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "**Have you considered My servant Job**, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"
- 9 So Satan answered the LORD and said, "**Does Job fear God for nothing?**"
- 10 "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land.

11 "**But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!**"

12 So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, **all that he has is in your power**; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:11

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and to comfort him.

Job 4:1-7

1 Then Eliphaz the Temanite answered and said:

2 "If one attempts a word with you, will you become weary? But who can withhold himself from speaking?"

3 Surely you have instructed many, And you have strengthened weak hands.

4 Your words have upheld him who was stumbling, And you have strengthened the feeble knees;

5 But now it comes upon you, and you are weary; It touches you, and you are troubled. **(You can dish it out Job but you can't take it!)**

6 Is not your reverence your confidence? And the integrity of your ways your hope?

7 "Remember now, who ever perished being innocent? Or where were the upright ever cut off?"

Did you hear what they told Job?

- ☞ *"If we try to talk to you Job are you going to listen to us?"*
- ☞ *"You have been one to tell others what to do in the past, but now that you are struggling will you take advice from other?"*
- ☞ *"Job, you are good at teaching others, but what will you do not that it is you that needs to be taught?"*
- ☞ *"Job you think that you are righteous and are without fault, but consider that no one every died because they were innocent."*
- ☞ *"No one suffers Job unless they have some kind of secret sin in their life that they have not confessed to God?"*

You see, all of their basic assumptions points are wrong. Jesus proves this in the study this morning.

- ☞ **Sometimes people suffer**, and they have done nothing wrong.
- ☞ **Sometimes the reason** that they are suffering and are sick, is so that the Lord can be glorified in the suffering or the sickness.

Most of us don't mind suffering nearly as much **when we know what the reason for the suffering is.**

- ☞ **But when you don't understand** why you are sick or suffering or why the Lord has not helped you when you cry out to Him, not knowing why, torments us in our suffering.

But when you don't understand why the Lord is doing something, go back to what you do know:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Did Jesus prove to you that He really loves you, when He died on the Cross for all of the wrong that you have done and will do in your life?

- ☞ **Is the giving up of Jesus life** for you enough proof of His love for you?
- ☞ **Then doesn't he still love you the same now**, when you are suffering?
- ☞ **Even though** you may not understand now why things are happening the way that they are, **you already know for sure that the Lord does love you.**
- ☞ **So in the end of this present situation**, you will also see that He still loves you and the way that He will make this all turn out will again prove His love for you.

Even though right now, you don't see any proof of that.

Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is the ... evidence of things not seen.

That means that faith believes even when it cannot see.

Why do we find it very hard sometimes to trust the Lord when we don't see any evidence that he is hearing us or helping us?

Fear, we are afraid, and that fear paralyzes us and creates doubts and discouragements in our heart.

Fear, we have to know how to properly handle it:

A few minutes before the services started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking.

Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate.

Soon everyone had exited the church except for one elderly gentleman who sat calmly in his pew without moving, seeming oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence.

So Satan walked up to the old man and said "Don't you know who I am?"

The man replied, "**Yep, sure do.**"

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"Aren't you afraid of me?" Satan asked.

"**Nope, sure ain't.**" said the man.

"Don't you realize I can kill you with a word?" asked Satan.

"**Don't doubt it for a minute,**" returned the old man, in an even tone.

"Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, AGONY for all eternity?"
Persisted Satan.

"**Yep,**" was the calm reply.

"And you're still not afraid?" asked Satan.

"**Nope,**" said the old man.

More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, "Well, why aren't you afraid of me?"

The man calmly replied, "**Because I've Been married to your sister for 48 years.**"

When we are married to a faith that even in the worst of situations where there seems like there is not hope at all, Jesus is working in the background for you, in ways that you cannot even imagine.

Jesus is using resources that you have no idea exist, and will make an answer to this problem in a way that is much better than you could have planned or dreamed for yourself.

- ☞ **Trust Him** and don't be afraid,
- ☞ **Don't listen to your friends** and family when they discourage you by telling you that this is all your fault and that nothing good is going to happen...

That is what Jobs miserable comforter friends said to him also, but they were wrong!

- ☞ **Has the Lord helped you in the past**, and made things that were difficult then, turn out for good?
- ☞ **Has He been faithful to you before?**, Then He will also be faithful to you now.

