Drawn to the Character of Jesus Christ

It is easy to notice that in an election campaign, the people promoting a candidate present him in the most glowing light they can to persuade people to vote for him. They do it through billboards, on the radio, on television…

The candidate writes speeches with the most convincing offers he can, to get as many people as possible to choose him.

It is done this way because we were created with discernment, with the ability to choose. When we admire something greatly, a desire is set off in us to act, to make decisions.

No candidate in an election campaign will call on us to vote for him by using threats, because no one would think well of him or vote for him. If a person is drawn by the offers of a very convincing candidate and believes he is sincere in what he promises, he will act accordingly: he will think highly of him and choose him over the others.

If, besides the offers he makes, this candidate also lives a beautiful life, then even though he does not call anyone to imitate his way of life, there will still be some people who, out of admiration, will want to imitate him. That is how we were created, with this capacity.

The Desire to Imitate

When we are drawn to someone, we admire him and are willing to support him, and when we admire him with all our heart, there will be people among us who want to become like that person. (We can see this desire to imitate in young people, who want to be like certain music or film stars in the way they dress, the way they talk…)

When it comes to the salvation of the soul, things happen in a similar way. God uses His messengers to present His plan for our lives, in order to persuade us to choose His offer of salvation.

To get people to choose him, a candidate promises them all kinds of benefits, without asking them to become like him and live as he lives. But the Lord Jesus, besides promising us eternal life, also offers us the possibility of becoming like Him, of walking together with Him in His ways, living a perfect life. He calls us not only to appreciate Him for what He has done for us; He calls us to be like Him. He calls us to fall in love with Him, and for this He shows us the beauty of His perfect character. (And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. John 12:32)

God does not call us to appreciate Him merely because He offers us an eternal Kingdom with streets of gold, or because He saves us from hell, since that will not make us fall in love with Him, nor make us want to follow Him so as to be like Him.

He shows us His ways, which are right; He reveals His shining beauty to us so that we can be drawn, so that we can be filled with admiration, so that love can be awakened in us. (All his ways are judgment. Deuteronomy 32:4)

Only in this way can we love Him with all our heart. Only in this way will we desire to walk in His ways and to have the beauty that He has. (The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Psalm 50:1–2)

The Word of God

That is why, in His love for the crown of His creation, God uses His messengers to speak to us about the Lord Jesus, to show us the traits of character of His heart. His disciples are sent to describe the image of God to us, to show us the beauty of His heart, and to draw us to Him with His perfect beauty.

No one can be drawn to His beauty if he has not heard of Him and does not see the traits of His heart, if he does not know His ways, the way He is. (And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14; No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. John 6:44)

If we are drawn to the beauty of His perfect character, we will admire Him and love Him with all our heart; only then will the desire be stirred up in us to have the same traits of character that He has. (I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please. Song of Solomon 8:4)

If we were called to repentance only so as not to end up in hell and so as to walk on streets of gold, without being shown the beauty of the Lord's heart, if no one told us that His purpose is for us to have His traits of character, we must be careful, because those who brought us that message brought us a false, incomplete gospel. They were not sent by God. If we have received such a gospel, we have been deceived by Satan.

The Gospel of the Glory of Christ

Let us honestly admit it: what gospel was brought to us? Were there people who preached to us that if we do not repent we will end up in eternal hell? Did they teach us to appreciate Him and be grateful to Him only for what He did for us on the cross? Or were there messengers of God who presented to us the beauty of the Lord's heart? Was I drawn to His traits of character? Was love awakened in us, and did we long to have the same beautiful traits that He has?

God draws us with all His beauty, and He will make all the beauty of His heart pass before us. Just as He showed Moses the beauty of His heart, so He will show it to us. He will make all His beauty pass before you. (Exodus 33:17) He does this so that we will fall in love with the traits of His heart, so that love will be awakened in us.

David's burning desire (which must be the desire of everyone in love with the Lord) was to dwell all his life in the house of the Lord, to behold the beauty of the Lord. (One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD. Psalm 27:4)

If we come to God out of fear of hell, we have not received the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 2 Corinthians 4:3–4)

Drawn to His Commandments and Teachings

Every teaching (commandment) in the Gospel has a trait of the Lord Jesus hidden within it; it hides within it the perfect beauty of His character. When we look at His ways and His commandments, we are in fact looking at the beauty of Christ, who is the image of God.

His commandments must be a delight to us, because they represent Him. (And I will delight myself in thy commandments, which I have loved. Psalm 119:47; Thy commandments are my delights. Psalm 119:143)

That is why the Lord Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15), meaning: whoever loves Me also loves My commandments and finds his delight in them, because My commandments express My character; they show what I am like.

No one will be able to admire Him and love Him with all his mind out of fear of the punishment of eternal hell, but only if he is drawn by the radiance of the Lord, by the radiance of His Word. Only then is the burning desire to be like Him set off. Only in this way can the purpose for which we were created be reached: to be like the Lord Jesus, our Bridegroom.

Only when we are truly drawn to the beauty of the Lord's heart will we be moved to imitate Him and to long for a heart like His.

If someone shows us the beauty of the Lord and we are drawn to Him, the result will be love. To illustrate, our relationship should be like that of an engaged couple who are drawn to each other, where there is wholehearted love.

If we admire and are drawn to the beauty of the Lord Jesus's traits, we will long to have them too, and this is the starting point. (I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love. Song of Solomon 5:8)

A person in love will always delight in the words spoken by the one he admires and loves. (My soul failed when he spake. Song of Solomon 5:6; My soul breaketh for the longing that it hath unto thy judgments at all times. Psalm 119:20)

If we did not begin here, if we are not drawn to the beauty of His heart, if His commandments and His ways are not our delight, if we have loved Him only for His promises, then the new life has not begun. (No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him. John

6:44)

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