

## God Promises a Drawing Power

*"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him" (John 6:44)*

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The words of Jesus in John 6:44 came in direct response to the Jews' murmuring in verse 41; and the murmuring was a direct result of what Jesus had said in John 6:32-40 about being the "bread of life" and coming down from heaven to do the Father's will. What a wonderful promise is contained in these words of our Lord. They are delivered in the negative but have a wonderful positive ring to them. Jesus is saying "If the Father will draw you, you can come to me."

We understand the meaning of something with "drawing power." Advertisers work hard to find the right message for their commercials in media, their road-side signs, and any where else they seek to reach the masses. They know there is drawing power in saying the right thing, or showing the right picture, or telling the right story.

Much ado has been made of these words of Jesus by those who would twist these words in an attempt to teach the direct operation of the Holy Spirit in conversion. These are people who have no confidence in the Bible, and do not understand the role of the Bible in God's plan to redeem man. What's strange about this is the fact that the Calvinist's Bible that has verse 44 also has verse 45, in which Jesus himself explains the drawing power. That text says; *"It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh to me."* Hearing and learning of (from) the Father is the means by which one comes to Christ. The word of God is the drawing power! It is the Holy Spirit drawing but doing so by means of the word which he inspired the apostles to write (1 Corinthians 2:5-13). In Romans 1:15-17 Paul wrote: *"So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* This passage should forever settle the question of the drawing power, and of it's universal application!

### Jesus Invited All Men

In Matthew 11:28 we find these words of Jesus: *"Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden; and I will give you rest."* I take that invitation to be universal, and I am not alone in that conclusion. Any person, in any nation, at any time, can come to the Lord on the basis of our Lord's words in that invitation. The Bible is clear on this point in other places as well. The great commission says the gospel is to be preached *"to every creature"* (Mark 16:15); that we are to *"teach all nations"* (Matthew 28:19); and that *"repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations"* (Luke 24:47). In Acts 10:34-35 Peter said; *"Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."* Calvinist doctrine has God being the worst kind of respecter of persons - one that allows some men no hope and others every hope - all without conditions on the part of the recipient at all! I know of no false doctrine more hurtful than the false doctrine in Calvinism of "election" or "predestination." Peter's words certainly disagree with that doctrine. Paul wrote in 1 Timothy 2:4 that God *"will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."* Peter wrote in 2 Peter 3:9 that God is *"not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."* Shall we ignore Peter's statement and remain Calvinistic in our belief? Or shall we believe what Peter wrote and conclude that Calvinism is wrong and dangerous? I opt for the latter.

## The Exception

Remember that Jesus said; *“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him”* (John 6:44). The word “EXCEPT” is a key word. It is a condition. You can’t come unless the Father draws you; however, if the Father draws you, you can come. We have already noted that the drawing power is the word of God. However, we need to make the point clearer so that none can misunderstand what the word of God says on the subject of conditions to salvation. In 1 Corinthians 1:18-21 Paul wrote: *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”* James said it this way: *“Wherefore lay apart all filthiness, and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls”* (James 1:21).

## The Recipient’s Responsibility

This drawing power of God is not irresistible! The Calvinist doctrine of “irresistible grace” is just as wrong as all the other doctrines in their “tulip.” Jesus said; *“Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me; and ye will not come to me, that ye might have life”* (John 5:39-40 ASV). These people were recipients of the drawing power but they resisted it. It was not their will to come to him. If it is not your will, do not wait for God to drag you. He will not do it.

In the preaching of the first gospel sermon, the record concludes with Peter’s words as follows; *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls”* (Acts 2:36-41). They heard the preaching. They were told what to do. They were exhorted to do as they were told. They did it. They realized that they had some responsibility and that they had response ability. The result was a positive end to God’s calling, which he does through the gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14).

Understand that the responsibility does not end when a person obeys the gospel initially. There is the matter of remaining faithful. That, too, takes recognition of personal responsibility. In Philippians 2:12 Paul encouraged these fine Christians to *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”* Now, we know that a person is not saved merely on the basis of works. This is not what Paul was saying at all. He was telling them to keep on doing what God wants them to do, proving their love for him by keeping his commandments (1 John 5:2-3). This drawing power of God is designed by Him to take a person all the way from being in the world and lost, to the state of being in Christ and saved, meeting the spiritual needs of each individual along the way, and to the very portals of heaven itself. So says Paul in 2 Timothy 3:16-17. God could design it that way. Man could never have! That’s why we praise God!

## Conclusion

God promised a drawing power. That power is the gospel. I could close with no better words than those of Paul in Acts 20:32 ***“And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.”***