

## Death to Life

“Indeed, indeed, 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.” John 5:24.

This is indeed good news and a very simple promise. The promise has two conditions. The first is we need to hear the words of Jesus. The second is to believe in God the Father. Jesus told those who were persecuting him in John 5 that they did not hear or believe because He said he came in the name of the Father instead of his own name. Jesus said, “the scriptures testified of him”, verse 39. So, he did not need to testify of himself. He even made the point that John the Baptist testified of him, because he knew they believed John. Do you see that the scriptures testified of Jesus and the works he did testified of the scriptures and the Father? It went both ways. The works that Jesus did were important. They proved that Jesus was who God his father said he was. Did you see that? Not who Jesus said he was, but who God said he was. Jesus did not call himself God or the messiah. He only referred to himself as the son. As the son he did the work of the father even at the age of 12 if you recall.

Now, we all believe God calls us his children, his sons and daughters. If that is true what should we all be doing? What did Jesus say in John 5:17, “My father works until now and I work.” The scriptures tell us to be like Christ. We should be “conformed to his image” not “the image of this world”. So, we should be doing the fathers work also. This is why we find the passage in 1John 3:14, “We have passed from death to life because we love the brethren. He that does not love his brother remains in death.” This is quite a contrast from John 5:24 where the Lord tells us only to hear and believe to pass from death to life.

Do the scriptures contradict each other? There can be no contradictions in the new or old testaments. The explanation has to be that to hear his word there also must be a doing of it. Matthew 7:24 says “Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine and does them, I will liken him to a wise man which builds his house upon a rock.

People of God, we need to be sure to do the will of God just as James tells us, “be doers of the word and not just hearers only, deceiving your own selves.” 1John 3:23-24 says it like this, “And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another, as He gave us commandment. Now he who keeps His commandments remains in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He remains in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.” Do you remember what James 2 says “faith without works is dead.” So, it is not enough to believe only but to love also.

If we do this we will show that God is in us and that we are who God says we are. We will be like Christ. If we believe God is our father we need to be doing the things that identify ourselves with Him. This is a sign of maturity if we do what we believe. When we are born from above we become new “babes in Christ”. The Holy Spirit teaches us and we grow into sons and daughters of God. This is the pattern that Jesus set for us. We even see it in the natural when we raise our children to be responsible, productive adults. This is what God wants from us, to do the things He teaches us. Be a son, be a daughter today. Do something for someone. Take care of a need. Show others the love God has shown you. Show others the forgiveness God has shown you.