

MEDITATION ON THE ATTRACTION OF THE WORD

Psalm 119:25

My soul cleaveth unto the dust: quicken thou me according to thy word.

What will most often prostrate me in the dust before God? After much meditation on this question, the answer is unexpected. The times that I am “on my face” are most often during times of confusion. I find myself so confused about the question, “God, I love you with all my heart; so why did I do what I did?”

Perhaps my tongue has become my enemy and I am clothed in sackcloth, unable to understand why I said those unkind words. Perhaps my thoughts are vile and ugly and I find myself unable to bring them into captivity. Perhaps I have knowingly, presumptuously, sinned against God, and now I hate myself for all my iniquity. I have all the emotional pain that results from disobedience and the shock of it all results in so much confusion. Why is there such a disconnect between my love for God and my unloving acts of disobedience?

The following analogy brings insight to this question. This analogy depicts the attraction between a needle and a magnet.

Some kinds of metals, like the steel that needles are made of, are made up of billions of individual atoms that each have the properties of a microscopic magnet. Within the needle, they cluster themselves into tiny little groups called domains. These magnetic domains get stuck within the needle pointing in different directions so that their magnetic properties cancel each other out. Therefore, because of the confusion within, the needle has no force of its own. It is neutral.

That is exactly my problem. My forces within are at odds, canceling each other out. But, God hates neutrality.

Rev 3:16

So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

In a magnet, the domains all point in the same direction. This results in a force that is strong and sure; so strong in fact, that other metal objects are attracted to it. In the analogy, this unwavering, forceful source of attraction is the Word of God.

When a needle is moved close to a magnet, the magnet will begin to influence the magnetic domains within the needle and begin to bring order out of confusion. If the two remain in close proximity long enough, the needle will itself become magnetized as all the domains line up, pointing in the same direction. However, if the needle again becomes separated from the magnet, it will not be long until it once again reverts to a neutral state.

The Psalmist knows that the Word quickens. It not only makes alive, but it also cleanses, heals and restores. The Word is a magnet. It brings into alignment and orders confusion. Rather than cleaving to the dust, I prefer to cleave to the precious, life-giving words of an Almighty God.