

New Testament Church

Lesson 4:

Terms of Admission into the Kingdom

Irresistible Grace

- Or, direct operation of the Holy Spirit.
- According to Calvin, God chooses the individuals who will be saved (unconditional election), and then sends the Holy Spirit to call these “elect” to salvation. They do not have the ability to reject this call, but must submit to it.

Irresistible Grace

- “The Spirit is in no way dependent upon their help or cooperation for success in His work of bringing them to Christ....For 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.”
- David N. Steele and Curtis C. Thomas, *The Five Points of Calvinism, Defined, Defended, Documented*.

God's Power to Salvation

- What does God use to call people to faith and salvation?
 - “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 Thess. 2:13–14).
 - Notice, though, that the **Holy Spirit** is involved.

God's Power to Salvation

- According to 1 Peter 1:12, by WHOM was the gospel preached?
 - By the Holy Spirit, because it was the Holy Spirit who revealed these words (John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:6–16; Ephesians 3:1–5).
 - What is the “sword of the Spirit,” according to Ephesians 6:17?
 - John 3:3–5; 6:63.

God's Power to Salvation

- Is the gospel **sufficient** to bring one to faith and salvation?
 - “The gospel...is the power of God to salvation” (Rom. 1:16).
 - “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).
 - “receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21).
 - “born again...through the word of God...this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you” (1 Pet. 1:22–25).

Illustrated Throughout Acts

- Consider the conversion of the people in Acts 2:
 - “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words...” (Acts 2:14).
 - “Now when they **heard** this, they were cut to the heart...” (Acts 2:37).
- Is this the pattern we see throughout Acts—people led to faith and obedience by the gospel?
 - “Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, who will **tell you words** by which you and all your household will be saved” (Acts 11:14).

What Must I Do?

- Jews on Pentecost:
 - “Men and brethren, what shall we DO?” (Acts 2:37).
- Saul:
 - “Lord, what do **You** want me to DO?” (Acts 9:6).
- Philippian jailer:
 - “Sirs, what must I DO to be saved?” (Acts 16:30).

What Must I Do?

- Believe
 - “If you do not **believe** that I am *He*, you will die in your sins” (John 8:24). See also John 6:28–29.
 - “Let all the house of Israel **know assuredly** that God has made this Jesus, who you crucified, both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36).
 - “**Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31).
 - “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and **believe** in your heart that God has raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Romans 10:9).

What Must I Do?

- Repent
 - “**repentance** and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47).
 - “**Repent**, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38).
 - “**Repent** therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out...” (Acts 3:19).
 - “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to **repent**” (Acts 17:30).

What Must I Do?

- Confess

- “that if you **confess** with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession** is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9–10).
- “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have **confessed the good confession** in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good **confession** before Pontius Pilate” (1 Timothy 6:12–13).

What Must I Do?

- Be baptized.
 - “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).
 - “Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins...” (Acts 2:38).
 - “And he commanded them to **be baptized** in the name of the Lord” (Acts 10:48).
 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and **be baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16). See also 1 Peter 3:21.

Questions

- Of the things we just discussed—the things we **MUST** do—which ones do we **keep on doing**?
 - We keep on believing; in fact we live by faith; we keep on repenting; we keep on confessing Christ.

Questions

- Ever heard anyone say after being baptized, “Look what I did”? (Jericho—Joshua 6; Naaman; 2 Kgs. 5).
 - Believed in **Jesus Christ** (Acts 16:31).
 - Turned to **Jesus Christ** (Acts 11:21).
 - Confessed **Jesus Christ** (Romans 10:9–10).
 - Were baptized into **Jesus Christ**, into His death (Romans 6:3–4; Galatians 3:26–27).
 - Were raised with **Jesus Christ**, raised to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4–12; Colossians 2:11–13).

Never Forget

- Redemption is in Christ (Romans 3:21–26); without Him we would all be consumed by the wrath of God.
- Christ died for the ungodly (Rom. 5:6), while they were still sinners (Rom. 5:8), when they were His enemies (Rom. 5:10).
- “But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...” (Galatians 6:14).