



## WOW: Word Of the Week

### GRAVITY

November 8, 2023

Will you let me be who I am? I love math, science, physics. Earlier this year, I started writing a little piece about gravity and prayer. I want to add to it, have fun, think about spiritual realities.

In physics, the force (F) between two objects equals Newton's gravitational constant  $G$  [ $(6.6743 \pm 0.00015) \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3 \text{ kg}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-2}$ ], times the product of the two masses, divided by the square of the distance between them. For mathematicians, this is,  $F = Gm_1m_2/r^2$ .

In simple terms: the attraction of two objects depends on their mass or size and the distance between them. The larger the object, the greater the attraction. The closer the objects are to one another, the greater the attraction. Truth! Truth that works in the physical realm.

We go to the spiritual realm. Jesus said, "If I am lifted up, I will draw all people to myself." Here is a principle for centering the spiritual life. Here is a truth I call spiritual gravity. Jesus is describing what pulls us, draws us.

Consider our spiritual lives. First, the greater the concept we have of God, the more we are attracted to him. God is great! We seek him. Second, the closer we walk with God, the closer we are to him spiritually, the greater the attraction. Spiritual gravity is strongest when we are nearest. James encourages us to "draw near to God, and He will draw near to us."

Consider how you will draw near to God. Consider the transforming power of a life centered by prayer. Not centered on prayer, centered by prayer.

\*Prayer must put God at the center. He is center around which all else revolves. He is the power that keeps us from flying off.

\*Shared prayer allows us to experience together the gravitational pull of God. Jesus lifted high; others are drawn closer. I think of my family, friends, people around me – you are in my circle because we together are being drawn by the spiritual gravitational pull I am describing.

\*Prayer is not just for church. The entirety of our lives finds meaning and purpose in the truth of spiritual gravity, attracting us, holding us – to God, to Jesus, to one another. All of life – resting, working, serving, possessions, circumstances, giftedness – makes sense.

\*If staying close to God increases God's spiritual hold on us, and if prayer is a part of hooking up to God's gravitational pull on our lives, why do many Christians find it difficult to maintain a vibrant, exciting prayer life?

Application.

\*If the centering power of prayer is foundational to the Christian life, as it was for Jesus in his life and ministry, why are we hesitant, intimidated, uncertain, inconsistent in talking to God.

\*Prayer is simply conversing with God, including God in our conversations, shared, specific, groups and personal. Conversation with God is not difficult. It is enjoyable, relaxed, constant.

This week, be aware of God's spiritual gravity, enjoy being pulled toward God, appreciate His attracting power, his greatness, splendor, magnificence, magnitude. God is calling, moving, relating personally and powerfully. God glory is weighty – the words are connecting in their OT origins.

Gravity works even when we do not feel it or think about it. Gravity holds things together. God's gravity holds things together spiritually. Paul in Colossians 1 reflects Jesus' words: all things hold together in Him.