Irresistible Grace, Effectual Calling - Scripture List

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Irresistible Grace, Victorious Grace, Effectual Calling of the Spirit[1]

This is the belief that God is able to raise the spiritually dead sinner to life. This is an act of *efficient* grace. When God chooses to bring on of his elect to spiritual life, it is an act of similar to when Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead: just as Lazarus was incapable of resisting the power of Christ in raising him from the dead, so too the dead sinner is incapable of resisting the power of God that raises him to spiritual life. This is *not* to say that men have not resisted God's grace. This doctrine speaks specifically to the grace that brings regeneration, not to individual acts of sin committed by believers or unbelievers.[2]

In addition to the outward general call to salvation, which is made to everyone who hears the gospel, the Holy Spirit extends to the elect a special inward call that inevitably brings them to salvation. The external call (which is made to all without distinction) can be, and often is, rejected. However, the internal call (which is made only to the elect) cannot be rejected; it always results in conversion. By means of this special call, the Spirit irresistibly draws sinners to Christ. He is not limited in His work of applying salvation by man's will, nor is He dependent upon man's cooperation for success. The Spirit graciously causes the elect sinner to cooperate, to believe, to repent, to come freely and willingly to Christ. God's grace, therefore, is invincible; it never fails to result in the salvation of these to whom it is extended.[3]

For a defense of Effectual Calling/Irresistible Grace see here.

General verses about Effectual Calling

Ps 110:3 ***Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power****, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours.*

Mt 16:15-17 *He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"* 16 *Simon Peter replied, "You are the* ***Christ, the Son of the living God****."* 17 *And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not* ***revealed this to you****, but* ***my Father*** *who is in heaven.*

Lk 10:21-22 *In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, "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.* 22 *All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and* ***anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."***

Jn 6:37-40 *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."*

Jn 6:44-46 *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**[4]*— 46 *not that anyone has seen the Father except he who is from God; he has seen the Father.*

Acts 5:31 *God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to **give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.***

Acts 11:16-18 *And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'* 17 *If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"* 18 *When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, "Then to the Gentiles also **God has granted repentance that leads to life.**"*

Acts 13:46-48 *And Paul and Barnabas spoke out boldly, saying, "It was necessary that the word of God be spoken first to you. Since you thrust it aside and judge yourselves unworthy of eternal life, behold, we are turning to the Gentiles.* 47 *For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, "'I have made you a **light for the Gentiles**, that you may bring **salvation to the ends of the earth.**'"* 48 *And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and **as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.***

Acts 16:13-15 *And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together.* 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.* 15 *And after **she was baptized**, and **her household as well**, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.*

Rom 8:29-30 *For those whom he **foreknew** he also **predestined** to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.* 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**.*

Rom 9:15 *For he says to Moses, "I will have **mercy on whom I have mercy**, and I will have **compassion on whom I have compassion.**"* 16 *So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on **God, who has mercy.***

Rom 11:25-29 *Lest you be wise in your own sight, I do not want you to be unaware of this mystery, brothers: a **partial hardening has come upon Israel**, until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.* 26 *And in this way **all Israel will be saved**, as it is written, "The Deliverer will come from Zion, he will banish ungodliness from Jacob"[5];* 27 *"and this will be my covenant with them when I take away their sins.[6]"* 28 *As regards the **gospel, they are enemies** for your sake. But as regards **election, they are beloved** for the sake of their forefathers.* 29 *For the **gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.***

Eph 2:8-9 *For by **grace you have been saved through faith**. And **this is not your own doing**; it is the **gift of God**,* 9 *not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

The metaphor of 'being made alive' and being 'born again'

Jn 1:11-13 *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**,* 13 *who were **born**, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but **of God**.*

Jn 3:3-8 *Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom** of God."* 4 *Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"* 5 *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **born of water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.* 6 *That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.* 7 *Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'* 8 *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Jn 5:21 *For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the **Son gives life to whom he will**.*