John 5

15 The man departed and **told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.**

16 For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, **because He had done these things on the Sabbath.**

17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said **that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**

You know, I am always amazed when I hear people say that “Jesus never claimed to be God”, and “**the Bible doesn’t say anywhere that Jesus is God...**”

☞ **Really!**

☞ **Because the Bible** that I have been studying for the past 31 years says perhaps a hundred times that Jesus is God, the Creator of everything that exists!

☞ **The reason** that the Jewish religious leadership here in John Chapt 5, verse 18, are so angry with Jesus is that He was “Claiming to be God”.

This is not the first time that the Leaders of the Temple in Israel were upset with Jesus for His claiming to be God:

John 10:31-33

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him.

32 Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”

33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”

In the Book of Hebrews, the Father call the Son “God”.

Hebrews 1:5, 8

5 For to which of the angels did The Father ever say:

“You are My Son,

8 But to the Son He says: “Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever;

The Old Testament said that when Jesus came, He would be called “God”.

Isaiah 9:6

For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace

In the New Testament, Paul wrote that everything that exists was created by Jesus, He is the Creator God.

Colossians 1:16

For by Jesus all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

This means that in Genesis chapter 1, when it says:

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. **This was Jesus!**

Now let me tell you why Jesus being God is so important to you...

- ⊖ **If Jesus was not God**, He as just a man, your sins would not be paid for and you would not have eternal life!
- ⊖ **Only the unlimited value** of the God of the Universe was enough to pay the price for the sins of every person that has ever been born on the earth.

If Jesus was just a good man, a great religious leader, His life would not have enough value, based on what the Bible says, to pay for all of mans sins.

1 Peter 1:18-19

18 knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers,
19 but with **the precious blood of Christ**, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

Consider that the life of any ordinary man, a religious leader, a great teacher, or a any human being ever born before, they are still just a man.

- ⊖ **How could** the ordinary life of a human being be enough to pay for the sins of every person every born?
- ⊖ **This is why** Jesus is unique, set apart from any other person on the earth, He was not just a man, The Bible says that **Jesus is also the eternal God**, who took the body of a man.
- ⊖ **This is why we don't trust** in any other name than the name of Jesus, because only He is God and proved that He is God by raising Himself from the dead, and therefore His life is valuable enough to pay for the sins of every person ever born.

And now, even more amazing is the fact that this glorious God of ours who loves us so much, He also left Heaven, humbled Himself, and became a servant to us.

John 5

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself**, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

Jesus gave up some of His rights and privileges as God, to become for us a servant, submitted to the Father on our behalf.

Philippians 2

⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it something He would hold on to, to be equal with God,
⁷but **made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.
⁸And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

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This verse means that When Jesus decided before the foundation of the world, to leave heaven and become a man, He knew then that He was going to set aside some of His power as God.

- ⊖ **He would not be able to be everywhere** at the same time (Omnipresent).
- ⊖ **He would deny Himself all power** as God (Omnipotent)
- ⊖ **He would deny Himself all knowledge** (Omniscience)

This is why:

Jesus called God “**His Father**”, He was submitting Himself to the Father for our sake.

John 8:28

²⁸Then Jesus said to them, “When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am *He*, and *that* **I do nothing of Myself**; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things.

²⁹And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, **for I always do those things that please Him.**”

Jesus said that there were certain things that He did not know, i.e., “**The Day or hour of His return**” at the Rapture.

Mark 13:32

³²“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, **nor the Son**, but only the Father

Jesus said that it was for our benefit that he leave the earth, because in the body of a man, Jesus did not have the ability to be everywhere at once. But if Jesus left the earth, He could send the Holy Spirit that could be with all of us at the same time.

John 16:7

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Now Jesus is going to say more amazing things that give us proof from His own words, that He knew that He was God, and had the power and authority of God:

John 5

19 Then Jesus answered and said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of Himself**, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.

20 “For the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and He will show Him **greater works** than these, that you may marvel.

21 “For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so **the Son gives life to whom He will.**

22 “For the Father judges no one, but **has committed all judgment to the Son,**

23 “that all should **honor the Son just as they honor the Father.** He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

- ⊕ **Verse 19:** Jesus is Submitted to the Father, He only does those things that the Father wants for Him to say and do.
- ⊕ **Verses 20 and 21,** Only God can raise people from the dead, but Jesus says that He has the power to raise you from the dead.
- ⊕ **Verse 22:** Jesus says that He is the judge of the whole earth, that every human being will stand before Him, again a right that only God has.

