

How Does God Draw People To Himself?

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Introduction

Some mistakenly think they are drawn to God through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. However, the gospel is God's power unto salvation (Acts 10:34-35; Rom. 1:16-17).

Some mistakenly think they are drawn to God through human intuition, reason and philosophy. However, divine truth is often hidden from those who are wise and intelligent (Matt. 11:25-26; 1 Cor. 1:18-31).

In contrast with the speculative systems of men (1 Tim. 1:3-7), Christianity is a religion of The Book, rooted in divine revelation (1 Cor. 2:6-16).

In this lesson, let us consider the text of John 6:44-45, where Jesus Christ says, "*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me.*"

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.

God draws men. The word translated "draw" means to drag. Used literally, it means to move an object from one area to another in a pulling motion. Used figuratively, it means to draw or attract a person in the direction of values for inner life. God draws us with his love (Jer. 31:1-6; Hos. 11:1-4), the ultimate expression of which is the death of Jesus Christ on the cross (John 12:27-33; Rom. 5:6-11).

Christ raises men. Depending upon the context, the word translated "I will raise" may have different meanings. Here it refers to the believer's hope of being brought back to life from the dead (John 6:35-40, 44-45, 53-58). A glorious resurrection awaits the faithful (1 Cor. 15:50-58; 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught of God.'

It is written in the prophets. The word translated "prophets" refers to a person inspired to proclaim the will of God, a foreteller or forth-teller of divine truth. Foreshadowing the spiritual nature of the Messianic Kingdom, the Old Testament prophets emphasized the importance of knowledge and understanding (Isa. 11:1-9; Jer. 31:31-34).

They shall all be taught of God. The word translated “taught” pertains to either the recipients or content of instruction. The New Testament is an authoritative revelation of the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:12-16; Eph. 3:1-5).

Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

We must hear. As used in this context, the word translated “hear” means that one must give careful attention to the inspired message of truth. Christ’s admonition is repeatedly expressed: “He who has ears, let him hear” (Matt. 13:3-17; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22; etc.).

We must learn. The word translated “learn” means to gain knowledge or skill by careful instruction. Learning is the essence of discipleship (Matt. 9:12-13; 11:28-30; 24:32-34). Avoiding the perils of false precept or practice (Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 4:6), let us remain faithful to the inspired message of truth, the gospel of our salvation (Col. 1:3-7; 2 Tim. 3:13-17).

We must come. As used in this context, the word translated “come” means to proceed on a course with a destination in view. To be saved, we must respond positively to the Lord’s invitation (Matt. 11:28-30), counting the cost (Luke 6:46-49), with genuine commitment and cross-bearing (Luke 14:25-28).

Conclusion

What must one do to be saved? We must hear. We must believe. We must repent. We must confess. We must be baptized. We must remain faithful. What must an erring child of God do? We must repent. We must pray. We must bear fruit.