

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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The Father Draws. . . But How

(Jerry Fite)

Jesus said, “*No man can come to me, except the Father that sent me draw him*” (John 6:44). No one comes to the Father except through Jesus (Jn. 14:6), and here, we know definitely that the process is initiated by the Father: He draws him.

The question is, how does the Father draw us to Him through Christ? Some teach we are moved along by Divine impulse through the direct operation of the Holy Spirit. If the initial impulse is by the Holy Spirit, is it a direct operation on man’s heart apart from any means? As always, we go to Scripture for God’s answer.

Respecting the context of Jesus’ statement, we see teaching is the means by which the Father draws us. Jesus says, “*It is written in the prophets, and they shall all be taught of God. Every one that hath heard from the Father, and hath learned, cometh unto me*” (John 6:45). Teaching plus learning results in people drawn by the Father to Jesus. It is therefore not a direct Divine impulse, but the Divine working through means of teaching to create a

drawn learner. God’s Holy Spirit is definitely the source of the teaching, but He works through the word to draw the learner to Christ.

For example, Jesus in referring to His death on the cross said, “*And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto myself. But this He said, signifying by what manner of death he should die*” (John 12:32-33). Are people drawn to Christ by some mystical power inherent in a suspended body on a cross? No! We understand the meaning of Jesus dying on the cross. The love behind His willing sacrifice draws us to Him.

We learn this through the Holy Spirit’s teaching. Paul writes, “. . . *because the love of God hath been shed abroad in our hearts through the Holy Spirit which was given unto us*” (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit sheds God’s love in our hearts. He does so through the Word. Paul explains, “*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 some one would even dare to die. But God commendeth His own love toward us, in that, while were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:6-8). Paul explains with the introductory preposition “*for*” how the love of God has entered into our hearts via the Holy Spirit. It is through the words that emphasizes God’s love toward us through the death of Christ. He died for us when we were sinners and ungodly; when we were neither good nor righteous before Him; when we were helpless to commend ourselves. How do we know this? Through words revealed to us through the Holy Spirit.

How much of the love of God do you know or even feel apart from the words revealed by the Holy Spirit? Paul connecting the Holy Spirit with Spirit-inspired words illustrates Jesus’ statement of how the Father draws one to Christ. The drawing power of the sacrificial love of God is accomplished through teaching. Learning the teaching of God’s love draws us to Christ. God’s drawing power is in the Gospel!