Imagine what it must have been like for the religious leaders in Israel to be hearing Jesus say these things.

- ⊕ Claiming the power to raise the dead, that only God has.
- ⊕ The Power to Judge all human beings, again only God can do this.

And yet, when Jesus close friend Lazarus was sick and near death, Jesus knowingly waited 4 days before going to see him, waiting until Lazarus was dead.'

John 11

¹Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

²It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

³Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "**Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.**"

⁴When Jesus heard *that*, He said, "**This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God,** that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was.** ⁷Then after this He said to *the* disciples, "Let us go to Judea again.

Now, if you received word that someone that you loved was very sick and that they may not have much longer to live, would you hesitate for 2 more day before going to see them?

- ⊕ **Jesus clearly loves Lazarus very much,** but He waits until his friend Lazarus is dead before He goes to see him.
- ⊕ **We see this** and it looks to us like Jesus really doesn't love Lazarus, because He doesn't go to help him quickly.

In reality, Jesus loved him so much that by delaying the answer to his need a couple of day, He was able to bless Lazarus and his family and friends, even more.

- ⊕ **What if right now in your life,** you really, really need the Lord to help you, in fact you are desperate.
- ⊕ **What if there are some things** in your life that are nearly dead and very well may die, if Jesus doesn't come right now and help you?
- ⊕ **And what if Jesus delays His help** and an answer to you prayer until after you think that it is too late.

What will happen to you faith and trust in Him?

- ☞ **It very well may be** that Jesus will do the exact same thing in your own situation that He did here with Lazarus.
- ☞ **Sometimes the Lord** delays the answer to your prayer, so that He can do the greater work after you think it is too late.

He loves to work in situations where we think it is too late, or when things seem like they have died.

If you are discouraged this morning and have been praying for an answer from Jesus and asking desperately for His help, but no answer has come yet, do not cast away your confidence just yet.

Hebrews 10:35

³⁵Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. ³⁶For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

- ☞ **Perhaps the answer will come** just when you think that it is totally impossible because it is too late.
- ☞ **Perhaps** as you reach the end of your rope and are ready to give up, that is when He will bring the answer.
- ☞ **I have seen this happen** in my own life so many times...

John 11

¹⁷So when Jesus came, **He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.** ¹⁸Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. ²¹Now **Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”** ²²But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You.”

²³Jesus said to her, **“Your brother will rise again.”**

²⁴Martha said to Him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

²⁵Jesus said to her, **“I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

Do you realize what Jesus just said here:

- ☞ Jesus just claimed that He is the one that has the power to raise a human being back to life, not just Lazarus, but every human being, back to life.
- ☞ Jesus is again claiming that He is “The Mighty God” of the Universe.
- ☞ A very bold statement, unless it is totally true.
- ☞ Jesus based all of His claims that He is God, on one proof, whether or not He would raise from the dead, 3 days after they crucified Him

John 11

²⁷She said to Him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

²⁸And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, “The Teacher has come and is calling for you.” ²⁹As soon as she heard *that*, she arose quickly and came to Him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. ³¹Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, “She is going to the tomb to weep there.”

³²Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.”

³³Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ³⁴And He said, “Where have you laid him?”

They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.”

³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!”

³⁷And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹Jesus said, “Take away the stone.”

Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days.”

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” ⁴¹Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. ⁴²And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me.” ⁴³Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” ⁴⁴And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

⁴⁵Then many of the Jews who had come to Mary, and had seen the things Jesus did, believed in Him

There will be a time in the future when every creation will know and recognize that Jesus is the lord of the whole universe.

- ☞ That day will come when Jesus has completed the “wrath of the lamb” during the great tribulation period and returns with his church to begin the millennium reign.

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

- ☞ The word “Robbery” in verse 6 is a poor modern English translation the Greek word here is “Harpagmos” (har-pag-mos’) which is something to be grasped or retained or understood.
- ☞ Verse 6 correctly translated says “Jesus is God and did not consider that this would be something that we could understand or grasp that Jesus is equal to God...”

