

John 5:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Analysis

'For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.' God possesses life essentially—not derived from any source but self-existent. Jesus claims the same: life 'in himself.' This is not creaturely life received from another but divine life possessed intrinsically. While 'given' in eternal generation, the Son possesses life as the Father does—absolutely, essentially, independently. He is life's source, not merely its recipient.

Historical Context

This verse grounds Jesus' ability to give life. Unlike prophets who were conduits of divine power, Jesus possesses life-giving power in Himself. He doesn't merely transmit life; He is life (John 14:6). Theologians term this 'aseity'—self-existence—and Jesus claims it.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. What does having 'life in himself' mean, and how does it distinguish Jesus from all other beings?
2. How does the Son's possession of self-existent life relate to His ability to give eternal life?

Interlinear Text

ὥσπερ	γὰρ	ὁ	πατὴρ	ἔχειν	ζωὴν	ἐν	ἑαυτῷ	οὕτως
as	For	G3588	the Father	hath	life	in	himself	G3779
G5618	G1063		G3962	G2192	G2222	G1722	G1438	
ἔδωκεν	καὶ	τῷ	υἱῷ	ζωὴν	ἔχειν	ἐν	ἑαυτῷ	
hath he given	so	G3588	to the Son	life	hath	in	himself	
G1325	G2532		G5207	G2222	G2192	G1722	G1438	

Additional Cross-References

John 1:4 (Parallel theme): In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

John 11:26 (Parallel theme): And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

Exodus 3:14 (Parallel theme): And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

John 14:6 (Parallel theme): Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Jeremiah 10:10 (Parallel theme): But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

Revelation 22:17 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Psalms 36:9 (Parallel theme): For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

1 Corinthians 15:45 (Parallel theme): And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

1 Timothy 6:16 (Parallel theme): Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

1 Timothy 1:17 (Parallel theme): Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.