

## “Dance with Me:

### *Guided by the Voice of God”*

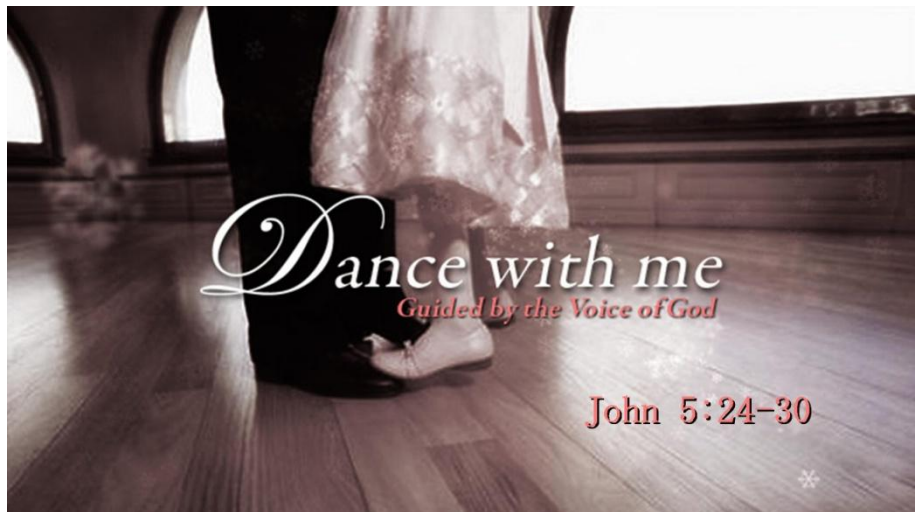
- John 5:24-30

by Pastor Tim Dodson

at Jesus Fellowship of Believers

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**John 5:24-30** *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life,*

*and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. 25 "Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. 26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 "and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. 28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice 29 "and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. 30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*

**How’s your hearing this morning?** Oh, I don’t mean “can you hear me now?” Like issues of volume. But rather in repercussions. Effects...results...ramifications. How am I coming through? How is God coming through these days?

The French poet Victor Hugo once said that “*Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent*” and Nietzsche, of all people, put our spiritual conversion and living in such beautiful terms by saying “*And those who were seen dancing were thought to be insane by those who could not hear the music.*”

The impact of verse 24 is staggering. Clarity herein is incredibly empowering and misunderstanding potentially, eternally, *lethal*. Let’s take this apart: Firstly, we read that we must actually **hear** the Word. Without being too philosophical or being perceived as facetious, I would ask just exactly what does that mean? Seriously, what does it really mean to “Hear?” Such may seem to be a rather silly question with an even obvious answer. But verse 25 tends to blow that trite attitude out of the water when it speaks of “*when the dead hear...*” The dead? The dead don’t hear anything, right?

Well, we have the unique and wonderful aspect of the scriptural text, in that we have the original Greek language to refer back to. That original Greek is a textual form that has 3 times as many words in its vocabulary than the English contains. Therefore we can expect a higher degree of clarity and exactness present in the Greek form of the text, right? So what is that word there and what exactly did John...by the power of the Holy Spirit, mean? The word...for what it is worth, is “akouo” (ἀκούω ; *ak-oo’-o*), and it means the following: *To hear absolutely. To attend to, to consider what is or has been said. To understand, to perceive the sense of what is said. To receive and learn by the act of hearing. To find out and to comprehend.* Interestingly enough, it is the root word of our English word “acoustics.”

So we can gather from all of that, that we are talking about something more than just the common use and understanding of the word in today's vernacular. For the use of acoustics involves judgment and speaks of *quality* not just quantity or actuality. This is where we get the idea of the parent yelling "Hey young Billy! Are you **hearing** me?" The idea isn't that Billy is perhaps deaf, but that Billy is just not ingesting what his ears are receiving. And the fact is, some of us sit through church like that year after year. We walk through life wishing God would speak to us, when He is already speaking to us but we are in fact just not really "akouo"-ing.

