

Draw Me Nearer

Text: John 6:44-45

Background:

1. God draws man to Him by the message of the Gospel.
2. Yet, the power of the Gospel is the sacrifice of Jesus (John 12:32).
3. It is the love of God expressed in the voluntary suffering of Jesus that draws men to Him.
4. These truths should cause each Christian to desire to be drawn nearer to the Savior.

Introduction: Calling (Verse 1a)

1. "I am Thine, O Lord" – The Christian belongs to Christ.
2. "I have heard Thy voice" – One is called to Christ by the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 2:14).
3. "And it told Thy love to me" – The Gospel is the good news of God's love (John 3:16).
4. By answering this calling with obedience, one becomes a child of God (Gal. 3:26-27).

I. Closeness (Verse 1b)

- A. That calling is only the beginning of one's journey as a Christian.
- B. Understanding God's love should cause one to desire to be "closer drawn" to Him!
- C. Song #303 – "Am I Nearer to Heaven Today?" (Cf. Romans 13:11)
- D. To draw nearer demands desire and effort – study!
- E. It is good to draw near to God (Psalm 73:25-28).

II. Consecration (Verse 2)

- A. When one is saved from sin, he is also consecrated to the Lord.
 1. To be consecrated is to be "set apart" as "sacred."
 2. It is the idea of being sanctified and made holy.
- B. Part of drawing nearer to God is to be consecrated for His service (cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3, 7-8; 3:12; 4:1, 10).
- C. The grace of God and the hope of Heaven cause the Christian to surrender his will to that of the Father.

III. Communion (Verse 3)

- A. Song #246 – "'Tis the Blessed Hour of Prayer" / Song #39 – "Did You Think to Pray?"
 1. God spoke with Moses "face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend" (Exodus 33:11).
 2. Abraham "was called the friend of God" (James 2:23; Isaiah 41:8).
 3. Jesus declared that His disciples are His friends (John 15:13-14).
- B. Friends love communication with one another and long for mutual communion!
- C. Drawing near to God means that we desire to involve Him in our lives through prayer.

IV. Consummation (Verse 4)

- A. No matter how close one may grow to the Father in this life, he still longs to be drawn nearer.
- B. Only in Heaven can the ultimate love, joy, and peace be known.
- C. If we want to be drawn closer to God in Heaven, we must draw closer to Him now on Earth.

Conclusion: (Chorus)

- 1. As we draw closer to God, we are drawn closer to the cross.
- 2. Yet, the most amazing truth is that as one draws closer to God, God draws closer to him (James 4:8).
- 3. May our prayer ever be: "Draw me nearer!"