

**Born of the Spirit – The
Intoxicating Conquest of
‘Grace Alone’
(Various Scriptures)**

Recap:

- **Three weeks ago:** Having a sinful nature, humanity is born radically corrupted – spiritually blind, enslaved and dead – with neither the will nor the ability to seek God; and facing certain eternal doom.
- **Two weeks ago:** In a loving act before creation God chose some people to be saved, not because of human will or exertion, but only because of His sovereign good pleasure. (c.f. Eph 1:3-6)
- **Last week:** God provided a perfect, substitutionary, atoning sacrifice in the death of the God-Man, Jesus Christ; not to secure a potential salvation for all, but rather an effectual salvation for some. A single atonement for a New Covenant; a particular redemption for a particular people – His sheep, His church, His bride.
- **QUESTION:** How are the benefits of the Father’s historical choice and the Son’s historical work applied in the present? How does a spiritually dead person actually “become a Christian”?
 - **ANSWER:** An effectual call by God, accompanied by the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit upon a sinner’s heart, will guarantee a response of faith in those chosen by God.

The Gospel Call – An ‘Effectual Calling’ amidst the ‘General Calling’

- Does God call ALL people everywhere to repent?
 - Yes (Matthew 11:28 / Rev 22:17 / Rev 3:20 / John 7:37 / Ezekiel 33:11 / Acts 17:30 / Isaiah 45:22)
 - But not all people will....
- The pages of Scripture describe two ‘callings’ – a ‘general’ gospel call made to all people who hear (above verses), and an ‘effectual’ call made to some people which guarantees their favourable response.
 - Romans 8:28-30 describes a calling that results in salvation (an effectual call)
 - Acts 16:13-14 is a historical example of an ‘effectual call’ to Lydia in the midst of a ‘general call’ to many.
 - 1 Corinthians 1:18, 23 describes an efficacious call for some; those being ‘called’ by the ‘power of God’
 - *Ekklesia* = Church = “Called out/to Ones”

The New Birth – A Triune Triumph of Grace

- **Something happened when you heard God’s calling – what?**
 - **Why did that verse, that sermon, that book, that Scriptural song, that testimony about Christ...penetrate *your* heart, so that *you* responded in faith and repentance?**
- **God regenerated you – gave you life – so that you could believe.**
 - **John 1:12-13 / John 3:3-8 / 1 Peter 1:3-8**
- ***“But I believed. I responded. I repented. I trusted in Christ”***
 - **Yes. But why you and not others?**
 - **Because God did a work in you that preceded your faith; that enabled you to desire Him, and call-upon His name.**
 - **Ezekiel 37:1-14**
 - **1 Cor 2:14 / Jn 6:29, 37, 44, 63-66 / Is 65:1 / Ez 11:19-20 / Acts 11:18**
 - **“New Creation” (2 Cor 5) & “Circumcision of the Heart” (Rom 2)**
 - **James 1:16-18 / Ezekiel 36:26-27 / Titus 3:4-5**
 - **God saved you “monergistically” – without your help.**

The New Birth – A Triune Triumph of Grace

- **Does this make us robots?**
 - **No – “It is not a power that violates the human will; it is an exercise that liberates, uninvited, the human will with the result that inevitably Jesus Christ becomes the welcome object of the person’s faith....He does not believe for me, through me, in me. I BELIEVE. But the reason I believe is owing exclusively to Him. It is His gift to me.” (Azurdia)**
 - **Regeneration is not the act of a tyrant; it is the ‘kiss of life’ to those upon whom God has set His love.**
 - **God’s effectual calling “is so powerful that it cannot be conquered, and yet so loving that it excludes all force” (Bavinck)**
 - **2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (How is our predicament resolved?)**
 - **Ephesians 2:1-5ff (How is our predicament resolved?)**
 - **This is “Invincible Grace” (Newton) / “Intoxicating Grace” (Horton) / “Unconquerable Grace” (Newby)**

The New Birth – A Triune Triumph of Grace

- God – Father, Son, Holy Spirit – is the One who saved you.
 - The Father chose you...(election)
 - The Son made full atonement for you....(particular redemption)
 - The Holy Spirit regenerated you....(unconquerable grace)
 - And then you believed....

*" 'Tis not that I did choose Thee,
For Lord that could not be;
This heart would still refuse Thee,
Hadst Thou not chosen me.
Thou from the sin that stained me
Hast cleansed and set me free;
Of old Thou hast ordained me,
That I should live to Thee.*

*'Twas sov'reign mercy called me
And taught my op'ning mind;
The world had else enthralled me,
To heav'nly glories blind.
My heart owns none before Thee,
For Thy rich grace I thirst;
This knowing, if I love Thee,
Though must have loved me first. "*