**What Draws Us?**

*by Jerry Fite*

Jesus said, *“No man can come to me, except the Father who sent me draw him…” (John 6:44).* Before man is able to come to Jesus, a drawing power must issue from the Father. We do not come to Jesus without first being drawn to Him; and we are not drawn to Him without first the Father applying His drawing power.

Jesus’ word *“draw”* occurs elsewhere in the New Testament which might help us understand the “strength” of the power being used to draw us. Peter *“drew”* a net full of 153 great fishes to land *(John 21:11).* Desperate men *“dragged”* Paul and Silas into the market place in Philippi before judicial rulers for examination and jail time *(Acts 16:19).* With Jerusalem in an uproar, Paul was *“dragged”* from the temple by those determined to kill him *(Acts 21:30).* I am sure Peter was using great might to draw the abundant catch to shore; and angry men were no doubt very forceful in dragging Paul away. This drawing power must have a strong pull.

We know “who” draws us: The Father. We assume the drawing power is forceful. But “what” is this strong drawing power, and “how” is it manifested?

The drawing power is manifested through teaching for Jesus explains: *“It is written in the prophets, ‘and they shall all be taught of God.’ Everyone that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me” (John 6:45).* Some believe the forceful drawing power is manifested through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit upon the heart pulling us miraculously toward Jesus. But Jesus says it is through teaching, hearing and learning.

Drawing us through the teaching concerning God’s love is one characteristic of this divine pull upon our minds. The Holy Spirit is involved in spreading the love of God in our hearts through teaching: *“For while we were yet weak, in due season Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: for peradventure for the good man someone would even dare to die. But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-10).*

What love to hear about through teaching! We were neither righteous nor good. But while we were helpless sinners, living ungodly lives, we learn that Jesus died for us to save us from God’s judicial and righteous wrath. Learning of this love, we are drawn strongly by the Father to Jesus for salvation.

The teaching that Jesus is the Son of God sent from heaven by the Father draws us. Not knowing this fact about Jesus, some said, *“Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How doth he now say, I am come down out of Heaven?” (John 6:42).* The miraculous feeding of the 5,000 should have clearly established that Jesus was from God, but some were not learning from the miraculous sign (cf. John 6:26).

The signs were written so we through the revealed teaching could hear, learn and believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and have life in his name *(John 20:30-31, John 6:47-51).*

Miraculous confirmation of Jesus’ teaching draws us strongly to Him. Jesus’ self-sacrificing love so we can be saved from God’s wrath forcefully draws us to Him. These are powerful drawing points. Are you hearing and learning?

**How “Hurt” Should Talk To God**

*by Jerry Fite*

Prayer is not merely addressing God, but it is talking to Him regarding our personal needs. Such prayers are *“supplications”* (I Timothy 2:1)*.* Sometimes, the need is help for our troubling soul. Bodily infirmities and spiritual persecutions can trouble any soul. We know we can come to the Lord’s *“throne of grace”* to *“receive mercy in time of need”* (Hebrews 4:16),but how should we talk to God when there?

**EXPRESS YOUR QUESTIONS.** Are you wondering where God is because your troubles remain? Go ahead and ask Him, *“Why standest thou afar off, O Jehovah? Why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?”* (Psalm 10:1).Suffering tends to get old quickly, and we want relief soon. So, express your dilemma: *“How long, O Jehovah? Wilt thou forget me forever? How long wilt thou hide thy face from me?”* (Psalm 13:1).Troubles can beat us down to the point that we feel so insignificant. Do you wonder if God is even aware of your troubles? Go ahead state your frustration*: “Awake, why sleepest thou, O Lord? Arise, cast us not off forever”* (Psalm 44:23).

God can handle any *“anxiety.”* He tells us to *“cast all”* of them upon Him. Coming to God in prayer with humility and reverence, does not exclude direct and plain speech. Your questions of underlying doubt and frustration do not turn Him Off. Why? Because He *“cares for you”* (I Peter 5:7)

**COME IN FAITH AND HOPE.** In times of trouble we need to talk to ourselves, and reflect upon God’s blessings in better times, and in trust, hope for the future.

We can be so troubled, that we cannot speak, but can ask ourselves important questions as our soul searches for answers: *“Is His lovingkindness clean gone forever? Doth his promise fail for evermore? Hath God forgotten to be gracious? Hath His anger shut up his tender mercies?”* (Psalm 77:7-9). Certainly not! We may feel that way, but that is our *“infirmity.”* We need to trust in God’s promise that He will neither *“fail”* us nor *“forsake”* us (Hebrews 13:5).In our time of hurting, we need to *“remember”* and *“meditate”* upon our God who has done *“wonders”* in the past as we look to His already proven *“strength”* (Psalms 77:10-12, 14).

While you are asking questions of God, ask yourself, *“Why art thou cast down, o my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me?”* Then hope! *“Hope thou in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of his countenance…I shall yet praise Him who is the help of my countenance, and my God”* (Psalms 42:5, 11).Hope for the future when you can praise God for delivering you from a troubled soul. Hope for the time when God’s countenance of mercy shall brighten your own countenance.

**WAIT ON THE LORD**

Even though you hurt, you should never spread doubts about God’s faithfulness to others (Psalm 73:13-15). Wait in silence. David says, *“My soul waiteth in silence for God only: From Him cometh my salvation”* (Psalm 62:1).You wait. God will deliver.