

# The Gospel of John Part 31: The Bread of Life

## John 6:48-65



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I am the bread of life. 49 Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. 50 This is the bread which comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. 51

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and also the bread which I will give for the life of the world is My flesh." 52 Then the Jews began to argue with one another, saying, "How can this man give us His flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves. 54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink. 56 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also will live because of Me. 58 This is the bread which came down out of heaven, not as the fathers ate and died. He who eats this bread will live forever." 59 These things He said in the synagogue as He taught in Capernaum. 60 Therefore many of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?" 61 But Jesus, knowing in Himself that His disciples were grumbling at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble? 62 What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? 63 The Spirit is the One who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64 But there are some of you who do not believe." For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who did not believe, and who it was that would

betray Him. 65 And He was saying, "For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted him from the Father."

**1) Jesus is A New and Better Provision.** Jesus reveals to the crowd that it is through His flesh that eternal life comes to the world. Jesus responds to the people's appeal to the past. They look back to Moses and God's provision in the wilderness as a sign of hope. Jesus says to look in the present, because God has changed the way in which He will deal with His people. It is now through the person and work of Jesus Christ that God's provision comes to all. Jesus is the bread of life, the provision that will sustain us until we can taste the promise of God; which is eternal life.

**2) Jesus Offers A New and Better Path.** Jesus tells the crowd to eat Him to live forever. Jesus is using an earthly illustration for a spiritual truth. The eating of His flesh is a spiritual activity and is done by faith. Earlier in this same sermon, Jesus has been clear, eternal life is granted for those who see and believe, who come to Him, who hear and learn from God. All of this speaks to faith. Eating His flesh is one more illustration that the righteous will live by faith, trusting in the promise of God who has revealed Himself to mankind as Jesus the bread of life.

**3. Jesus Speaks A New and Better Practice.** Jesus instructs His disciples that the Holy Spirit is One who makes salvation possible in our lives. The reason the crowd was troubled by what Jesus taught them is because they lacked the Holy Spirit in their hearts to help them understand. Jesus speaks spiritual truths that require a spiritual discernment that is only made possible when the Holy Spirit brings conviction and illumination in the heart of the lost. The Holy Spirit had not yet come when Jesus preached these words, but the Holy Spirit is active in or world today. God has given mankind everything they need to see and believe, to hear and learn, and to come to Jesus. Without the Holy Spirit in the world, many would still be in their sin, "grumbling" and "stumbling" and saying to themselves concerning Jesus, "this is a difficult statement; who can listen to it." But, thanks be to God that the death of Christ would not be trampled underfoot, rather, the Holy Spirit came so that we might believe and have life.