

Magnetic Power 1

Sermon #0904

Study given by W. D. Frazee—October 12, 1962

Magnets are very interesting. I don't understand them. From what I hear, if I were well educated I would still have to say I don't understand them. Be that as it may, they are very interesting to me.

Here is a magnet. Here is a little nail. You notice that when the nail gets within the magnetic field, it jumps up to meet the magnet. Of course, there is the law of gravity that is supposed to hold the nail down, but the law of magnetism is stronger than the law of gravity, and it pulls the nail right up.

Here is another object. It weighs a little more than the nail. The magnet catches it too, and holds it suspended in space. Here is a nut. It weighs more than either one of those other two. Yes. The magnet will take it too. There they all are. Magnetic power.

You see, of course, that to be drawn the object must be brought within the magnetic field. It is not drawing anything out of your pocket. It is not affecting anything where you are. It is drawing these particular objects when they are brought within the magnetic field. It not only gets them, it holds them.

This phenomenon is affected not only by distance. It is affected by the power of the magnet. Some magnets are stronger than others. There are magnets so strong they pick up automobiles and pieces of iron, and lift them out of a junk pile and load them onto boxcars. That's quite a magnet. So the size or power of the magnet and the distance affects what happens.

There is another thing that affects it, and that is the area of the surface exposed. If you had a flat piece of steel that would go clear across the magnet so that the entire end of each point of the magnet was against it, it would exert still more power.

Those three things I would have you notice. We will get some lessons out of them. You will notice the word draw, drawing, or drawn in a number of our references tonight, and all relate to power similar to magnetic power.

First the power of temptation:

"Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth He any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death" James 1:13.

God is not in the tempting business. Satan is the one that started it. But like the magnet, Satan's power is limited.

God taught that lesson in the garden of Eden. Satan could have access to Adam and Eve only at the forbidden tree. They had to get within the magnetic field in order to be tempted. It would have been wise if they had stayed away.

Did that suggestion come to Eve's mind as she found herself alone in the area of that field? Yes it did. The suggestion came to her mind that perhaps it would be a good thing for her to go back to her husband. And she should have run if walking wasn't fast enough.

What did she do? She came nearer to that tree. As the serpent spoke, and she looked and listened, she got caught. She got held, and the force of that magnetic pull has never been fully broken in this world these six thousand years. It all came because someone ventured too close to a place of temptation.

In the Lord's prayer Jesus teaches us to pray, "Lead us not into temptation." Jesus taught us to pray this not because God might forget and lead us into temptation. He wanted us to pray about the thing that our mind should be on, and that is to keep out of temptation as far as possible. Keep away from it. Avoid it.

My dear young friends, do you really want to keep out of trouble? Don't go near the tree. Don't go near the tree where the serpent is speaking. Don't go near the tree where there is a mixture of things. Stay away from places and people of temptation if you really want to avoid being caught.

There are some people that tempt the Devil to tempt them. What a pity. They are looking for trouble, and they find it, of

course. But I am speaking now to people that want to keep out of trouble.

Dear young people, I appeal to you. Stay away from the tree where you may get into trouble. Let's pray day by day, "Lead us not into temptation." Keep out of the magnetic field, because no magnet ever yet reached outside its field and caught something.

You remember what Joseph did when he found himself in a situation a lot worse than where he was. Sin had been going on for hundreds and hundreds of years. It was big and bold and blatant. But as soon as Joseph saw that if he allowed himself to stay there it would result in contact with sin, he fled. That's what some people need to learn to do today.

The apostle says in 1 Corinthians 6:18 to flee fornication. The servant of the Lord commenting on that says, Don't stop to reason. Don't stop to argue about it. Don't stop for some philosophy or discussion. Leave. Run.

We might stop right at that point and we would have enough to meditate on for some time about the lessons of the magnet. But that is just the beginning. I want to bring you now to another very interesting fact in connection with magnetism.

