

John 6:63

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Analysis

After the hard teaching about eating His flesh and drinking His blood, Jesus clarifies: 'It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing.' Spiritual understanding, not literal cannibalism, is His meaning. The Spirit gives life; physical elements (flesh, bread) have no saving power apart from spiritual reality. 'The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life' indicates His teaching must be spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). This distinguishes Christianity from mere ritualism.

Historical Context

Many disciples left after this discourse (v. 66), unable to grasp spiritual truth. Jesus doesn't water down the message but explains it spiritually. The contrast between flesh and spirit appears throughout John (3:6), emphasizing regeneration's necessity for understanding divine truth.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against mere religious ritual without genuine spiritual engagement?
2. What role does the Holy Spirit play in helping you understand Scripture?

Interlinear Text

τὸ	πνεῦμα	ἐστιν	τὸ	ζωοποιοῦν	ἡ	σὰρξ	οὐκ	ἀφελεῖ
G3588	spirit		G3588	that quickeneth	G3588	the flesh	G3756	profiteth
	G4151			G2227		G4561		G5623
οὐδέν·	τὰ	ῥήματα	ἄ	ἐγὼ	λαλῶ	ὑμῖν	πνεῦμα	ἐστιν
nothing	G3588	the words	that	I	speak	unto you	spirit	It is
G3762		G4487	G3739	G1473	G2980	G5213	G4151	G2076
καὶ	ζωή	ἐστιν						
and	life	It is						
G2532	G2222	G2076						

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 4:12 (Spirit): For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 6:68 (Word): Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Galatians 5:25 (Spirit): If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Psalms 119:93 (Parallel theme): I will never forget thy precepts: for with them thou hast quickened me.

1 Peter 1:23 (Word): Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

Psalms 119:50 (Word): This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.

Psalms 119:130 (Word): The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Deuteronomy 32:47 (Parallel theme): For it is not a vain thing for you; because it is your life: and through this thing ye shall prolong your days in the land, whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Romans 10:17 (Word): So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

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