Rom 6:3-4 *Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were **baptized into his death**?* 4 *We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as **Christ was raised from the dead** by the glory of the Father, **we too might walk in newness of life.***

Col 2:13-15 *And you, who were **dead in your trespasses** and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **God made alive** together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses,* 14 *by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.* 15 *He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

2Cor 5:17 *Therefore, if **anyone is in Christ**, he is a **new creation**. The **old has passed away**; behold, the **new has come.***

Titus 3:4-7 *But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared,* 5 ***he saved us**, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but **according to his own mercy**, by the washing of **regeneration** and **renewal of the Holy Spirit,*** 6 *whom **he poured out on us** richly through Jesus Christ our Savior,* 7 *so that being justified by his grace we might become **heirs according to the hope of eternal life.***

Jas 1:18 *Of **his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.*

1Pet 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has **caused us to be born again** to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,* 4 *to an **inheritance** that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you,* 5 *who by **God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.***

1Jn 5:1 *Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been **born of God**, and everyone who **loves the Father** loves whoever has been **born of him**.*

The work of God the Holy Spirit

Rom 8:14 *For all who are **led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.***

Eph 1:13 *In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were **sealed with the promised Holy Spirit**,* 14 *who is the **guarantee of our inheritance** until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

Eph 4:30 *And do not grieve the **Holy Spirit of God**, by whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption**.*

1Cor 2:9-12 *But, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him"—* 10 *these things **God has revealed to us through the Spirit**. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.* 11 *For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.* 12 *Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the **Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God**.*

1Cor 3:16 *Do you not know that you are God's temple and that **God's Spirit dwells in you**?*

1Cor 6:9-11 *Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the **sexually immoral**, nor **idolaters**, nor **adulterers**, nor men who practice **homosexuality**,* 10 *nor **thieves**, nor the **greedy**, nor **drunkards**, nor **revilers**, nor **swindlers** will inherit the kingdom of God.* 11 *And **such were some of you**. But you were **washed**, you were **sanctified**, you were **justified** in the name of the Lord **Jesus** Christ and by the **Spirit of our God**.*

1Cor 12:3 *Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says "Jesus is accursed!" and **no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except in the Holy Spirit.***

1Cor 12:8-11 *For to one is given **through the Spirit** the utterance of **wisdom**, and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit,* 9 *to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit,* 10 *to another the working of **miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits**, to another various kinds of **tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**.* 11 *All these are empowered by **one and the same Spirit**, who **apportions to each one individually as he wills.***

2Cor 3:5-6 *Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but **our sufficiency is from God**,* 6 *who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the **Spirit gives life**.*

2Cor 3:17-18 *Now the **Lord is the Spirit**, and where the **Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom**.* 18 *And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being **transformed into the same image** from one degree of glory to another. For **this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.***

Why some people don’t receive the Gospel

Jn 10:25-26 *Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me,* 26 *but you do not believe because* ***you are not among my sheep.***

Jn 12:37-40 *Though he had* ***done so many signs*** *before them, they still* ***did not believe*** *in him,* 38 *so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?”* 39 *Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,* 40 *“He has* ***blinded their eyes*** *and* ***hardened their heart****,* ***lest they see*** *with their eyes, and* ***understand with their heart****, and turn, and I would heal them.”*

More in “Total depravity, Radical corruption” & “Sovereignty over the reprobate.”

This content is taken from this document

[1] I believe that Irresistible Grace is the logical conclusion to Unconditional Election, so, many of the verses for Unconditional Election apply also for Irresistible Grace, since God has set to save His elect, who can annul His purpose? (Isa 14:27)

[2] James White, The Potter’s Freedom (New Revised Edition 2009) p. 40

[3] “The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, and Documented” Ed. 2, pp. 7.

[4] Isa 54:13

[5] C.f. Ps 14:7; Ps 53:6; Isa 59:20-21; Jn 4:22; Heb 8:8-12

[6] C.f. Isa 27:9; Rom 9:4; Heb 8:12

[7] Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved..