

Irresistible Grace
Reformation Basics
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I. Introduction (Lk 7:11-17)

II. Lifeless and Helpless

A. Sinners do not do the will of God (Rom 3:10-12)

B. Sinners cannot do the will of God (Jer 13:23; Rom 6:16-23; 8:5-8)

C. Dead in Trespasses and Sins (Eph 2:1-4; Col 2:13-14)

Notice that Paul is insistent that *by* _____ we are dead in our sins, spiritually lifeless. Paul derives this metaphor from the opening pages of biblical history – for God Himself announced to Adam – *“of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* When we sinned, when we rebelled against God’s command, we died, we hid ourselves from God, and all creation with us became subject to death and decay.

D. Inadequate Illustrations

1. Hospital Ward

2. Drowning at Sea

III. The Grace that is Needed

A. The Grace that is Resistible (Acts 7:51)

Is all that is necessary that God externally call us by the preaching of the Gospel?
No! This isn't all that is necessary. After all, many do not respond to the external preaching of the Gospel.

B. The Grace that is Irresistible (Acts 16:14; 2 Cor 4:6; Eph 2:4-10)

For the *external* call of the Gospel to have an effect on the lives of sinners it must be accompanied by the *internal* call of the Spirit. And this internal call is what the Westminster Shorter Catechism explains as "effectual calling":

Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby, convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

1. Passing from Death to Life (Jn 5:24-27; 1 Jn 3:14)

2. Regeneration Precedes Faith

This is also why Calvinism insists that _____ precedes faith. In order for us to believe in God, God must first change our hearts and give us faith.

IV. So What Does this Mean?

A. Thank God! (Mt 11:25-30)

B. Pray

V. Conclusion (Jn 6:42-51)