

**JAMES RAFFERTY**

**2024**

**Q4**

**L9**

**The Words of Eternal Life**

**Nov. 25**

Lesson 9: The Source of Life (Monday)

November 23-29

**Monday** *November 25*

## **The Words of Eternal Life**

**Read John 6:61–68. When Jesus asked the disciples if they would leave Him, what was the meaning of Peter’s answer?**

**“WHEN JESUS KNEW IN HIMSELF THAT HIS DISCIPLES MURMURED AT IT, HE SAID UNTO THEM, DOTH THIS OFFEND YOU? WHAT AND IF YE SHALL SEE THE SON OF MAN ASCEND UP WHERE HE WAS BEFORE? IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT QUICKENETH; THE FLESH PROFITETH NOTHING: THE WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU, THEY ARE SPIRIT, AND THEY ARE LIFE. BUT THERE ARE SOME OF YOU THAT BELIEVE NOT. FOR JESUS KNEW FROM THE BEGINNING WHO THEY WERE THAT BELIEVED NOT, AND WHO SHOULD BETRAY HIM. AND HE SAID, THEREFORE SAID I UNTO YOU, THAT NO MAN CAN COME UNTO ME, EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN UNTO HIM OF MY FATHER. FROM THAT TIME MANY OF HIS DISCIPLES WENT BACK, AND WALKED NO MORE WITH HIM. “THEN SAID JESUS UNTO THE TWELVE, WILL YE ALSO GO AWAY?”**

**THEN SIMON PETER ANSWERED HIM, LORD, TO WHOM SHALL WE GO? THOU HAST THE WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE.”**

**JOHN 6:61-66, 68 KJV**

Peter’s words about “eternal life” tap into a theme that runs throughout the Gospel of John. A concentration of phraseology about eternal life appears in John 6, in the context of the feeding of the 5,000 (*John 6:27, 40, 47, 54, 68*). Jesus says that He is the *Bread of Life* (*John 6:35*), meaning that His life, His death, and resurrection are the source of eternal salvation.

The phrase *everlasting life* or its equivalent occurs at least 17 times in the Gospel of John. This term does not refer to a spirit existence, or to becoming part of an eternal being, or some other ethereal concept. Rather, it refers to that life-giving power that brings salvation and meaning to

our existence now and to life without end when our Lord returns. Just as Jesus became flesh, so the resurrection that Jesus talks about takes place in time and space and in a physical body. It is a resurrection from the dead, a renewal of the life that we once had in Eden.

**How do we receive eternal life?** *John 3:15, 16; John 5:24; John 6:40, 47; John 8:31; John 12:46; John 20:31.*

“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.”  
John 5:24 KJV

“And this is the will of Him that sent Me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on Him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.” John 6:40, 47 KJV

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed;”  
John 8:31 KJV

“I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on Me should not abide in darkness.” John 12:46 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.” John 20:31 KJV

**THE WORD FAITH IS NEVER USED IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN—  
ONLY BELIEVE. THIS INDICATES THAT BELIEF IS JOHN’S  
WORD FOR FAITH.**

**BELIEVE:**

**FROM 4102; TO HAVE FAITH (IN, UPON, OR WITH RESPECT TO, A PERSON OR THING), I.E. CREDIT; BY IMPLICATION, TO ENTRUST (ESPECIALLY ONE'S SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING TO CHRIST):--BELIEVE(-R), COMMIT (TO TRUST), PUT IN TRUST WITH.**

**4102—**

**FROM 3982; PERSUASION, I.E. CREDENCE; MORAL CONVICTION (OF RELIGIOUS TRUTH, OR THE TRUTHFULNESS OF GOD OR A RELIGIOUS TEACHER), ESPECIALLY RELIANCE UPON CHRIST FOR SALVATION; ABSTRACTLY, CONSTANCY IN SUCH PROFESSION; BY EXTENSION, THE SYSTEM OF RELIGIOUS (GOSPEL) TRUTH ITSELF:--ASSURANCE, BELIEF, BELIEVE, FAITH, FIDELITY.**

**3982—**

**A PRIMARY VERB; TO CONVINC (BY ARGUMENT, TRUE OR FALSE); BY ANALOGY, TO PACIFY OR CONCILIATE (BY OTHER FAIR MEANS); REFLEXIVELY OR PASSIVELY, TO ASSENT (TO EVIDENCE OR AUTHORITY), TO RELY (BY INWARD CERTAINTY):--AGREE, ASSURE, BELIEVE, HAVE CONFIDENCE, BE (WAX) CONFIDENT, MAKE FRIEND, OBEY, PERSUADE, TRUST, YIELD.**

## **FAITH = 3982 - G**

By faith alone we believe that Jesus Christ came to live and to die on our behalf. This faith comes to us as a gift, but we must consciously choose to surrender ourselves to Jesus, to repent, and to claim His blood for the forgiveness and cleansing of sin.

When Jesus asked Peter if he, too, was going to leave, Peter's answer, " 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life' " (*John 6:68, NKJV*), encapsulates the essence of salvation and how we attain it. It doesn't come from philosophy, history, science—all human disciplines. It comes from Jesus, who—possessing in Himself eternal life—offers it freely to all who, responding to the Holy Spirit, will accept it.

**How does the promise of having eternal life impact how we view our temporal life here?**

**How should it impact how we view it?**

SE-4Q-2024, *Themes in the Gospel of John*, by E. Zinke & T. Shepherd