That which overcomes the attractive power of any magnet is simply the pull of a greater magnet. What you and I need as we recognize there are things pulling at us from various directions in our own nature and in the nature of others is to be brought within the magnetic field of a magnet far more powerful than all these pulls of sin and selfishness.

Jesus says:

"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto Me. This He said, signifying what death he should die" John 12:32.

What death did He die? The death of the cross. And He was lifted up, He said, that He might draw all men unto Himself. As a powerful magnet is reaching out and drawing everything within its influence, so the cross of Calvary is reaching out like an infinite magnet all through this universe.

Angels and the inhabitants of the other worlds are drawn to know and love the character of God as they never did before. Here on this planet every man is being drawn. There is something that all these lessons from the magnet can teach that I must teach you or else this whole thing fails.

You and I can do something that all these nails and nuts can't do. We can choose. We can choose to respond to the drawing, or resist the drawing. And although all men are being drawn, all men

do not come to the point of full contact. Christ is drawing them, but as they feel that pull they resist it. Why? Because to respond to that drawing would mean pulling away from the magnet they have been used to, the magnet of sin and selfishness. And because they do not want to give up the world, sin, self, their own opinions, their own ways, they resist the drawing of divine love.

Isn't it a pity friends? Did you ever do it? Aren't you sorry? Ah, God pity us and forgive us that we ever resisted the drawing magnetic power of the loving Christ as He hangs there upon the cross of Calvary. Let's respond and let the magnet do its work.

The nearer we get to the magnet the greater its pull. Shall we gather about the cross? We have been told it would be well for us to spend some thoughtful time every day in contemplation of the life of Christ, especially the closing scenes. You will find that in *Desire of Ages*, page 83. Read that beautiful paragraph near the bottom of the page. Let your heart thrill with the purpose that day by day you will get close enough to the cross to feel its magnetic pull drawing you to the Savior, away from sin, away from self.

Do you know how strong that power is? It is strong enough to lift us all the way from earth to heaven. All the way from sin to holiness. All the way from defeat to victory. All the way from guilt to cleansing. Oh, what wonderful power in that mighty magnet of the cross.

"Jesus has said, I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.' Christ must be revealed to the sinner as the Saviour dying for the sins of the world; and as we behold the Lamb of God upon the cross of Calvary, the mystery of redemption begins to unfold to our minds, and the goodness of God leads us to repentance. In dying for sinners, Christ manifested a love that is incomprehensible; and as the sinner beholds this love, it softens the heart, impresses the mind, and inspires contrition in the soul" *Steps to Christ*, page 26.

As we look, it draws us. Do you want to be drawn? Well look. The magnetic pull of the cross must come to the medium of the mind through the medium of the brain nerves, specifically through what you see, what you read, and what you listen to. If you will expose yourselves to those powerful pulls that come through looking at and listening to the scenes of Calvary, the story of Calvary, you too can be lifted.

I don't care how strong the Devil's magnet is, God's magnet is stronger. All you need to break the hold of some terrible habit is the pull of the greater magnet. That is the secret of victory. You can tell the drunkard that is the way to get away from the bottle. You can tell the cigarette fiend that is the way to break the tobacco habit. You can tell the person who is battling with impurity and immorality that there is power in Jesus Christ, and the power is the power of a greater magnet.

Let me read something on this question of impurity written by the Lord's messenger. It applies to every sin, every temptation. Notice how this uses directly the thought of the magnet:

"If Satan seeks to divert the mind to low and sensual things, bring it back again and place it on eternal things. And when the Lord sees the determined effort made to retain only pure thoughts, He will attract the mind like a magnet, and purify the thoughts and enable them to cleanse themselves from every secret sin" *Solemn Appeal*, page 29.

Let's do it friends. Let's let the blessed magnet do its work.

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" 2 Corinthians 10:5.

Can it be done brethren? Can every thought be brought into obedience to Christ? It is what God's word says, and I believe it. Don't you?

