

Irresistible Grace – The Efficacious Call of the Spirit

Irresistible Grace

- The first three doctrines really help us answer the question, “How am I saved?”
- This doctrine helps us answer the question, “How is that salvation applied to my life?”
- **Irresistible Grace** – *the Holy Spirit never fails to bring to salvation those sinners whom He personally calls to Christ. He inevitably applies salvation to every sinner whom he intends to save, and it is His intention to save all the elect.*

Romans

- **Romans 8:30** *And those whom he predestined he also **called**, and those whom he **called** he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

When God Calls – 2 Types

1. Specific Call – Internal

- The Holy Spirit, in order to bring God’s elect to salvation, extends a special inward call in addition to the outward call
- Verses show more clearly what this calling is:
 - **1 Peter 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who *called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*
 - **1 Corinthians 1:9** God is faithful, by whom you were *called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - **Acts 2:39** For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our *God calls to himself.*"
 - **1 Thessalonians 2:12** we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who *calls you into his own kingdom and glory.*
 - **1 Peter 5:10** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has *called you to his eternal glory in Christ,* will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.
 - **2 Peter 1:3** His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who *called us to his own glory and excellence,*

- **Romans 1:5-7** through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations, ⁶ including you who are *called to belong to Jesus Christ*, ⁷ ¶ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and *called to be saints*: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - **1 Corinthians 1:2** To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, *called to be saints* together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
 - **Galatians 5:13** For you were *called to freedom*, brothers.
 - **Ephesians 1:18** having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the *hope to which he has called you*, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints,
 - **Ephesians 4:4** There is one body and one Spirit--just as you were *called to the one hope* that belongs to your call—
 - **1 Thessalonians 4:7** for God has *not called us for impurity, but in holiness*.
 - **1 Peter 2:20-21** For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. ²¹ *For to this you have been called*,
 - **1 Timothy 6:12** Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the *eternal life to which you were called* and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.
- The specific inward call of the Spirit **never fails** to result in the conversion of those to whom it is made...**it is irresistible!**
 - **Effectual Calling** – *an act of God the Father, speaking through the human proclamation of the gospel, in which he summons people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith.*

2. General Call – Outward or External

- The gospel invitation is a call to salvation to everyone who hears its message
- This call is universal...meaning that it invites all men without distinction to eternal life; it promises salvation to all who repent and believe
- This call will not bring sinners to faith in Christ
- **The general call of the gospel can be rejected**
- This doesn't mean that human gospel proclamation is not involved or important
- **God's effective calling comes through the human preaching of the gospel**
 - Paul says, *"To this he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (2Thess. 2:14)

The Other Side

- Those who disagree with this doctrine believe in resistible grace

Elements of the Gospel Call

1. Explanation of the Facts Concerning Salvation

- a. All people have sinned (Rom. 3:23)
- b. The penalty for our sin is death (Rom. 6:23)
- c. Jesus Christ died to pay the penalty for our sins (Rom. 5:8)

2. Invitation to Respond to Christ Personally in Repentance and Faith

- **Matthew 11:28-30** *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*
- **John 1:11-12** *He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,*

3. A Promise of Forgiveness and Eternal Life

- a. Forgiveness of Sins and Eternal Life
 - **Acts 3:19** *Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,*
- b. Assurance
 - **John 6:37** *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.*

Importance of the Gospel Call

- The doctrine of the gospel call is important...
 - **Romans 10:14** *How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?*

More Scriptures

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** *And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*
- **Luke 10:21** *"I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.*
- **John 5:21** *For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.*
- **John 6:37-45** *All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. ³⁹ And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. ⁴⁰ For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." ⁴¹ ¶ So the Jews grumbled about him, because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven." ⁴² They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" ⁴³ Jesus answered them, "Do not grumble among yourselves. ⁴⁴ No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day. ⁴⁵ It is written in the Prophets, 'And they will all be taught by God.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me—*
- **Acts 16:14** *One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul.*
- **Galatians 1:15-16** *But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;*
- **Hebrews 9:15** *Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant.*
- **1 John 5:20** *And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.*
- **Jude 1:1** *Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and brother of James, To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:*
- **Revelation 17:14** *They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."*