Philippians 2

7 but made Himself of no reputation, **taking the form of a bondservant**, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, **He humbled Himself and became obedient** to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has **highly exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that THIS IS IN THE FUTURE: **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,**

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- ☞ Unfortunately for those who recognize Jesus true authority as God and judge at this point, it will be too late.
- ☞ The point here is that no one can say they believe in God but reject Jesus, to reject Jesus is to reject God.

John 11

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**.

Verse 24 contains 5 important principles for the human race about what it takes to get into heaven:

1. **Hearing and believing:** The principle here is that believing that Jesus is the savior begins with hearing about him from the word of God. Romans 10:17 so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of god.
 - ☞ First we have to hear the plan of salvation from the word of God, then we have to make a choice whether we believe it is true or false.
2. **Believe in the one who sent Jesus:** here Jesus shows us the unity of the father and the Son. We must also believe in the one who sent Jesus, the father. Salvation comes from believing in God as he is: Father Son and Holy Spirit.
3. **We have eternal life:** The moment you believe in your heart that Jesus is your Savior, you "have" in the present tense, eternal life.
4. **No judgment:** Next an amazing promise; we shall not ever come under any judgment. Because we have trusted in Jesus judgment is over for the believer, it happened on the cross when Jesus took my place.
5. **Passed from death to life:** we were dead before we trusted Jesus. The moment we trust him to save us we live forever removed from the power of death.

John 3:18

"He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 11

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.

- ☞ Think for just a moment. In eternity past, the Father The Son The Holy Spirit in the councils of heaven planning the creation of man knowing his fall, making provision for his redemption, seeing the days ahead in the fulfillment of each part of their plan.
- ☞ Now the hour that they had planned together has come to show the world the plan of salvation, the moment when those who had died believing in Jesus will hear his voice and be raised from the dead.
- ☞ There are 2 kinds of life here
 1. Life as we know it physical life and
 2. Eternal life life as god knows it.

John 11

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.

28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which **all who are in the graves will hear His voice**

29 "and come forth-- those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.

The key word in verse 26 is "life". Jesus claim to not just have life but be the source of all life.

JOHN 14:6

6 Jesus said to him, "I am **the way, the truth, and the life**. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

Jesus is not saying that He is a way to life a way, to enlightenment, He is claiming to be the source of all life, the creator of life.

The greek word: "**Zoe**" (dzo-ay') meaning 2 things:

1. **Eternal life**: **The life that is the spirit in every human being.** Literally Jesus is the source of human life by providing the spirit that makes a human being alive
2. **Physical life**: **Also the fullness of life the quality of human life.** Jesus is the source of the quality of life in the physical realm here on earth.
 - ☞ In John 3:17, Jesus said that he did not come into the world to condemn the world but that the world through him might be saved.
 - ☞ This seems to be a contradiction to the above verse here in chapter 5 verses 27-30 where Jesus makes it clear the father gave him the authority to judge the world.

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- ☞ Actually because we have the completed scriptures now we have the privilege of seeing that the Messiah would come twice, the first to be a servant and offer his life for the world as our savior, the second time He will come as king and judge.
- ☞ When Jesus made the statement in 3:17 he was fulfilling the first coming as Savior, He was not coming to be judge.
- ☞ When Jesus returns physically to the earth the second time, it definitely will be to act as the judge of the world.
- ☞ Even in this declaration in verse 30 Jesus again confirms that He is acting in strict harmony with the will of the father, totally submitted as His servant and our servant.
- ☞ At no time was Jesus acting on His own. He was accomplishing salvation based upon the plan of the Father from the foundation of the world.

John 11

31 "If I bear **witness** of Myself, My witness is not true.

32 "There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true.

33 "You have sent to **John**, and he has borne witness to the truth.

34 "Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved.

35 "He was the **burning and shining lamp**, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light.

36 "But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish-- the very works that I do-- bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.

37 "And **the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me**. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen **His form**.

38 "But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.

Verses 31-38 are about the witness that Jesus has concerning who He is.