But it can never be done merely by our human effort alone. It needs our human effort, but the human effort must be linked up with that magnet.

"The first work of those who would reform is to purify the imagination. If the mind is led out in a vicious direction it must be restrained to dwell only upon pure and elevated subjects. When tempted to yield to corrupt imagination, then flee to the throne of grace and pray for strength from heaven. In the strength of God the imagination can be disciplined to dwell upon things which are pure and heavenly" *Solemn Appeal*, page 29.

The first battle is right here in the mind where so many people fail. They try to deal with outward objects and let the mind continue to be in contact with the Devil's magnet. You will never have victory that way. We must break with Satan in our thoughts.

You and I can choose which direction to look to, which influence to yield to, which one to get close to. And that battle is fought right here in the mind. That is what I want you to see. This is brought out most graphically through James:

"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you" James 4:7, 8.

There are two things in these verses from James I want you to notice in the light of magnets. One is resisting the Devil and the other is drawing nigh to God. You can't do it without the Lord's help, but you can do it with His help.

You must resist. If you have a craving for tobacco you will never win just by wishing. You must resist. That is why it is a lot better to do it and have it over with than to try cutting down from 36 cigarettes to 29, and then to 28. Resist. Break the pull. Get out of that magnetic field.

But that is only half of it. Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you.

Isn't that what the prodigal son experienced as he started home? When the father saw his son a great way off, what did he do? Did he say, Well, if that boy ever gets here I will receive him. No. He ran down the road. The dear old man was so glad to see that wandering boy coming home.

That is the way the love of God reaches out and leaps forward to get you. Take a step toward Him and He is right there to help you and pick you up and bless your soul. So resist the Devil and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Shall we do it?

Friends, soul winning is God's cure for a lot of your problems.

"Those who would be overcomers must be drawn out of themselves; and the only thing which will accomplish this great work, is to become intensely interested in the

salvation of others" *Fundamentals of Christian Education*,
page 207.

It is amazing what petty things people can get all wrapped up in. They would think there was a Wall Street crisis, or that world war was about to break out, or that they had some terrible accident and were in the hospital. But when they get down to it, it is just peanuts. Tiny stuff. It doesn't amount to anything. Yet the Devil is using it to get people all filled up in their minds so they are bothered about this and that. I could mention some things here tonight, but it might hurt some people's feelings. Let the Spirit of God apply it to your souls.

What little thing is bothering you? What tiny thing is keeping you all tied up? What little magnet has got you?

You say, Yes I know, but what can I do?

Well, what can you do? You are all tied up and bothered with some little problem that looks to you as big as a mountain, yet it is hardly as big as a mole hill. What are you going to do about it?

There is only one thing you need, and you need it badly. You need to be brought in contact with a bigger magnet. That's all. Then that little petty problem isn't holding you anymore.

Look at the apostle Paul. If some people had one tenth of one percent of the problems Paul had they would think it was a perfectly good alibi to keep out of doing any work for God. Paul had poor eyes you remember. That could have excused him from doing any reading or writing, but he wrote more epistles than anyone in the New Testament. He did more with poor eyes than the rest did with good eyes. I wonder why. Oh friends, there was something in his soul that was bigger than that pain in his eyes.

He was beaten. He was shipwrecked. He was scourged. People told lies about him, in the church and out. He had all sorts of problems. But through it all he never stopped winning souls. That is the point. Soul winning was in his soul.

Well Brother Frazee, as soon as I get my health that is what I am going to do.

All right, you let me know when that happens.

In the meantime look at Isaiah 58 and see what might be the divine prescription as to how to get your health.

It could be that if instead of waiting until you get some health you would forget all about your selfish fears and problems and win souls to Christ, a lot of those problems would sink into significance. At least they would lose their magnetic pull.

