

# THE GOSPEL LESSON 4 – BELIEVE IN JESUS – PART 3

## **INTRODUCTION**

We are in our study of the Gospel of Your Salvation anchored in Ephesians 1:13: “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise.” It is the message of truth that is from God that announces His grace to the world and offers eternal life through the person, work, and promise of Jesus Christ. We are in the middle of examining exactly what this gospel is, what it requires, and why it must remain clear and undefiled.

The gospel is not a call to a better life (to being moral), a religious system, or a vague hope. It is the announcement of good news centered on a Person. We are focusing on the content of that message. We are looking at three essential aspects in order:

1. Who Jesus Is – the identity of the One who brings salvation.
2. What Jesus Has Done – the finished work that secures our redemption.
3. What Jesus Promises – the certain gift given to the one who believes.

This is foundational. The Gospel announces not only who Jesus is but also what He accomplished and what He promises.

So far, we have discussed the first two elements: the identity of Jesus Christ. To believe in Jesus one must believe in who He is. We saw that Jesus is the eternal Word who is God, the Creator, the Only Begotten God who explains the Father, the “I AM” – YHWH in the flesh, the Promised Messiah, the Son of God. Everything that follows rests upon the truth of His identity.

Last time we looked at the second essential aspect: what this Jesus has done on our behalf. The Scriptures present His work as the most remarkable act of love and grace creation will ever know. Jesus left His glory behind and became a man, the Word became flesh, He lived a sinless life; For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). He dies as a substitutionary atonement for our sins, His life for ours; “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. ... By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all” (Hebrews 10:4,10). “He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him” (2 Corinthians 5:21). “He who was delivered over because of our transgressions, and was raised because of our justification” (Romans 4:25). Because He lives, we know the transaction is complete. Death could not hold the sinless One. Without the resurrection, our faith would be worthless (1 Corinthians 15:17).

Now we turn to the promise of God, of Jesus, in regard to salvation; what does Jesus say concerning salvation (eternal life)?

## **THE CONTENT OF THE GOSPEL PART 3 – WHAT JESUS PROMISED**

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) “He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not believe the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

### **The Promise of Eternal Life**

Jesus repeatedly and plainly promises eternal life (ζωή αἰώνιος *zōē aiōnios*) to everyone who believes in Him. John’s Gospel was written with this single purpose: that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name (John 20:31). Notice the present-tense reality in almost every promise.

In John 5:24 Jesus declares, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” The verbs “has” (*echō* – present active indicative) and “has passed” (*μεταβαίνω* *metabainō* – perfect active indicative) are decisive. Eternal life is not a future hope earned over time; it is a present possession the instant a person is convinced the message is true. The same present reality appears in John 3:36 (“has eternal life”), John 6:47 (“has eternal life”), and John 3:16-18 (the one believing “shall not perish, but have eternal life”).

This life is not just endless existence. It is the life of the age to come, resurrection life, the life of God, granted immediately to the believer. Jesus Himself is that life. “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die” (John 11:25-26). The promise is anchored in His identity as the eternal Word who became flesh and in His finished work on the cross. Because He is who He is and did what He did, the promise can be certain.

### **The Security of the Promise**

Jesus does not merely offer life; He guarantees it will never be lost. In John 10:27-29 He states, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.” The double negative “will never perish” (*οὐ μή ἀπόλλυμι* *ou mē apollumi*) is the strongest possible denial in Greek. The security rests not on the believer’s performance but on the grip of the Son and the Father.

This matches the picture Paul paints in Ephesians 1:13-14. The moment a person hears the message of truth and believes, he is sealed in Christ with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance. The seal speaks of ownership, security, and authenticity. The Holy Spirit Himself guarantees the future redemption of God’s own possession.

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## The Nature of the Gift

Eternal life is explicitly called a gift. Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.” The word for gift here is “*δῶρον dōron*” which indicates something that is provided at the behest of another.

In Romans 6:23 we see that the Gift of God is in contrast to the natural payment for sin, death. The word “gift” (*charisma*) emphasizes that it is unearned and unmerited. Jesus confirms this in John 6:28-29 when the crowd asks, “What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?” Jesus answers, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He has sent.” Belief itself is the only “work” required. But that is a play on words because believe itself is not a work.

Romans 4:4-5,13-14,16 - Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness, ... For the promise to Abraham or to his descendants that he would be heir of the world was not through the Law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if those who are of the Law are heirs, faith is made void and the promise is nullified; ... For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

No additional conditions are attached. Jesus does not say, “The believer who lives a good life,” or “the believer who does not sin,” or “the believer who is baptized.” The promise stands on the person and finished work of Jesus Christ. When a person believes in Jesus (who Jesus is, what He has done, and what He promises) that person receives the benefit immediately and irrevocably.

## The Result for Us

Because of what Jesus promises:

- Our sins are fully forgiven and will never be held against us again.
- We are declared righteous before a holy God the moment we believe.
- We are reconciled to the Father and adopted as His children.
- We possess eternal life now and will never come into judgment.
- We are sealed with the Holy Spirit as God’s own possession, guaranteed an eternal inheritance.