Evidence of such hearing, or *not* hearing, is presented in various ways. One of which is being "taken out" by a trifle after sitting through years of Sunday services. An English newspaper reported a few years back on a gentlemen who died of a flesh eating disease that started with a paper cut! (Daily News, December 2008) The man died, *from a paper cut!* I have seen folks sit through a decade or more of teaching and bible studies and in the end still get spiritually taken out...*not a stumble or a falter, but a full scale life melt down*, by something that at that point should have been experienced as nothing more serious than a light breeze on a summer day.

Such is evidence that perhaps they *heard*, but they never **HEARD**. They never practiced "akouo" hearing in which what they heard was received and ingested and digested. What they heard never became a part of them...never became a practice...never became a norm. They heard it, but it never **changed** them. They never "heard" in the way that John is speaking of here in this chapter and verse.

The opposite of that would be something more likened to the experience of getting a tune stuck in your head. One of those songs that haunt you and you can't get it out all day at work. Or even better, one of those songs that make you move. Where no matter how hard you try, the music starts your foot tapping and you have an uncontrollable urge to break into serious spontaneous dance! That's more than hearing. That's **HEARING!** Does God's word make you dance? Does God's word make you move? Does it motivate you? Change you? Redirect your life and change the rhythm of your living? Because honestly, if it doesn't, *you aren't hearing it at all.*

What makes up the music that moves you? It's something intangible perhaps...a unique aspect that refuses to let you sit still. Everyone can relate I think. For me, it's Cajun music. I don't know why, but it just makes me want to dance! A few years back, Sharon and I stumbled onto a band playing outside in the French Quarter of New Orleans called the "Zydepunks." Now, I *dare* you to stand still to these guys! The bottom line is, the music that moves you is the music you love. And you love it because it manages to find that special place inside you. It's not just elevator background music, but rather the rhythm of your soul.

Once we hear in the manner that John writes of in this passage, it profoundly affects the beat of the steps of your life. This is not a subtle influence...like, say, a vitamin. This is the stuff of profound and deep change. Serious impact. I once had to go to the hospital with a kidney stone and I thought I was going to die. The doctor gave me morphine and in minute I was right as rain! **THAT'S** the stuff I'm talking about here. That trip to the hospital made me a believer in the power of morphine! (Don't worry...the pastor isn't out in an alley on Saturday night looking to score some "ms. M!") But my understanding of what the words that the doctor said to me that day were changed not by what he said but by *experiencing what he said*. By participating in the words.

When I participate in ...**experience** the words I hear in this book, I *believe*. And therein is the second half of this first verse. The second half of this is also critically important to our understanding.

When we use this word today, it is also often used in rather nebulous or at least "less-than-emphatic" ways. Like "I believe in aliens" or "I believe in the power of positive thinking" or "I believe that girl is hot." In our modern age it has been watered down into a decision...*one not necessarily based on evidence*, more than a factual conclusion. Today we "believe" in things that have no proof or evidence and "refuse" to believe in

issues that are legitimately corroborated before us. We make decisions of truth based on desire and want more than what we have experienced as fact.

The word “believe” herein, is further detailed in the original Greek as follows: *to think to be true, to be persuaded of, to credit, place confidence in. Used in the NT of the conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative and law of soul, to aid either in obtaining or in doing something.* So, according to the original use, this word “believe,” again, has an innate aspect of causing one to move or to act.

Our passage goes on to paint an interesting yet crucial picture of the current state of the “average man.” According to our reading, humanity in their natural state is essential “dead.” When we think of dead in our use of the word, we naturally think of the cessation of life and breath. But God sees another kind of death...one more ‘terminal’ than the one that puts us in the casket. We know scripture tells us that sin causes death. Again, we think that such implies that some acts of rebellion against God and the kingdom realm will kill us. And indeed, that is certainly the case! But in actuality, the ‘death’ caused by sin is perhaps more subtle and clandestine.