Following that program didn't make Paul the most stalwart or healthy person in the world. He carried that thorn in the flesh all his life. But thank the Lord, he is

going to have several thousand stars in his crown, and that is a lot better than if he had become the greatest specimen in the world. Do you see what I am getting at?

Look at Ellen G. White. All through her life she said she was a broken vessel, a broken reed. But did she get something done for God? Thank the Lord, she got something done besides taking care of herself and one or two other people. She won hundreds and thousands of souls.

You say you can't do that. No, you probably can't. I can't either. But friends, thank God we can do something. Let's do all we can. Let's not allow our petty problems to get in the way.

One of the most sickening things to keep people from working for God is someone hurts their feelings. Here is the cure for it:

"We should not allow our feelings to be easily wounded. We are to live, not to guard our feelings or our reputation, but to save souls. As we become interested in the salvation of souls, we cease to mind the little differences that so often arise in our association with one another"
Ministry of Healing, page 485.

All you need to get away from those personal feelings that tie you up is the power of a bigger problem. Not your own problem. Somebody else's problem.

I was reading several years ago where a doctor was telling about a woman who during the early years of her life had the great fear of losing her mind, of becoming insane. She got married, and by and by a child came. Then another child came. And the more children came the less time she had to think about her own problems. She finally forgot all about it.

There has been many a father or mother with a problem that when the baby began to cry at night they had to quit worrying about that problem and run to the baby. You know what I mean? Yes. Some of you could tell me quite a bit about it.

If you don't have that particular way of getting rid of problems, are you going to just sit and be sick in body or mind or soul? Why not take a big problem of someone else?

You say, That is the trouble. I have more problems than I can handle now. And what a pesky little set of problems they are in most cases.

Read Isaiah chapter 58 again. I pled with you, friends. God is in earnest over these things. God isn't going to give you stars in your crown merely because you managed to endure some of the petty little problems that are afflicting a lot of people. There are not going to be any crowns distributed for that at all. No. Let's take up the cross of Jesus, not our own little pet crosses.

I remember what dear Elder Robertson used to say. "If anyone has been offended by what I have said, if they will come up after the meeting and tell me, I will forgive them."

As we become interested in the salvation of souls we cease to mind the little differences.

There is another precious lesson from the magnet that I want to give you. Here are three texts. Put them down in your notes. Colossians 1:18, Colossians 1:24, Ephesians 1:22,23. They all say the same thing. In the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.

They tell us that Christ has a body here in this world. What is it? The church. Now watch this point, because the Devil doesn't want you to get it. If Jesus is the great magnet, and He has a body in this world that is the church, do you think there would be any magnetic power in and through and with that church?

I will read a wonderful statement now. And friends, I would give most anything I know if everyone here could get the full import of what I am about to read.

"Very close and sacred is the relation between Christ and His church—He the bridegroom, and the church the bride; He the head, and the church the body. Connection with Christ, then, involves connection with His church"
Education, page 268.

Do you know what the Devil does to break the magnetic pull of that statement? He at once introduces the thought that this is just the invisible church. If you will read the page, you will see that it is talking about an organized church. The very next sentence says the church is organized.

That ought to take the wind out of the Devil's sails. It won't, but it ought to help every honest soul to put aside forever all reasoning that destroys the force and the magnetic pull of these statements that Christ has a church on earth, that it is an organized church, and that connection with Christ involves connection with His church. Those are not my words. Those are inspired words.

There are people traveling all over the world breaking the power of these things. Oh, I ask you in Jesus' name, what is the matter with us if someone can come along, either in person or by some other sort of communication, and pull us away from the church of Jesus Christ? If that happens I say to you, we have not yet been fully joined with Christ and His church as we ought to be.

I make that as plain as I know how. My soul is burdened over the matter. There is a screw loose somewhere if we are that easily disturbed and that easily unsettled and that easily pulled away.

