

John 11:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.
Believest thou this?

Analysis

Jesus declares 'whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die' (pas ho zon kai pisteuon eis eme ou me apothane eis ton aiona). The participles 'living' and 'believing' describe continuous states, not momentary actions. The combination indicates that spiritual life and faith in Christ are inseparable - true life consists in believing in Jesus. The promise 'shall never die' employs the emphatic double negative ou me, indicating absolute impossibility. The phrase eis ton aiona (forever, unto the age) emphasizes the eternal dimension. Physical death is not denied - Lazarus had died and would die again. But Jesus promises that those who believe in Him shall never experience eternal death - separation from God. This verse distinguishes biological cessation from spiritual death. For believers, physical death becomes a passage rather than termination. Life in Christ transcends mortality.

Historical Context

Spoken to Martha before raising Lazarus, this declaration addresses the universal human anxiety about death. In first-century Judaism, beliefs about afterlife varied. Pharisees affirmed resurrection; Sadducees denied it. Greek philosophy often viewed death as escape from bodily prison. Jesus offers a distinctly Christian hope: believers pass through physical death without experiencing ultimate death. The resurrection of Lazarus served as sign validating Jesus' authority over death. Early Christians faced martyrdom with confidence based on this promise - physical death could not separate them from Christ. Church Fathers like Athanasius cited this

verse against those who denied Christ's power to grant immortality. The verse became foundational to Christian funeral liturgy, transforming grief with resurrection hope.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How does continuous believing relate to never dying - is this about maintaining faith or about the nature of true faith?
2. In what sense do believers 'never die' when they clearly experience physical death?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	πᾶς	ό	ζῶν	καὶ	πιστεύεις	εἰς	έμε	οὐ	μὴ
And	whosoever	G3588	liveth	And	Believeth thou	in	me	G3756	G3361
G2532	G3956		G2198	G2532	G4100	G1519	G1691		
ἀποθάνῃ	εἰς	τὸν	αἰώνα·	πιστεύεις	τοῦτο				
die	in	G3588	G165	Believeth thou	this				
G599	G1519			G4100	G5124				

Additional Cross-References

Romans 8:13 (Parallel theme): For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

John 5:24 (Faith): 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 10:28 (Parallel theme): And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 4:14 (Parallel theme): But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 14:10 (Faith): Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Matthew 9:28 (Faith): And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Mark 9:23 (Faith): Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

John 9:35 (Faith): Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

Matthew 26:53 (Parallel theme): Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?