## How This Impacts Salvation

The Gospel is the announcement of this certain promise. When a person hears the message of truth and believes it, something decisive takes place. Notice the order in the

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gospel announcement: Ephesians 1:13 - In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, the message is fully contained in the Gospel of John and why we present the Gospel in this manner.

Many state and believe that Jesus is God in the flesh and that Jesus died on the cross for sin and was resurrected. But the distinction is that many add to the promise of God. Is Jesus faithful? Is His sacrifice for sins sufficient? What sins are there to pay for? Is salvation dependent upon you or upon God? Is eternal life or gift or a deal? Is salvation a self-help program to complete or is the salvation granted immediately?

Salvation is not something we earn or maintain by our efforts. It is a gift received by believing in the finished work and the sure promise of Jesus Christ. His sacrifice was "once for all" (Hebrews 10:10). Additional offerings, dedications, or deeds do not aid or improve the gospel; in fact, when works are added to the plan of salvation, they frustrate the gospel because the person is NOT believing in Jesus' complete work and they do NOT believe that the promise is certain.

This matches what we see across the New Testament. Eternal life is a present possession the moment a person believes (John 5:24; 3:36; 6:47). The simplicity and certainty of the gospel is this: hear the message of who Jesus is, what Jesus has done, and what He promises; be convinced it is true, and you are sealed, saved, owned by God, and guaranteed an eternal inheritance.

Scripture is clear. There is nothing left to add. Jesus has done everything necessary, and He has promised everything necessary. The one who believes receives the full benefit of His finished work and His unbreakable promise. "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1). We are not moving toward salvation; we have it the instant we are convinced the message is true.

# The Gospel of Your Salvation: The Three Pillars of Biblical Faith

## Pillar 1 — Who Jesus Is (Identity)



### The Eternal Word & Creator (Uncreated and Fully God)

As the "Logos," Jesus existed continually before time and created all things, both visible and invisible.

### The "I AM" (YHWH)

(The Covenant God in the Flesh)  
Jesus' use of "Egō eimi" (I AM) in the Gospels identifies Him directly with the YHWH of the Old Testament.

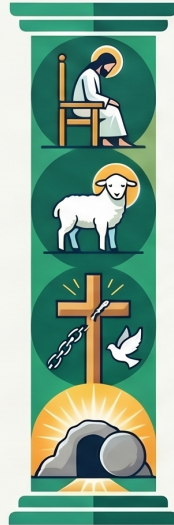
The "I AM" Statement | The Fulfillment Provided

Bread of Life	Spiritual Sustenance
Light of the World	Guidance and Truth
The Door	Exclusive Access to God
The Good Shepherd	Protection and Care
Resurrection and Life	Victory over Death
Way, Truth, and Life	The Only Path to the Father
The True Vine	Source of Spiritual Fruit

### The Promised Messiah (The Son of the Living God)

Confessed by the Apostles and Martha, Jesus is the unique "only begotten" who shares the divine nature fully.

## Pillar 2 — What Jesus Did (Work)



### The Incarnation (God Became a Man to Save Sinners)

Jesus voluntarily emptied Himself of divine privileges to become the "Kinsman-Redeemer" who could represent humanity.

### The Sinless Life (A Perfect Sacrifice Without Blemish)

Being "without sin" (*shōris*) allowed Jesus to die in our place; a guilty substitute could not pay for another's debt.

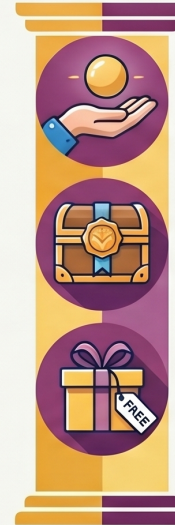
### Substitutionary Atonement ("It Is Finished" on the Cross)

Jesus bore the full punishment of God's wrath, acting as the "propitiation" (mercy seat) for the sins of the world.

### The Resurrection (God's Receipt of Payment)

The resurrection is the public declaration that the sacrifice was sufficient and that the believer's justification is secure.

## Pillar 3 — What Jesus Promised (Promise)



### Eternal Life as a Present Possession (You Have It Right Now)

Scripture uses present-tense verbs ("has eternal life") to show that salvation is received the instant one believes.

### Irrevocable Security ("They Will Never Perish")

Based on John 10:26, the "double negative" in Greek provides the strongest possible guarantee that a believer cannot be snatched from God's hand.

### A Gift, Not a Wage (Salvation is Unearned Grace)

Romans 4 and Ephesians 2 clarify that if works are added, the gift is nullified and the promise is frustrated.

## The Mechanics of Salvation (Ephesians 1:13)



### Listening (*Akousantes*) Hearing the Message of Truth

An aorist active participle indicating a completed action where the individual hears the objective facts of the gospel.



### Believing (*Pisteusantes*) Being Convinced It is True

The decisive moment a person is persuaded of the message's truth; it is a "once-for-all" event, not a process.



### Sealed (*Esphragisthēte*) Instant Divine Security

An aorist passive indicative verb showing that God performs the sealing immediately upon belief, marking the person as His own.