There is a warning for us. Not all who need this warning are the rambunctious type. There are men who are saintly in their attitude, circumspect in their lives, who

nevertheless have never been gripped by the magnetic pull of the body of Christ which binds them in one body with the Lord of glory. Listen to the warning:

"They went out from us but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us" 1 John 2:19.

Oh, if some little magnet can come along and pull someone out of the fold of Christ with their words, their quoting the Bible and the *Testimonies*, it suggests there is a serious doubt that such an individual was anchored as he should have been within the church of God.

Just as you and I need to be drawn to Christ on Calvary as the great Head of the church, we need to recognize that the head and the body are not two separate things. The head and the body are closely connected.

Mark the point. Our connection with Christ involves connection with His church. And those who can glibly sweep all that away and say they will read the Bible and the *Testimonies* and think the Spirit of God will guide them, they are asking for the trouble they get into.

God pity us. We need to feel the magnetic pull of Christ in and through His church drawing us into the bond of unity, the bond of peace. And as we have a choice in other matters, we have a choice in this.

When Eve went over to that tree, didn't she have the right to investigate for herself? Apparently she did. Did she do it? Yes. Was Eve a dunce? Was she stupid? Was she lacking in brainpower? How is it we hear the idea advanced today that everyone is to investigate everything? Listen to these inspired words:

"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" 2 John 10.

The church has a responsibility to warn against false teachers. I say that every member of the church has a solemn responsibility to give heed to that counsel. I pray God that He will help every heart here to rightly interpret and apply these precious and most important principles in this crisis hour.

We are going into more and more of these problems friends. We are in the days spoken of in *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 80 and 81. Every wind of doctrine blowing. There are gods many and lords many.

There are going to be some people who are going to go through. They are not going to be shaken when everything else is shaken. Why? Because they are anchored in Christ and anchored in His church. We need both. We need the Head and we need the body. Connection with Christ involved connection with His church.

Are you connected? How close? Just sort of dangling by one finger? Something is liable to come along and sweep you off, my brother. Oh, we need that spirit of devotion expressed in the Psalms:

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, let my right hand forget her cunning" Psalms 137:5.

As we press close to Jesus we need to press close to His organized body. That is what the angel said. And remember, those who agitate these things which divide the church quote the Spirit of Prophecy by the yard, but they need to be faced with the simple and sound fact that Sister White never authorized the use of her writings in any such business.

She never led any such movement, and she never allowed herself to be identified with any such parties. She always rebuked men, no matter how good their intentions were, who lifted their voice against the church and its leadership to draw away disciples after them.

How many times do we have to be burnt before we learn not to put our finger on the hot stove? How many times do we have to get the stomach ache with green apples before we learn not to touch the forbidden fruit?

How many times do we have to review the experiences down through the history of this denomination where apparently good men have, in their efforts to advance what they thought true principles, differed with the church and its leadership, and finally gone off in darkness?

Must we wait until each new party and each new individual experiments for himself and demonstrated for himself the fruit of that? Ah friends, we haven't time enough. Life is too short. Time is too short. Let us learn from the experience of others. Let us learn from inspired instruction.

Let us press together. The nearer we get to the magnet, the stronger is its magnetic pull. The closer we get to Jesus, the more He can do for us.

The closer we press to the church, the more we will feel that magnetic pull and union which is God's endeavor to keep us from the delusions and deceptions of the enemy.

Our Father in heaven, rightly interpret and apply to our hearts these precious lessons from the magnet. Keep us from being led away by our own lusts and by the temptations of the human being. Keep us from the insidious and subtle evasive influences of this crisis hour.

Help us to press close to Jesus and to His church. Help us in our individual lives that we may avoid going in the way of temptation. Help us not to frequent places or individuals who would place the stumbling block before our feet. Help us to be little children and conscious of our need as little children, and flee to our Father's side, that there we may feel the full magnetic pull of love and truth, and thus be joined in union that can never be broken; union with Christ the Head and the

church His body. Oh Lord, I pray it for everyone here tonight in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

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