



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

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## Resistance Creates Heat

Marc Gibson

It is a principle of electricity that resistance creates heat. This principle of resistance is used to create heat in such items as electric hot water heaters and stoves/ovens. The element through which electricity passes resists the flow, which makes the element turn red-hot. The heat produced will warm water and cook food. This also explains how the old-style light bulbs made light. The filament through which the electricity passes resisted the flow, creating a white-hot glow of light. The principle of resistance creating heat can also be demonstrated by simply rubbing your hands together quickly.

I have noted all of this to make a spiritual application of the principle of resistance causing heat. Christians are commanded to resist evil: "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you" (Jas. 4:7). "Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world" (1 Pet. 5:9). Resistance against evil will cause "heat" as we fight the good fight against error and endure persecution. Temptations and false teachers will constantly trouble the people of God who must resist the devices of the devil (2 Cor. 2:11). This is why we must "put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

There is no way a faithful Christian can avoid this "heat." We must face the fact that "all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution" (2 Tim. 3:12). Jesus warned His disciples that even families would be divided over truth and error (Matt. 10:34-36) and that the world would hate us (Jn. 15:18-20). Controversy created by resisting evil will cause some to compromise or fall from the faith – but it will also cause the light of God's truth to shine brightly for all to see. Standing for the truth can only be done by those willing to resist evil. Let us be faithful to God, resist the devil, and endure the heat of battle in the good fight of faith.

## How Jesus Draws Us

Joshua Welch

A question we might ask a dating or married couple is "what is it that drew you to one another?" In other words, what were the main character traits or attributes that caused you to be attracted and interested in the other person? As the bride of Christ, we might ask the same question about those who are "married," in a figurative sense, to Christ (2 Corinthians 11:2; Revelation 19:7-9; Ephesians 5:22-33). What is that draws us to Jesus?

The term "draw" (HELKUO) is used several times in the New Testament. In a physical sense, it may be translated as "to draw, drag off." For example, Peter literally "drew his sword" in John 18:10). The apostles literally had to "drag" the net to shore after the big catch of fish (John 21:6, 11). Paul was literally "dragged" before the authorities on two different occasions (Acts 16:19; 21:30). James seems to reference this common form of abusive persecution saying, "*Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts?*" (2:6, NKJV).

Yet, Jesus does not physically and literally drag us, by force, to become His followers. Instead, the term "draw" is used in a metaphorical sense in two verses of New Testament Scripture as well (see John 6:44; 12:32). So, how does Jesus "draw" us towards Him today?

**First, we are drawn by God, the Father.** John 6:44 says, "*No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day*" (NKJV). Clearly, God the Father has a drawing power. But, how does He do this work? Read the next verse. "*It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Therefore*

*everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me*" (John 6:45). It is not, as some denominations teach, by some better-felt-than-told experience that God draws us. No, He draws us through the power of teaching. This is especially seen when one contrasts the broader teaching of Jesus in John 6. He is constantly pointing to Old Testament examples to help the people see clearly these were but a faint picture of a greater fulfillment in Him as *"the bread of life"* (John 6:35). Thus, we must use the Old Testament Scriptures to draw souls to Jesus!

**Secondly, the attractive nature of Jesus is seen in the love demonstrated by the cross.** John 12:32 says, *"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself"* (NKJV). There is something beautiful about the sacrificial love of Jesus that would suffer and die on the cross for the sake of mankind (see also Romans 5:6-8). Such love is unparalleled in the history of mankind. His love draws us to Him. Jeremiah the prophet once wrote of God, *"Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you"* (31:3, NKJV). Jesus, draw us ever nearer.

Helton Drive 2/19/25

## Shhh! Men Thinking

Joe Fitch

God seeks thinking men; he has no use for a remote controlled robot. Man, a living sacrifice to God, is presented as a reasonable service — rational, offered by the reason (Rom. 12:1). This man is transformed by renewing his mind (Rom. 12:2) — getting him to think right. He **meditates** on Gods law (Psa. 1:2) and acts according to its precepts. He **considers** Gods unspeakable gift — his son (2 Cor. 9:15) and praise with thanksgiving is offered to God. He **realizes** the worth of a soul and seeks to save men. Thus God succeeds, and heaven rejoices over this thinking man in service to God.

A brother in an assembly sings without **comprehending** the words of praise. He bows — and dozes — while someone expresses to God the mind of the congregation. He eats a pinch of bread and drinks a sip of grape juice but never **remembers** the sacrifice behind this memorial. He sleeps as a preacher stirs. . **Pure minds** (2 Pet. 3:1). His performance is empty — a useless ritual. God is not pleased; the man is not profited. **Thoughtlessness** destroyed his worship.

Some folk assume that thinking of something makes it both right and wise. Their thoughts become their own supreme court. They settle all questions with Well, I think.. . . Remember, a man can think and yet think wrong. Saul of Tarsus did. I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth (Act. 26:9).

Others decide thinking is reaching different conclusions from everyone else. Such is false. In fact, beware of a conclusion no one holds. There is probably a good reason. Everyone believes the world is round. I weigh the evidence and arrive at the same conclusion — because the evidence demands it. Yet the conclusion is mine.

There is always risk in men thinking. At times weird ideas will be advanced. A baby would not fall if he never tried to walk; he would also never walk. Thinking has its childhood stage (1 Cor. 13:11). With patience and constructive help brethren should out grow the nutty idea stage to reason logically and reach mature conclusions.