

## **John 6:43-45 (WCF 10:1-2) “Invincible Attraction”**

**For the Children:** Some places have “attractions” that holiday-makers often want to see – theme parks on the Gold Coast, or amazing scenery, or places of historical interest. Most people don’t need to be forced to visit these attractions, because they really *want* to see them. Similarly, if you enjoy study, or a certain type of job, you don’t have to be forced to do it – you *want* to do it. But sinful people cannot bring themselves to want what God wants. That can only happen if God changes them and fixes them up spiritually, giving them a new heart that *wants* to know the Lord. **Questions:** How are the 3 Persons of the Trinity involved in drawing us to the Lord? How does God “teach” us to know Him from the heart? How does He make sure that we will be raised up on the Last Day?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: The Drawing of the Elect**

- 1) Only Those Drawn: The Lord states that no one can come to Him unless the Father draws him. This implies that the grumbling crowd are rejecting His message because they have not been drawn. This “drawing” is not a gentle persuasion or mere moral influence. Neither of those approaches would work, with sinners who lost all ability of will to seek good (see WCF chaps.6,7,9). The word “drawn” refers to something effectual. It can even mean “drag” (Acts 16:19, 21:30). It does not imply a violent forcing of man’s will; but sinners need to have their fallen will “sweetly and powerfully bent” (CD 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> Head, Art.16). The will needs to be renewed by an act of God’s grace.
- 2) A Triune Drawing: God “draws” sinners by predestining the elect to life, giving them to His Son; by the Son accomplishing their redemption; and by Word and Spirit dwelling within them and applying Christ’s work to them. All of these works are effectual, since God is Sovereign. As a result, the will of the sinner is restored, so that it wants what God wants – rather than being left to its own bondage, or forced against what it wants.

#### **Second Point: The Teaching of the Elect**

- 1) Better Teaching: God’s people were taught by Him in the OT. But the OT foretold that in the new covenant, God would teach His people more effectually. V.45 quotes Is. 54:13, Jer. 31:34, to that effect. This would be effectual, rather than a mere external teaching, because the result would be His people would all then know Him and have His law in their hearts.
- 2) The Learners Come to Christ: The effectuality of this call is seen also in that “everyone who has heard and learned of the Father, comes to Me.” It is inevitable. In many circumstances grace can be resisted and rejected, but not in this case with the elect coming to know God in this way.

#### **Third Point: The Final Outcome for the Elect**

- 1) All Raised Up: In addition, the effectuality of this grace is shown by the promise that all whom the Father draws, the Lord Jesus “will raise up on the Last Day.” This is a sure promise, which it could not be if it depended on the sinner’s right use of a free will.
- 2) Not of Free Will: It is not that the Father seeks to draw by simple persuasion, and by outward teaching, then leaving it to man’s free will. Nor is it a matter of God simply looking into the future to see what men will decide of their own free will. Note the language: the Father draws and teaches inwardly (by Word and Spirit); all taught by the Father come; no one can come unless they are drawn; and that is why the Son can guarantee that He will raise up all who are drawn by the Father. There is nothing in this of man’s initiative, free will, or works. It is all of God’s grace.

### **Conclusion:**