



Anthem: Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

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Tether Ball was once a popular playground game. Two players stand on opposite sides of a pole from which is hung a volleyball from a rope or tether. Players hit the ball in opposite directions trying to wind the ball around the pole until it is stopped by the rope. The mental picture of the tethered ball helps with the concept of the archaic word *tether* used in the title and text of the anthem "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether."

A tether usually refers to a rope or chain but can refer to an invisible bond or link as it does in the anthem. The text creates images of the Holy Spirit that tethers Christians to God and to other Christians in community, friendship, communion, and service. James points to attitudes that can affect these bonds.

James 4:13-14a Now listen, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.' Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow." NIV

Planning is a positive habit. People are considered organized when planning with grocery lists. It's a necessity to plan for travel. It's considered responsible to plan well ahead for retirement. However, it is known from Scripture and life experiences that tomorrow may not go as planned and earthly life might end before plans are fulfilled.

James 4:15-16 Instead, you ought to say, 'If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.' As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. NIV

Planning ahead and living for today are compatible when a Christian puts his own plans in God's hands. Christians need not be frightened into inaction by the uncertainty of the future. Instead, the Christian humbles himself in accepting life one day at a time and praying for God's purpose and plan before his own.

from The Letters of James and Peter by William Barclay

Prayer: Heavenly Father, with each plan I make, I offer it to you for your use or revision so that what I plan and do is within your will.

Anthem Text:

Draw us in the Spirit's tether; For when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together, Thou art in the midst of them:
Alleluya! Alleluya! Touch we now thy garment's hem.

As the brethren used to gather in the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father break the bread and bless the cup.
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.

All our meals and all our living make as sacraments of thee,
That by caring, helping, giving, we may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.