

Irresistible Grace

Introduction:

- A. The majority of those in Christendom ascribe a direct, supernatural influence to the Holy Spirit in conversion.
- B. No Bible believer questions the fact the Holy Spirit plays a role in conversion. - John 3:5
- C. The question is **how**:
 - 1. direct, supernatural?
 - 2. through the influence of the gospel
- D. Does the Bible teach the doctrine of irresistible grace?

I. What is the doctrine of 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.... The **gospel invitation extends a call** to every one who hears its message.... But, this outward general call extended to the elect and non-elect alike, will not bring sinners to Christ.... Therefore, the **Holy Spirit**, in order to bring God's elect to salvation, extends to them **a special inward call** in addition to the outward call contained in the gospel message.... the grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ! (**Five Points**. 48-49).*

II. What are some fallacies of the doctrine?

- A. It is based upon the false doctrine of total hereditary depravity. - Ezekiel 18:20
- B. It is based on the false doctrine of unconditional election. - Acts 10:34-35
- C. It denies the free moral agency of man. - Joshua 24:15; Revelation 22:17
- D. It teaches that the Holy Spirit and God's grace cannot be resisted in bringing man to salvation.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit can be resisted. - Acts 7:51
 - 2. God's grace can be frustrated.
 - a. To turn back to the law of Moses is to frustrate the grace of God. - Galatians 2:21
 - b. Some turned back to the law. - Galatians 4:21
 - c. Therefore, some frustrated the grace of God.
- E. It denies the power of God's Word to produce faith in the sinner. - John 20:30-31; Romans 10:17
- F. It denies the sufficiency and power of God's Word to save the sinner. - Romans 1:16; James 1:21
- G. It negates the importance of man's obedience (basis of doctrine of salvation by faith only). - Matthew 7:21; Hebrews 5:8-9
- H. It denies human responsibility. - 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 11:9

Conclusion:

- A. The Holy Spirit saves sinners by the influence of the Word. - John 6:63
- B. Each person has the ability of His own free will to either accept or reject God's Word.
- C. Will you accept the Spirit's invitation? - Revelation 22:17