- ☞ The principle of having a witness would be very familiar to the people Jesus is speaking to, it was part of their law.
- ☞ According to the laws of evidence, in order to prove the truthfulness of any aspect of a particular situation you had to have at least 2 credible witnesses.
 1. A minimum of two witnesses were required to establish any criminal charge: **(Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; John 8:17; 2 Cor. 13:1 1 Tim. 5:19.)**
 2. In the case of a wife suspected of a crime, evidence other than that of the husband's was required to convict her: **(Num. 5:13.)**
 3. The witness who withheld the truth was himself found guilty: **(Lev. 5:1.)**
 4. A false witness was punished with the same punishment that was due the one being tried.
 5. Slandorous reports and officious witness were discouraged **(Exo. 20:16; 23:1; Lev. 19:16; etc.)**.
 6. The witnesses were the first executioners: **(Deut. 13:9; acts 7:58-59.)**
 7. In case of an animal left in charge of someone else and torn by wild beasts, the keeper was to bring the carcass in proof of the fact and disproof of his own criminality: **(Exo. 22:13.)**
 8. According to Josephus, women and slaves could not bear any testimony against someone else.**(Ant. 4.8.15).**

In verses 31-38 Jesus is establishing who his witnesses are:

1. **Verses 32-35** John the Baptist sent to be the forerunner to be a light holder to show us that Jesus is the one promised by the scriptures.
2. **Verses 36-38** Jesus second witness the father himself is his witness.
 - By these 2 witnesses Jesus was able to establish from their own law his purpose for coming and who He is.
 - In verse 37 the phrase “You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his form.”
 - The Greek word for “form” is “Eidos” (i-dos) in the Greek Septuagint “i-dos” is used to describe the face of God that Jacob saw in Genesis 32:30.
 - Moses heard the voice of God in Exodus 33:11 but he was not permitted to see God’s “i-dos” his face Moses only saw the back side of God as he passed by Moses in the cleft of the rocks.
 - In Jesus Christ we have both heard his voice and seen the face of our creator, the God of the whole universe!

John 11

39 "You **search the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

40 "But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

The word “search” here comes from the Greek word “**Ereunao**” (er-yoo-nah'-o) literally to research something thoroughly.

- ☞ The Scribes and the Pharisees were known for their minute study of every “jot” and “Tittle”, the smallest part of the scriptures.
- ☞ Study of the Bible does not lead to eternal life if you miss the one inside the Bible who gives eternal life.
- ☞ There are countless bible teachers with all kinds of abhorrent and strange doctrines that make up their cults, but they do not know the Jesus of the bible.
- ☞ The Mormons have diligently studied the scriptures even writing their companion to the bible, the book of Mormon, but they have missed the Jesus of the bible.
- ☞ They made Jesus into the brother of lucifer and Michael, a created being who through obedience and offering the best plan of salvation was made the savior of this world and elevated to the place of a god as all of us can become.

In the next verse verse 40 we see the importance of coming to the Jesus of the bible only he can give eternal life.

- ☞ If you were God and you offered to mankind one plan that would save them, and the people began to change your plan, replacing the person that you sent to carry out the plan with a different person but bearing the same name it, would change the plan of salvation you designed and prohibit those who were seeking to be saved to actually be saved.

John 11

41 "I do not receive honor from men.

42 "But I know you, that you do not have the love of God in you.

43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

44 "How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?"

- ⊞ **Verse 41:** Jesus does not depend upon our acceptance of him to validate who He is. Jesus is God and the chosen person to redeem us whether we accept Him or not.
- ⊞ **Verse 42:** The first commandment is that we are to "Love The Lord Our God more than anything else in life" People love their dogs, their cars, their own life, and even religion more than they love Jesus.
- ⊞ These religious Jewish leaders loved the study of the scriptures but did not really love the one revealed in those scriptures.
- ⊞ **Verse 43:** Jesus is sent to us by the Father to show us what God is really like and to save us. In large part man has rejected Jesus.

An interesting statement " *If another comes in his own name, him you will receive.*" the "another" is a prophetic look at the antichrist.

- ⊞ When Jesus came He came from the father we rejected him when the antichrist comes he comes from satan according to Jesus own words the world will accept him.
- ⊞ **Verse 44:** Jesus asks them and us the chilling question "how can you do that seek to receive honor from each other but fail to honor the only one who has ever come from God that can save you?"

John 11

45 "Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you-- Moses, in whom you trust.

46 "For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.

47 "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

- An interesting statement: Jesus will not be the one accusing these religious Jewish leaders.
- Moses, The one they have prided themselves on following, his teachings will accuse them before the father.
- Moses had written about the coming of Jesus as the Messiah, but because these men did not believe in Jesus when He came it shows that they really did not believe in the things Moses wrote either.