

A summary of John 5:16-29

- 1. The two aspects of life:** In verse 8, Jesus tells the paralyzed man to take up his bed and walk. The paralyzed man gained life and was healed, but this was not eternal life but physical life. We may say that he was healed of his illness but perhaps not spiritually saved since he did not yet know Jesus and believe in Him. In verse 14, Jesus finds him in the temple and tells him that he is made whole and not to sin anymore. It is not clear if he was saved or not. However, in verse 24, Jesus refers to the person who hears His word, believes on Him who sent Him, and has eternal life, having passed from death into life. This life is the eternal life. Therefore, the Lord has power to give us eternal life and also power to heal us.
- 2. How do we testify?:** The paralyzed and restored man had a good heart to testify to the Jews that he had been healed. He had no bad intention. However, he did not know Jesus and had not yet believed in Him. Therefore his testimony was weak and had an opposite effect. Jesus, a few verses later (which we will consider next time) gives us a few indications of how to testify from v. 31-37. In v. 32, He says that another bears witness of Him. This means that in our testimony, we must be one with the Lord, and that the Lord must lead us. However, we need to be careful to say "The Lord led me" or "The Lord testifies for me." Are we sure it is the Lord or just ourselves? When we testify, we must testify in truthfulness. Otherwise we will have to account for any false witness that we give before the judgment seat of Christ.
- 3. The Father will show the Son greater works (v. 20):** What are the greater works that the Father will show the Son? Verses 21 and 22 give us the answer. The Son has the authority to resurrect people, to give them eternal life, and to exercise judgment. The first two works relate to the believers. The third work, that of judgment, relates to the unbelievers (at the great white throne mentioned in Revelation 20:11-12) in the second half of verse 29 upon the Lord's second coming, as well as to believers at the judgment seat of Christ.

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4. **The Father and the Son are working:** The Father and the Son work constantly. They do not rest in the sense of being idle. They are continually seeking the lost sinners, to resurrect them and to give them life. Are we one with the Father and the Son in such a way, to seek people, to be close to people, to accompany them, to attract them to the Lord? The Greek word for work here is toil or labor or commit. This means that it is not easy. No spiritual labor or toil is easy. It is not easy to be with one person. It is not easy to lead one person to the Lord. It involves diligence and exercise and hard toil.
5. **Honoring the Son:** Verse 22 says that the Father has given all judgment to the Son that all may honor the Son. The Greek word for honor is "to prize" or "fix a valuation on" or "revere." How much do we value the Son? How much do we value the Son in the brothers and sisters and in the servants of the Lord? How much are we willing to follow their example and take the way of the Son? This is a sober matter because we will all appear before the judgment seat of Christ. To the degree that I have judged Christ worthy of my time and living, He will judge me according to how much I have judged Him valuable and worthy.
6. **The Father loves the Son (v. 20):** The Greek word used for love is, interestingly, "phileo" and not "agape" which is the divine love. Here, the affection between the Father and the Son is brought out: an intimate relationship full of affection and personal attachment. The Son is privy to all the counsels, inner affections and operations of the Father. Nothing is hidden from Him.