

The Effectual Calling of God.

Romans 8:28 - 30 *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (29) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. (30) Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”*

When we speak of “the effectual call of God” we are not speaking of a general call. The difference in these two calls is radically different, the general call is a call from man to all, God wrote in **Revelation 22:17** *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”* This verse contains both the God’s effectual call and mans general call to come to Christ. The effectual call of God is an irresistible call, or it cannot be rejected or refused in any way. The reason for this is, God never fails, His will never fails, if God ordained something, foreknew something, or elected something, then it is assuredly sealed as God’s ordained will. In Revelations 22:17 God said, *“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come.”* The call of the Holy Spirit and the call of the bride (or the church) are not the same call, while they are both pointing to salvation, one is effectual, and the other is simply a general call. The general call or the call of the bride can and is often rejected by countless people. However, the call of the Spirit or the Holy Spirit is irresistible or cannot be rejected. Paul wrote in **Romans 8:14 - 15** *“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.”* God said, “as many as are led or called by God’s Spirit, are the children of God”. Because God never fails, and the reason God never fails is because He is the Potter and He molds the clay as He chooses, and the clay cannot say, “as why has thou made me thus.” Romans chapter 9.

Psalms 79:9 *“Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.”*

1 Chronicles 16:35 *“And say ye, Save us, O God of our salvation, and gather us together, and deliver us from the heathen, that we may give thanks to thy holy name, and glory in thy praise.”*

With this being said, let us look now into the effectual calling of God and His power and working in our salvation.

A. How does God know that all things work together in a believer's life? V. 28a "*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*"

1. God knows this because God has ordained every believer's life as He chooses. God said in **Eph. 2:10** "*For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*"
2. Our life is not by luck or happenstance, it is ordained by God because we are His personal creation that He has created in Christ Jesus, not somethings, not just a few things, but ALL THINGS. This is how God has promised that all things will work for our good.
3. God went on to say, "*...to them who are the called according to his purpose.*" His purpose means that everything in a Christians life, no matter if its good or bad, or even if it's sin, God has purposed it in our life for His purpose for us, and it's going to be to our good. Because God promised it would be.
4. Let us always remember, God promised that it would work to our good because he has called us to it, and He has also promised He would never leave us alone nor forsake us.

B. God's effectual calling us to salvation is also promised.

1. God's effectual call is by the power of the Holy Spirit. And remember, all that the Spirit calls "*...they are the sons of God.* Rom. 8:14b
2. Jesus said in **John 6:37** "*All that the **Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.***" There is no question that we will come because it is not about our will to come, because we were given to the Son before the foundation of the world.
3. If a person does not receive the effectual call of the Holy Spirit, then they will never come to Christ. **John 6:44** "***No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.***" There is no question that the word "draw" means to pull by will, it is compared to dragging us.

4. God said in **2 Timothy 1:8 - 9** *“Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; (9) Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,”* Not by our choosing, power, or works, but of God’s. God’s people are not to be ashamed of this truth.
 5. **1 Thessalonians 5:24** *“Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.”*
 6. **Ephesians 4:4** *“There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;”* There is one Spirit and one calling and we are called into one hope, and that hope is in one Saviour Jesus Christ.
- C. God said that *“he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son”*
1. We did not choose to be conformed; God predestinated us to be conformed to the Son’s image. The word “conformed” means - conformed to, fashioned like unto. Vines defines it this way, “having the same form as another” Can any person just decide to be in the form of Jesus Christ?
 2. God clarified this in **Ephesians 1:4-6** *“According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.”*
 3. No one can come to Jesus Christ for salvation without first being called by the power of the Holy Spirit. There is a quickening that must take place before believing. **Ephesians 2:4 - 5** *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)”*
- D. We are justified because God called us. *“them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified”* Rom. 8:30
1. The word “justified” means - to render as just or innocent, or "to deem to be righteous," – but only those whom God calls with His effectual call.
 2. Why can’t people just repent, make a choice, or make a decision, because if the Father does not call us and draw us, we will never come. **Romans 3:9-12** *“What*

then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.” - What does God mean “*both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin*”? It means all people are under the power of sin, we cannot overcome it. Sin controls our every thought which controls our every move.

E. Conclusion

Is it well with your soul, have you ever received the effectual call of God’s Spirit? Have you been to Jesus to be fully cleansed. Jesus said in, **John 6:47** “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*”