

## John 6:41-51

Then the people began to murmur in disagreement because he had said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup>They said, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph? We know his father and mother. How can he say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

<sup>43</sup>But Jesus replied, “Stop complaining about what I said. <sup>44</sup>For no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws them to me, and at the last day I will raise them up. <sup>45</sup>As it is written in the Scriptures, ‘They will all be taught by God.’ Everyone who listens to the Father and learns from him comes to me. <sup>46</sup>(Not that anyone has ever seen the Father; only I, who was sent from God, have seen him.)

<sup>47</sup>“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup>Yes, I am the bread of life! <sup>49</sup>Your ancestors ate manna in the wilderness, but they all died. <sup>50</sup>Anyone who eats the bread from heaven, however, will never die. <sup>51</sup>I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live forever; and this bread, which I will offer so the world may live, is my flesh.”

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## Background

In many Bible translations, verse 41 says, “Then *the Jews* began to murmur...” In John’s Gospel, “the Jews” refers to the Jewish leaders who were hostile to Jesus. They were questioning His claim of coming down from heaven. By saying, “Isn’t this Jesus, the son of Joseph?” they were denying both His virgin birth and His deity.

Jesus’ statement, “*I am the living bread that came down from heaven,*” was a clear claim to divinity. He affirms this claim throughout John, including in verse 46 when He says that only He has seen the Father. Those leaders, like many today, tried to reduce Him to merely a good man, denying His true nature as the Son of God.

## Teaching Points

### 1. God draws a person to Christ on the basis of His sovereignty.

John 6:44 says no one can come to Jesus unless the Father draws them first. This may seem unsettling, like we have no choice in our eternal destiny. But this truth can actually be comforting, because without God’s work in our hearts, none of us would come on our own. Our fallen nature resists God, so His sovereign leading is necessary. If you want to choose Christ, it’s because God is already drawing you to Him.

## 2. God draws a person to Christ by means of Scripture.

Verse 45 is a quote from Isaiah 54, showing that God primarily draws people to Christ through His Word. Romans 10:17 says faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Reflecting on your own conversion, Scripture surely played a key role in bringing you to Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15 says, the Scriptures have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus.

## 3. God draws a person to Christ for the purpose of salvation.

In verse 48, Jesus declares, *“I am the bread of life.”* It’s the first of seven “I AM” statements in John’s Gospel, each revealing His deity. These include:

- “I am the light of the world.”
- “I am the door.”
- “I am the good shepherd.”
- “I am the resurrection and the life.”
- “I am the way, the truth, and the life.”
- “I am the vine.”

The structure of John’s Gospel highlights Jesus’ divine identity. In verses 48-51, Jesus contrasts the manna eaten by their ancestors with Himself—the living bread from heaven offering eternal life. God draws people to Christ, not for wealth or health, but for salvation. Partaking in the Bread of Life means receiving eternal life.

## Application

### 1. Have you partaken of the bread of life?

What does it mean to “eat the Bread of Life” in verse 51? Jesus wasn’t referring to taking communion. Eating the Bread of Life means receiving Christ as Savior.

Up to this point, Jesus has spoken of His incarnation as the living Bread from heaven, but now He shifts to His future sacrificial death, giving His body as a substitute for the world’s salvation. The key question isn’t whether you’ve taken communion or acknowledged Jesus as the Bread of Life. It’s this: Have you truly *received* Him? Have you partaken of the Bread of Life by trusting in His atoning death?