

Elder Bobby Willis



"Hath Everlasting Life"

Timing is important! If you had a broken timing chain in the older model cars, the car simply would not run. The same is true about the timing of being quickened by the Spirit. To think that man believes in God first, and then is quickened by the Spirit is liken to the broken chain - it just does not work that way. For it all to work in your understanding, you must first know that God works in the heart of the individual first, as you were dead in trespasses and in sins, unable to save yourself (Ephesians 2:1). Read I John 4:19 to see the proper order: **"We love him, because he first loved us."**

Notice John 5:24, **"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."** There are two parts of this verse which must be rightly divided (understood) in order for the timing chain to be in correct working order. First is the usage of the word "hath", which means it is past tense. One cannot hear and believe unless they have first been given life (removed from the dead state they were in) by the working of the Spirit of God. The second point is found in the last part of the sentence; **"is passed from death unto life"**. Again we see the past tense being used which indicates that one must first be in a state of **"life"** (Spiritual Life condition) before they can do any righteous action on their part such as hearing or believing.

What then is the meaning or purpose of John 5:24? Christ is telling these Jews who were seeking to kill him that they had the timing chain on backwards, so to speak. Life always precedes action! Simply put, a person who is dead in sins cannot hear or believe the truths of the gospel of Christ, nor do they have a desire to do so. It takes a person who is alive (quickened by God's Spirit) for them to be able to do any work such as hearing or believing.

Now, let us see who it is that puts the timing chain in the right order (or place) so that it works as it should. It is NOT man, for a dead person can do no work (action). Christ clarifies it all in John 5:21, **"...as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will."** The action

being taken here is done only by God and the Son who work in harmony with each other and by the Spirit (third part of the trinity), which carries it out by quickening God's children when it pleases Him. Now the working order is current, the timing is right, and all works as God intends.

If you have been able to hear the truths of God and they have found a lodging place in your heart, it is because you have already been "**Born Again of the Spirit**". Now you are in a condition to believe. You have Spiritual Life and therefore can believe and have comfort in knowing all that the Lord has done for you that you could not do for yourself. Why? Because you have been made alive in Christ Jesus and have "**Everlasting Life**". What peace and joy it brings to our hearts when we hear the truths of the gospel and believe how wonderfully God, Christ and the Spirit work together. "**Think About It**"!