

## Unconditional Election

**Definition:** God's choice of certain individuals for salvation before the foundation of the world rested solely in His own sovereign will. His choice of particular sinners was not based on any foreseen response or obedience on their part, such as faith, repentance, etc. On the contrary, God gives faith and repentance to each individual whom He selected. These acts are the result, not the cause, of God's choice. Election, therefore, was not determined by, or conditioned upon, any virtuous quality or act foreseen in man. Those whom God sovereignly elected He brings through the power of the Spirit to a willing acceptance of Christ. Thus, God's choice of the sinner, not the sinner's choice of Christ, is the ultimate cause of salvation. - *"The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, and Documented"*

*Absolute sovereignty is what I love to ascribe to God.* - Jonathan Edwards

*I believe the doctrine of election, because I am quite certain that, if God had not chosen me, I should never have chosen Him; and I am sure He chose me before I was born, or else He never would have chosen me afterwards; and He must have elected me for reasons unknown to me, for I never could find in myself why He should have looked upon me with special love. So, I am forced to accept that great Biblical doctrine.* – Charles Spurgeon

1) First, it is clear that God chose a people for salvation before the foundation of the world:

**Eph. 1:4** he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, ...

**Acts 13:48** And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

**1 Thessalonians 1:4** For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ...

2) But the question has always been why did He chose some people?

**Romans 9:9-16** For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." 10 And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, 11 though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad-- in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls-- 12 she was told, "The older will serve the younger." 13 As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." 14 What shall we say then? Is there injustice on God's part? By no means! 15 For he says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." 16 So then it depends not on human will or exertion, but on God, who has mercy. (Rom. 9:9 ESV)

**Romans 10:20** Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me."

**John 1:12-13** But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,  
<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

**2 Thessalonians 2:13** But we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth.

**2 Timothy 1:8-9** Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ...

**1 Peter 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ...

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,  
<sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

**Philippians 1:29** For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ...

Our faith is the result of His election not the cause of it! So, He gets all the glory and praise!

3) Reasons to embrace the doctrine of unconditional election:

1. It is true – what the Bible teaches.
2. It gives us courage in witness – God does the saving through the gospel.
3. It humbles us – to boast in the Lord.
4. It makes us gracious with others – “as God’s chosen ones ...” - Col 3:12-13
5. It promotes assurance – the reason for my salvation is not in me!