

Irresistible Grace

Simply stated, this doctrine asserts that 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. (Acts 16:13-15)
(**The Five Points of Calvinism**, David Steele and Curtis Thomas, p. 48)

“Irresistible”: unable to resist, effectual, efficacious

“Grace”: unmerited **favor** of God to hell-deserving sinners. Rooted in the love of God and the sovereignty of God.

The Calling

The Bible refers to two kinds of “calls”. One type is the Outward General Call and the other is the Inward Special Call.

- The outward general call offers salvation to every one who hears its message. This is the universal free offer of the Gospel and is often rejected and resisted.
- The inward special call is given only to the elect. The Holy Spirit enables the elect sinner to believe the Gospel. We are given a new heart to willingly love and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior. This call of God cannot be resisted.

(Luke 24:45-49; 1 Cor. 1:20-24; 1 Pet. 2:9-10; Rom. 8:30)

Supernatural Power – The New Birth

The new birth (spiritual rebirth) is the supernatural work of God alone. In the new birth, the Holy Spirit makes the dead sinner spiritually alive. God changes our hearts to desire Christ.

- The new birth is known as “regeneration”. This is the same as being “born again”. This refers to the beginning of spiritual life.
- Since we are born dead in our sins, we have no ability or desire to come to Christ for salvation. In regeneration, God plants a desire for Christ in our hearts.
- All Christians and only Christians are born again.
- The Gospel is the power of God.

(John 3:1-16; Titus 3:3-7; Eph. 2:4-5; Rom. 1:16)

The Gift of Faith

Faith and repentance are sovereign gifts given by God to the elect only.

- Regeneration precedes faith. God must first change the heart before we can believe in Jesus.
- When God makes us spiritually alive, we repent of our sins and have saving faith in Christ. God does not believe for us.

(Eph. 2:8-10; Phil. 1:29; Acts 11:18)

Drawn by the Father

The unbeliever is totally unable to save himself. No one will come to Christ unless the Father “draws” or “enables” the sinner to come.

- Jesus Christ points to himself as the ultimate source of spiritual life and satisfaction.
- All those who look (come, believe) upon Christ will receive eternal life.
- The term “draw” means to “drag”. God must “draw” us to Himself because we are slaves to sin.

(John 6:35-45, 60-66; John 12:27-32)

What About my “Free Will”?

Although God is completely sovereign, the Bible declares that mankind is responsible and accountable before God. We make choices according to our desires. We choose what we want most at the moment.

- The unbeliever is a slave of sin and his will is in bondage to sin. He has no “free will” and cannot please God or seek after Him. The will is not “neutral”.
- “Human freedom can never restrict the sovereignty of God... God is free. I am free. God is more free than I am. If my freedom runs up against God’s freedom, I lose.” (**Chosen By God**, R.C. Sproul, p. 43)

(Ps. 115:3; Rom. 9:19-21; Rom. 14:9-12; Acts 4:27-30; Phil. 2:12-13)

Jesus is Irresistible!

God’s sovereign grace alone enables the believer to truly see and savor the person and work of Jesus Christ. Jesus is irresistible to us. We love Jesus and find our ultimate joy in knowing Him. As Christians we must continually seek to grow in our satisfaction of knowing the beauty and excellence of Jesus Christ!

(Col. 1:15-20; Col. 3:1-4)