

## Irresistible Grace

### 1. The big question:

If God wanted to save you, could He in fact do so?

Is He sovereign over that issue, or is man?

Is God **TOTALLY** sovereign in His world, or has He left the domain of the human heart to its own sovereignty?

Are God's hands tied- He'd save you if only you let Him? (Arminian preaching)

If man is able to choose or not choose God (God isn't sovereign) then the choice to be saved is a work. It has to be salvation by man's initiative and effort (believing).

If salvation is up to you, you made a very good choice, and logically, have something to boast about. "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord"

2. Once you establish **total depravity** (human beings are dead in sin and need to be awakened by the Spirit of God in order to respond to God- Eph.2:5), all the other elements of "Calvinism" logically follow. God's call to sinners, in other words, will **ALWAYS** be resisted by stubborn, rebellious hearts, **UNTIL** the Spirit of God creates receptivity in the heart to respond to the call. Human beings will consistently resist God until God removes their resistance.

### 3. Notice, therefore, that there is a **general call** of God to all His creatures:

In general revelation to honor Him (Rom.1:19f)

In the law written on the heart to obey Him (Rom.2)

And in the preaching of the gospel (the free offer of the gospel)

"Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavy laden" (Mt.11:28)

"Whoever believes will be saved" (John 3:16)

"God is now declaring to men that all everywhere must repent..." (Acts 17:30)

There is a warrant out for all men to believe and repent.

This general call will be resisted by sinners until God changes them.

The issue is:

NOT can God's grace be resisted (for believer ["do not grieve the Holy Spirit" Eph.4:30] and unbeliever ["you are unwilling to come to Me that you may have eternal life" (John 5:40) "you are always resisting the Holy Spirit" (Acts 7:51)] alike resist it in a multitude of ways)

but **IS** once God chooses to move on a dead heart, will He efficaciously bring faith to that heart?

There is, therefore, a special, **effectual call** which is performative in there heart of a spiritually dead person. The Spirit does what He sets out to do: He changes a person God has chosen.

Our estimation of the cross changes from "stumbling block/foolishness" to "the power of God"- 1 Cor.1:23-24

Our blindness turns to sight- 2 Cor.4:4-6

Our captivity to Satan is released- 2 Tim.2:24-25

Our coming to Jesus is granted (a gift) from the Father (John 6:64-65)

“The Lord opened her heart to understand the word” (Acts 16:14)

“Unless you are born again, you can not see the kingdom” (John 3:3)

“God caused you to be born again” (1 Peter 1:3)

“You are a new creation” (2 Cor.5:17)

“In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth” (James 1:18)

#### 4. Does God violate your will?

Yes, in the sense that if God never prompted/awakened/quickenened you, you would never move toward God.

No, in that God never acts against our will. Yet, He makes us willing. Willingness is His gift. What we can't do through the weakness of the flesh (believe or repent) the Spirit enables and persuades us to do. He who made us willing also makes us able.

Humanly, we experience being in control of the process; secretly, God is working by His spirit.

#### 5. From Spurgeon's "A Triumphal Entrance"

There is nothing but mischief in man's heart when Christ is not there, and another lord usurps dominion over him. In vain is the gospel preached to any one of the sons of men so long as they, like the strong man armed, keep the gates of the castle of their heart. The eyes of the understanding are blind to the way of peace,. Until Christ shall come and take that castle by storm, there is no doing anything for that man; the spirit that worketh in him is the "spirit that worketh in the children of disobedience". He is deceived by Satan, and made a willing slave to that tyrant of evil. What thou wantest, sinner, for thy salvation, is that Christ should come to thee. For if He should come to thee, then that dead soul of thine would live. His presence is life. He quickens whom He will. When He comes to a soul, spiritual life is there...