



Daily Verse and Comment

[John 6:44](#)

(44) "No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.

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Jesus Christ's statement limits who can be converted: Only those the Father selects and draws may be converted. Indirectly, the verse intimates that men will not come to Him unless drawn.

Paul adds in [Romans 3:11-12](#), "There is none who understands; there is none who seeks after [God](#). They have all gone out of the way; they have together become unprofitable; there is none who does good, no, not one." People suppose they are free to choose to [seek God](#) at will, but this verse vigorously disputes that notion. *Nobody* seeks after God!

Jesus reinforces this: "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life" ([John 5:39-40](#)). In this instance, they had God in their very midst, and they would not choose to follow Him. He states this even more bluntly in [John 15:18](#): "If [the world](#) hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you." "Hated" is a strong word!

However, some did choose to follow Him. Notice what Scripture says about them: "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" ([John 1:12-13](#)). This passage clearly says that those who followed Christ did so, not by exercising their wills, but because they were prompted by God's will. Recall Paul's statement in [Philippians 2:13](#), "It is God who works in you both to will and to do. . . ."

The fulfilling of God's twin promises in [Jeremiah 31:31-34](#) and [Ezekiel 36:24-28](#) in our lives makes all the difference in the world concerning the use of the will. By them, we have a new heart as a gift from God - a heart that does not hate God. The proof that the hatred has been removed is that one who has received this benefit consistently uses his will to choose to obey God's will as expressed in His law. The new heart and submission to God's will go hand in hand.

A statement from the apostle Paul helps to put our attitude on the right trajectory: "For who makes you differ from another? And what do you have that you did not receive? Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?" ([1 Corinthians 4:7](#)).

What we have received is a gift of grace, unearned in any way. We need to understand that man's free will is free only in that God never compels anybody to [sin](#). The sinner is not free to do either good or evil because his corrupt heart, formed by Satan's dominion, always inclines him to sin. Man is enslaved by that heart, a bondage that can be broken only by God's [merciful](#) intervention.

By virtue of God's gift, only the called of God are truly free to exercise their will to choose the good. God's gift does not merely counterbalance the evil heart corrupted by Satan's world, but can thoroughly dominate human nature because God works in us to do His will. Exercising this will that is motivated by a God-given heart will enable us to flee Babylon's evil influence.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

To learn more, see:

[**Communication and Leaving Babylon \(Part Two\)**](#)

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