

BIBLICAL EVIDENCE



REFUTING CALVINISM

Michael Ray Garvin



OPENING VERSES

35 Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life.
Whoever **comes to me** will never be hungry, and
whoever **believes in me** will never be thirsty.
36 But I said to you that you **have seen me** and yet
do not believe.
37 Everything that the Father gives me **will come
to me**, and anyone **who comes to me** I will never
drive away.

JOHN 6:35–37 NRSV

1

COMES & BELIEVES

THE WORD COMES IS A SYLLEPSIS

Definition: a figure of speech in which a word is applied to two others in different senses. The word is used literally and figuratively at the same time.

FOR EXAMPLE: In 'opening the door and heart to the homeless boy,' for instance, opening the heart opens the door, for it is the heart that opens or closes the door; to '**open**' yokes the '**heart**' inside with the '**door**' outside.

Strong's Definitions [?]

(Strong's Definitions Legend)

ἔκω **hékō**, hay'-ko; a primary verb; to arrive, i.e. be present (literally or figuratively):
—come.



Thayer's Greek Lexicon

ἔρχεσθαι πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν, to commit oneself to the instruction of Jesus and enter into fellowship with him, [John 5:40](#); [John 6:35](#), [37](#), [44](#), [45](#), [65](#); πρὸς τὸ φῶς,



A. to come to one, i.e. to seek an intimacy with one, become his follower: to come upon one (unexpectedly)

HOW IS COMING LITERAL?

VERSE 36 & 37 BRING CONTEXT

36 But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe.

John 6:36 NRSV

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

1. **to see with the eyes:** **τινα ὁρᾶν**, **ἑωρακέναι**, Luke 16:23; John 8:57; John 14:7, 9; John 20:18, 25, 29; 1 Corinthians 9:1, etc.; future **ὄψομαι**, Matthew 28:7, 10; Mark 16:7; Revelation 1:7, etc.; **τόν Θεόν**, 1 John 4:20; **ἀόρατον ὡς ὁρῶν**, Hebrews 11:27; with a participle added as a predicate (Buttmann, 301 (258); Winer's Grammar, § 45, 4), Matthew 24:30; Mark 13:26; Mark 14:62; Luke 21:27; John 1:51(52); **ἑωρακέναι** or **ὄψεσθαί τό πρόσωπον τίνος**, Colossians 2:1; Acts 20:25; **ὁ** (which divine majesty, i. e. **τοῦ Θείου λόγου**) **ἑωράκαμεν τοῖς ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν** (on this addition cf. Winer's Grammar, 607 (564); (Buttmann, 398 (341))), 1 John 1:1; **ὄψεσθαί τινα**, i. e. come to see, visit, one, Hebrews 13:23; **ἑωρακέναι Christ**, i. e. to have seen him exhibiting proofs of his divinity and Messiahship, John 6:36; John 9:37;

JESUS WAS SPEAKING TO THE PEOPLE **PHYSICALLY THERE**.

"COME" MEANS TO COME TO JESUS **IN PERSON** AND FOLLOW HIM AS A DISCIPLE.

JOHN 6:35-37

³⁵ Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life.
Whoever **comes** to me
will never be hungry,
and whoever believes
in me will never be thirsty.

³⁶ But I said to you that
you have seen me and
yet do not believe.

³⁷ Everything that
the Father gives me
will **come** to me,
and anyone who **comes**
to me I will never
drive away,

"I am the bread of life.
Whoever **comes** to me..."

The people
physically there
listening to Jesus.

JESUS INVITES THOSE RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.



They can see Him.
They can hear Him.



They can come
to Him.



They can follow
Him as disciples.

WHAT JESUS MEANS BY "COME"



To come to Jesus
physically.



To approach Him
personally.



To follow Him
as a **disciple**.

NOT THE SAME AS...



No man can **seek** me
unless the Father
draws him.



No man can **believe**
in me unless the Father
draws him.



No man can **understand**
me unless the Father
draws him.



JESUS WAS SPEAKING TO REAL PEOPLE, IN REAL TIME. **"COME"** REFERS TO A PHYSICAL RESPONSE TO JESUS' CALL TO FOLLOW HIM.

THE FATHER DRAWS, AND THOSE DRAWN COME TO JESUS AND HE NEVER DRIVES THEM AWAY.

37 Everything that the Father gives me **will come to me**, and **anyone who comes to me** I will never drive away.

John 6:37 NRSV

b. to cast out: **τινα** followed by **ἐξω**, John 6:37; John 9:34; John 12:31

Thayer's Greek Lexicon



34 They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” **And they drove him out**.

John 9:34 NRSV

Anyone who **came** to Jesus and followed Him as a disciple, He will never drive them away or cast them away from His physical presence or fellowship. The audience understood this because the Pharisees would cast people out of the synagogue. “Jesus didn’t say anyone who **believed in Me**, He would never drive away.” He said “comes to me,” as in fellowship and being a literal follower while on earth.

IS JOHN 6 ABOUT US?



