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## John 5 - Part III, Eternal Life

**John 5:24-32:** 24. *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that hears my word, and believes (on) him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.* 25. *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.* 26. *For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;* 27. *And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.* 28. *Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,* 29. *And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of condemnation.* 30. *I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.* 31. *If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true.* 32. *There is another that bears witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesses of me is true.* (KJV).

He that hears my word: First, from where is Jesus getting his words? **John 12:49:** *For I spake not from myself; but the Father that sent me, he hath given me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak* (ASV). The words Jesus speaks are the commandments given him by the Father. In verse one, the word “on,” is supplied in many Bibles and distorts what the verse is saying. To come out of spiritual death and possess eternal life, one must hear and believe the word spoken by the Father through the Son, as the Father is the source of eternal life. This life is eternal because the Redeemed will live according to the spirit of life in Christ (Romans 8:2), which will keep sin out of our lives forever.

Passed from death unto life: Jesus said: *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.* The words Jesus speaks to us are the commandments which the Father gives to him, and these words are the life in Jesus and eternal life to all who receive them. Jesus said, *If ye love me, keep my commandments* (John 14:15). What commandments did Jesus give? Many take them to be the letter of the law written in stone. But the law cannot give life: **Galatians 3:21:** *...for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.* If then, righteousness is not by the law, what did Paul mean when he wrote this? **Romans 8:3-4:** 3. *For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:* 4. *That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.* The righteousness of the law is love (Matthew 22:34-40), we learn via the Spirit.

Many times in the writings of John, the commandment emphasized is to love God and others: **1John 4:20-21:** 20. *If a man say, I love God, and hates his brother, he is a liar: for he that loves not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?* 21. *And this commandment have we from him, That he who loves God love his brother also.* The law was given to teach love, but it is not, and cannot be understood that way by the carnal mind. **Romans 8:6-7:** 6. *For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.* 7. *Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* So, the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in those who walk according to the spirit and not the flesh.

How do we show our love toward God? What does it mean to love Him? **1John 5:1-4**: *1. Everyone believing that Jesus is the anointed One, has been born of God, and everyone loving Him having begotten, also loves the one begotten of Him: 2. In this we know that we love the children of the God, when we may love the God, and may keep His commandments (words spoken through the Son); 3. For this is the love of the God, that we may keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome; 4. Because everyone having been born of God overcomes the world, and this is the victory overcoming the world - our faith {which is the understanding Christ teaches us} (YLT).*

**1John 2:8**: *7. Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. 8. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shines. 9. He that saith he is in the light, and hate his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10. He that loves his brother abides in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.*

The commandment is to love our brother. Why would John call it an “old” and a “new” commandment? Because, when we read it with a carnal mind (in darkness) we did not understand HOW to love others. It was just a verse in the Bible. But when a correct understanding of the cross reveals the ability of God to love us regardless of what we have done, and the ability of Jesus to forgive the very ones crucifying him, then we realize (our darkness is past) that to love others is to let go of those sins they committed against us. The commandment becomes new to all who understand love.

Jesus said: **John 6:63**: *...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* The manifestation of spiritual life is to love our neighbor as ourselves. The time to hear with spiritual ears is NOW. Amen.