

**GOD'S GRACIOUS AND EFFECTUAL CALLING OF HIS ELECT TO BELIEVE IN CHRIST AND BE SAVED**  
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Introduction: "Calling" sinners to be saved happens in two different expressions in the Bible. The "general call" is the gospel call that is to go forth to all people. The "effectual call" (also known as "irresistible grace") is the inner call of the Holy Spirit, through the general call, awakening within the person a longing to respond positively to the truth of the gospel and resulting in that person's faith in Christ and salvation.

I. General Call

Isaiah 45:22 – Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other.

Isaiah 55:1 – Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk Without money and without cost.

Matthew 11:28 – Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.

Revelation 22:17 – The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost.

II. Effectual Call / Irresistible Grace

John 6:37 and 44 – <sup>37</sup> All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. . . . <sup>44</sup> No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. Note: *Only* those drawn by the Father *can* come (v. 44); and *all* those drawn by the Father *do* come (v. 37).

Romans 8:29–30 – <sup>29</sup> For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; <sup>30</sup> and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified.

Romans 9:23–24 – <sup>23</sup> And He did so to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, <sup>24</sup> even us, whom He also called, not from among Jews only, but also from among Gentiles.

2 Peter 1:10 – Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble

1 Corinthians 1:9, 23–24 – <sup>9</sup> God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. . . . <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

2 Timothy 1:9 – who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity

III. Implications

A. The doctrines of unconditional election and effectual calling are mutually entailing.

B. If people come to believe only as irresistible grace is granted, then salvation must be fully of God.

C. Effectual calling brings forth genuine faith that must be expressed in order to be saved.