



You Think in the Scriptures you Have Eternal Life.

(John 5:36-40)

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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

You think that in the Scriptures You Have Eternal Life.

Jews who denied Jesus (especially the religious leaders the Chief Priests, Pharisees and Scribes) believed they could attain to eternal life by having a head full of intellectual knowledge. They believed they were saved by knowledge and adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and strictly keeping their religious customs and traditions. Jesus tells them that no matter how great their intellectual knowledge of the Scriptures is knowledge by itself has no power to save. Before shining a spotlight upon Jesus words, we will begin at his testimony to these unbelieving Jews that evidences he is who he claimed to be.

Jesus said:

- **John 5:36:** But the testimony that I have is greater than that of John. For the works that the Father has given me to accomplish, the very works that I am doing, bear witness about me that the Father has sent me.

The primary purpose of the miracles of Jesus was to prove that he was who he claimed to be. The following Old Testament Scriptures of the great prophet Isaiah testify to the truth that Jesus miracles proved he is who he claimed to be. Thousands of years before Christ appeared Isaiah prophesied:

- The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound (Isaiah 61:1).
- The eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped (Isaiah 35:5).
- How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns" (Isaiah 52:7).

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Then in the New Testament when John the Baptist questioned his faith and sent his disciples to Jesus to ask him if he was the one to come Jesus told them to tell John:

- What they had seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them (Luke 7:22).

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that Jesus miracles were a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy, the blind see, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up and the poor have the good news preached to them

MIRACLES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

During the New Testament era it is interesting to notice that Jesus said, "There is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist (Luke 7:28) (KJV) yet John never did one sign miracle and to notice that only the apostles and three others they appointed (Stephen, Phillip and Barnabas) actually performed any miracles.

Even more stunning is to realize that the thousands they saved never did any miracles and that the miracles Jesus and the apostles did do left no doubt that they were miracles of God since many were not even dependent on the sick person's faith as many were simply acts of compassion and for many it did not even matter whether they were Christians or pagans. Paul explains in the following verse why Jesus did miracles:

- Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested (approved of God in the KJV) to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know (Acts 2:22).

Attested and approved in this context carries the idea that something is affirmed, and declared by God to be true. This clearly shows that the primary, purpose of miracles was too authenticated and confirm the following two things:

1. That Jesus was sent by God.
2. That the twelve apostles were true apostles of Christ and of God.

We know this because Paul says:

- The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works (2 Cor. 12:12).

This verse clearly shows that the miracles the apostle's performed were to authenticate that they were true apostles sent by God and by Christ.

- **John 5:37:** And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you (Jews who do not believe) have never heard, his form you have never seen (seen his shape in KJV).

The words, "His voice you have never heard" can refer to the following glorious events:

When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist a voice from heaven said:

- This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (Matt. 3:17) (Mark 1:11) (Luke 3:22).

On a high mountain a bright cloud overshadowed Peter, James and John and a voice from the cloud said:

- This is my beloved Son, my Chosen One with whom I am well pleased; listen to him. (Matthew. 17:5) (Mark 9:7) (Luke 9:35).

Peter when writing of this most glorious event wrote:

- When Jesus received honour and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased. (2 Peter 1:17).

Jesus words "His voice you have never heard" could also refer to Jesus own personal spiritual intimate communion with His heavenly Father. Jesus perfectly knew God's will and God's heart he had such a unique and close relationship with his heavenly Father that God's voice would have been crystal clear in his mind and his Spirit. In total contrast to the unbelieving Jews who were totally deaf to the voice of God in their minds, their hearts and their spirit.

NOTE: the voice of God can also be seen as the word of God.

GOD'S SHAPE AND GOD'S FORM

The words, "form and shape," in this verse come from the Greek word (eidos) it means to view, a form, an appearance, a fashion or a shape by sight. This shines a spotlight on the truth that God has some kind of form and shape meaning He is not simply:

- A conscious spiritual eternal intelligence.
- An eternal vapour like Spirit.
- A powerful conscious eternal mind that influences.

John on the Isle of Patmos in his most glorious visions saw:

- The holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband and heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:2-4).

John goes onto say that he:

- Saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb and the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb (Rev. 21:22-23).

It is true that no one has seen God and that our mortal and finite minds cannot comprehend the form or shape of the most majestic glory of the immortal invisible eternal God Almighty the creator of all things and source of all life. But these verses give a little glimpse that when eternity comes in all its royal and majestic glory God and the Lord Jesus Christ will be dwelling with those who have attained to eternal life and who have been made like the angels of heaven.

YOU THINK THAT IN THE SCRIPTURES YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.

- **John 5:38-40:** and you (Jews) do not have his word abiding in you, for you do not believe the one whom he has sent. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life.

The Jews were searching the Scriptures thinking that in them they will have eternal life, but the entire purpose of the Scriptures is to lead people to Christ because it is in him that eternal life is found. In Christ is forgiveness of sin, the promises of God and eternal life. It matters not how much brilliant Scriptural knowledge a man or woman may have of the Bible if all the knowledge they have does not lead them to humble and honest repentance before God and to accepting the Lord Jesus Christ (God's most beloved Son) as their Lord and Saviour all the knowledge they have is simply that just knowledge that lacks true spiritual power.

The reason their knowledge lacks any power to change the heart toward God and give eternal life is not because there is something wrong or lacking with the knowledge, but because there is something wrong with their mind and heart. This of course is hardness of heart which is a result of pride, ego and the desire to do as one pleases rather than submit their heart and mind to a greater authority.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me (John 14:6)