

BY GRACE YOU HAVE BEEN SAVED – GOD CALLED US!

Today, we are looking at the subject of “*Effectual Calling*”. It’s the first step in **Salvation Applied** [See *Shalom Bulletin* 30th Sep. 07 – *By Grace You Have Been Saved (Introduction)*]. What is *Effectual Calling*?

Two persons go to the same church, sing the same hymns and hear the same sermon. Both were told to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ. One responded in repentance and faith. The other rejected the message as utter foolishness. What’s the reason?

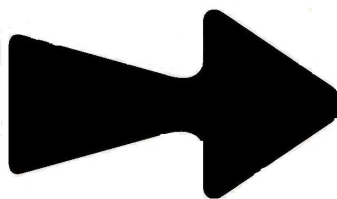


It can’t be the message, for both heard the same sermon. It can’t be the nature of the hearers, that one of them was more intelligent, soft-hearted or religious.

Both of them were equally dead in their sins. Both are like corpses lying in he graveyard, dead as dead can be! They may be different in sizes, have different names written on the tombstone, but both are dead in the graveyard! So what is the reason for the different response?

The Bible’s answer is this: *He repented and believed because he was called!* As both heard the Gospel preached, the Holy Spirit worked in the hearts of one of them, giving him new ears and new eyes and new heart, transforming him from a *natural* man to a *spiritual* man.

Natural
Man



Spiritual
Man

A supernatural work accomplished by God the Holy Spirit

If it helps, think of how Lazarus was raised back to life by Jesus in **John 11**. Lazarus was dead and buried in the tomb for 4 days. Jesus came and cried out, “*Lazarus, come forth!*” and dead Lazarus obeyed! Now, when this takes place spiritually, we call it *Effectual Calling*.

We can say Seven Things about *Effectual Calling*. Today, we shall look at the first 3:

[1] **It Is God Who Calls.**

Hear Paul saying: *Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me His prisoner, but share with me in the sufferings for the gospel according to the power of God, 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 given to us in Christ Jesus before time began (2 Timothy 1:8-9).*

We do not call ourselves. It is God who calls. *Effectual calling* is an act of God and God alone. This again underlines the fact that our salvation is entirely of God's sovereign grace!

[2] **It Is A Call By God's Spirit and God's Word.**

Again, hear Paul: *But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)*

According to the apostle, we are saved because God chose us from the beginning, because the Spirit sets us apart for God, because we were called by the gospel and because we believe in the truth. It is clear that sinners are saved because the Spirit worked in them and sinners are saved because they heard the Gospel. Unless you hear the Gospel, you cannot be saved. But not everyone who hears the Gospel is saved because not everyone has the Holy Spirit working in their hearts to apply the gospel to them!

[3] **It Is An Un-Changeable Call**

The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable, says Paul in **Romans 11:29**. The call of God is without repentance, not subject to change and never withdrawn. In a world where constant changes rule, it is most comforting to know that God does not change and His call to sinners to enter into salvation does not change.

Let us pause and adore our Redeemer! Unless He called me, I remain in sin. Praise Him! And once He called me, I remained His forever! Hallelujah!

Let us pause and pray to our Redeemer. Unless He calls, none of our parents, children and friends will ever be saved. *"Call them to Yourself, Lord! Call them today!"*

Let us pause and preach our Redeemer. Unless men and women, boys and girls hear the Gospel, they can not be saved. So preach Him sweetly, preach Him mightily!

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