37 **Everything that the Father gives me** will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away,
John 6:37 NRSV

Jesus makes this very clear that He is speaking about those who the Father has given Him.

None of us were born when Jesus said this.

6 “I **have** made your name known to **those whom you gave me** from the world. They were yours, and **you gave them to me**, and **they have** kept your word. 7 **Now they know** that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me **I have given to them**, and they *have received* them and know in truth that I came from you, and **they have believed** that you sent me.

John 17:6-8 NRSV

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JOHN 6 IS NOT ABOUT US

Jesus is speaking in past tense about those whom the Father has given Him.

6 “I **have** made your name known to **those whom you gave me** from the world. They were yours, and **you gave them to me**, and **they have** kept your word. 7 **Now they know** that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me **I have given to them**, and they *have received* them and know in truth that I came from you, and **they have believed** that you sent me.

John 17:6-8 NRSV



Greek Parsing

Inflected: ἐπίστευσαν

Root: πιστεύω 

Strong's: G4100

English: they have believed

Code: V-AAI-3P

Long: Verb - Aorist Active
Indicative - 3rd Person
Plural



John 6 is talking about the disciples who **physically followed** Jesus **during that time.**

37 **Everything that the Father gives me** will come to me, and anyone who comes to me **I will never drive away**,

John 6:37 NRSV

64 But among you there are some who do not believe.” For **Jesus knew from the beginning who were the ones** who *did not believe* and who was the one who would betray him. 65 And he said, “For this reason I have told you that **no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.**”

66 Because of this **many of his disciples turned back** and no longer went about with him.

John 6:64-66 NRSV

Jesus didn't drive or cast those disciples away they left on their own. His 12 disciples stayed.

TWO DIFFERENT GROUPS

THE DISCIPLES

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that **I should lose nothing of all that he has given me** but raise it up on the last day.

John 6:39 NRSV

EVERYONE ELSE WHO SAW JESUS & BELIEVED

40 This is indeed the will of my Father, **that all who see the Son and believe in him may have** eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.”

John 6:40 NRSV

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VERSE 39

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day.

John 6:39 NRSV

THE ANSWER TO VERSE 39

12 While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, **so that the scripture might be fulfilled.**

John 17:12 NRSV

VERSE 40

40 This is indeed the will of my Father, **that all who see the Son** and **believe in him may have** eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.”

John 6:40 NRSV

Thayer's Greek Lexicon

1. **to be a spectator, look at, behold**, German *schauen* (the **θεωροί** were men who attended the games or the sacrifices as public deputies; cf. Grimm on 2 Macc. 4:19); absolutely: **Matthew 27:55; Mark 15:40; Luke 23:35**; followed by indirect discourse, **Mark 12:41; Mark 15:47**; used especially of persons and things looked upon as in some respect noteworthy: **τινα**, **John 6:40; John 16:10, 16ff, 19**;



Jesus means all who have **literally** seen Him with their **own eyes**.

John 6:40 is **NOT** about us who have **NOT** seen Him.

WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE SON

29 Jesus said to him, “Have **you believed** because **you have seen** me? **Blessed** are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

John 20:29 NRSV



8 Although you have not seen him, **you love him**, and even though you do not see him now, **you believe in him** and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy,

1 Peter 1:8 NRSV



We have NOT seen Jesus but we **BELIEVE**.

JOHN 6 FULFILLED IN JOHN 17

14 I **have given them your word**, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 15 I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. 16 They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. 17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. 18 As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. 19 And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth. 20 “**I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word**, 21 that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

John 17:14-21 NRSV

It is clear that the apostles **were given to the Son** by the Father. Jesus prays **for those given to him** and **then for us and the rest** who will believe through the apostle's preaching.

DISCIPLES & US

6 “I have made your name known **to those whom you gave me from the world**. They were yours, and **you gave them to me**, and **they have kept your word**. 7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, 8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and **they have believed** that you sent me.

John 17:6-8 NRSV

The Father gave the Son the Disciples.

32 And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, **will draw all people** to myself.”
John 12:32 NRSV 

The Son draws All people to Himself.

16 I have **other sheep** that **do not belong to this fold**. **I must bring them** also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will **be one flock**, one shepherd.

John 10:16 NRSV

ALL MAY BE ONE

20 “I ask not only on behalf of these **but also on behalf of those who believe in me through their word**, 21 **that they may all be one**. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, **may they also be in us**, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.
John 17:20-21 NRSV

16 I have **other sheep** that **do not belong to this fold**. **I must bring them** also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will **be one flock**, one shepherd.

John 10:16 NRSV

Jesus prays for the other sheep in John 17 that they all may be one.

COME, SEEK, BELIEVE ARE DISTINCT

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." 40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word
John 4:39-41

Some Calvinists believe that the word "**come**" also means to believe and seek. This is NOT true. We see the Samaritans "**believed**" before "**coming**" to Jesus.

We cannot confuse "**coming**" to Jesus with "**believing**". Jesus says
No man can "come" to Him unless drawn by the Father. He did not say no man can "seek or believe".