Romans 5:12 says “*Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world (Adam), and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned...*”—and Romans 6:23 “*For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*” The fact is that today...in your natural condition...not hearing the music of His message and not believing in Him who moves us in reaction to that truth, *you are in fact dead.* Ephesians 2:1 says “*And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins...*” Made alive! Wow. Doesn’t that simply magnify the process of rebirth and salvation?

In other words, our default status is that we are walking dead. We come to Him in a dead state, and He makes us alive. The natural following to that concept is that without Him, we never know real life...real *living*. Coming to church doesn’t make us alive. Hearing, in the traditional sense, doesn’t make us alive. But hearing that music that makes us move, and believing in “the Musician” behind the music as the source author and the master artist, **that** elicits a passion! A passion which compels us to move. “*Those who hear will live.*” Indeed!

Our text tells us that both God and Jesus the Son has the power of life. John 14:6 states clearly that **in** Jesus and Jesus **in us** is what brings us that life. “*Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..."*” So it is not merely an issue of believing that a man named Jesus walked the earth, or even that this Jesus is the Son of God. For scripture tells us that “*...even the demons believe—and tremble!*” (James 2:19) But no demon will be gracing us with his presence in the eternal! So “believing” as John speaks of herein has to be more than that. Hearing has to result in the music getting down in you...like that song that gets stuck in your head. Like that song that *always* makes you want to dance!

Matthew 13...in the parable of the sower, we read: (18-23) “*Therefore hear the parable of the sower: "When anyone **hears** the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who **hears** the word and immediately receives it with joy; "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who **hears** the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who **hears** the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*”

There must therefore be seed (that's God's part)...some good ground, (that's your part)...an understanding of that Word, (that's your responsibility and mine to teach you)...and then there must be the 'dance' which follows...the movement under the influence of that word...the production of fruit. Galatians 5:22-23 tell us that some of that fruit is "love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." This isn't something you muster up or achieve through sitting in church and receiving instruction like a recipe for chocolate chip cookies. This is the Holy Spirit in you. The music in you that make you move. That in you, you cannot help but move!

According to the text, this "song" will literally raise the dead. (Verse 28) "...the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth...". Now that's a grammy if I have ever heard one! Now check out the last verse: "*I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.*" Ok...taking Jesus as our model, let's break it down. *I can...of myself...do nothing.* This is not a matter of personal strength, intellect or effort. *As I hear...I judge.* That's what we are doing here: "*As I hear...*" As I "akouo" ...as I "*attend to,*" as I "*consider what is or has been said.*" As I "*understand*" ...as I "*perceive the sense of what is said*" ...as I "*receive and learn by the act of hearing,*" I **JUDGE**. And then...***now lay hold of this***...my "*judgment is righteous because I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me.*"

So there it is. There is the 'magic on switch" for the music that makes you dance. If you are here listening, and you are unable or unwilling to set your own will aside, then 'game over.' You are done before you start. You cannot be saved and hold onto your will...your plan...your agenda. Rebirth and Spirit infilling will not occur if you are still in the way of God's possession of you. God will never 'cut a deal.' He will never share you with another. Salvation is surrender. You can sit here week after week, month after month, and year after year, and his music will never move you because you are forgetting the crucial element. And that is, when it comes to the dance, *God leads...*

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## Father dies from rare flesh-eating infection after getting tiny cut on his arm

By [Tamara Cohen](#) for the Daily Mail  
Updated: 20:06 BST, 23 December 2008

A father died of a rare flesh-eating disease which infected his body through a tiny paper cut on his arm, an inquest has heard.

Tony Williamson, 60, developed the deadly blood infection necrotizing fasciitis, which affects fewer than one in a million people.

Within six days of cutting his arm, toxic bacteria had destroyed parts of the inner layer of his skin.



Carole and Tony Williamson. The former engineer died within days of being infected by a flesh-eating bug