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><> ><> ><> ><> Wayne Brooke <>< <>< <>< <><

Dear Friends in Christ.

Praise the name of the Jesus Who Is beautiful to behold.

As we mature in the Lord we begin to appreciate Who He Is and what He has done for us. What I want to write to you about is almost too sacred to talk about yet I know many of you are experiencing the same thing I am. The Lord is drawing us to Himself and revealing Himself both from the Scriptures and by the Holy Spirit. As the result of this I find myself more attracted to Jesus than anything else. There are many good and wonderful things in the world but they pale in comparison to the beauty and life that we find in Jesus. As I try to express all of this we have to think of it as fine tuning our walk with Him. Attraction is different than focus because focus is a discipline and requires our will and training. It requires effort much like: "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you." Or, "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness." All of these require a conscious effort.

Once Jesus becomes our main attraction it requires no effort. We just simply can't help ourselves. We are so attracted by Him that we just turn our eyes upon Him without thinking about it. When a man falls in love with a beautiful girl he doesn't need someone to tell him to look at her. She can be in a room full of beautiful girls yet his eyes are automatically drawn to her. This all comes with maturity and discipline and spending time with Him.

Lets look at some of the disciplines that get us there:

James 4:8 "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."

Hebrews 12:1-2 "Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Matthew 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

2 Corinthians 3:18 "But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord."

Isaiah 6:1b I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple."

The opposite of attraction is distraction so I have to ask myself some questions.

What in my life is more attractive than Jesus? What distracts me? What am I attracted to without thinking about it? What grabs my attention? Does my life make Jesus attractive to others?

Psalms 23:4 "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

What a Joy to walk through the valley of the shadow of death, arm in arm with the one I love. Headed for the table He has prepared. He must have known we would make it there.

Thanks again for all your love, prayers, friendship and support.

Your Servant in Christ. ><>Wayne Brooke<><