

Articles and Sermons :: Following Hard After God**Following Hard After God - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2011/8/23 20:54**

"Christian theology teaches the doctrine of prevenient grace, which briefly stated means this, that before a man can see k God, God must first have sought the man. Before a sinful man can think a right thought of God, there must have been a work of enlightenment done within him; imperfect it may be, but a true work nonetheless, and the secret cause of all d esiring and seeking and praying which may follow.

We pursue God because, and only because, He has first put an urge within us that spurs us to the pursuit. `No man can come to me,' said our Lord, `except the Father which hath sent me draw him,' and it is by this very prevenient drawing th at God takes from us every vestige of credit for he act of coming. The impulse to pursue God originates with God, but th e outworking of that impulse is our following hard after Him; and all the time we are pursuing Him we are already in His h and: `Thy right hand upholdeth me.' In this divine `upholding' and human `following' there is no contradiction. All is of Go d, for as von Hugel teaches, God is always previous.

In practice, however, (that is, where God's previous working meets man's present response) man must pursue God. On our part there must be positive reciprocation if this secret drawing of God is to eventuate in identifiable experience of the Divine. In the warm language of personal feeling this is stated in the Forty-second Psalm: `As the hart panteth after the waterbrooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?' This is deep calling unto deep, and the longing heart will understand it."

-- A.W. Tozer

Re: Following Hard After God , on: 2011/8/24 0:36

Amen!

Re: - posted by brothergary, on: 2011/8/24 1:07

and amen