

**1 Corinthians 2:12-16**

(KJV)

*Now we have received,  
not the spirit of the world,  
but the spirit which is of God;  
that we might know the things  
that are freely given to us of God.*

**Question 7. What are the decrees of God?**

**Answer:** The decrees of God are, his **eternal purpose**, according to the counsel of his will, whereby, for his own glory, he hath foreordained whatsoever comes to pass.

**Question 8. How doth God execute his decrees?**

**Answer:** God executeth his decrees in the works of **creation and providence**.

**Question 12. What special act of providence did God exercise toward man in the estate wherein he was created?**

**Answer:** When God had created man, he entered into a **covenant of life** with him, upon condition of perfect obedience; forbidding him to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, upon pain of death.

**Providence**

*noun*

the **protective care** of God or of nature as a spiritual power. [OED]

**Berkhof:** Providence is “...that work of God in which He preserves all His creatures, is active in all that happens in the world, and directs all things to their appointed end.”

**Three aspects of Providence as identified by Berkhof:**

**Divine Preservation**

**Divine Concurrence**

**Divine Government**

**Covenant**

an agreement which brings about a **relationship of commitment** between God and his people.

**Suzerainty** (/ˈsuːzərənti, -rɛnti/) is a relationship in which one state or other polity controls the foreign policy and relations of a tributary state, while allowing the tributary state to have **internal autonomy**. [Wikipedia]

**Berkhof**

**Sanctification** may be defined as that gracious and continuous operation of the Holy Spirit by which,

He **purifies** the sinner,

**renews his whole nature in the image of God,**

and **enables him to perform good works.**

It **differs from justification**

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in that it **takes place in the inner life of man,**

is **not a legal but a recreative act,**

**and never reaches perfection in this life.**

is usually a **lengthy process,**

***Batter my heart, three-personed God***

*By John Donne*

Batter my heart, three-personed God; for you  
As yet but knock, breath, shine, and seek to mend;  
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend  
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.  
I, like an usurped town, to another due,  
Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end;  
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,  
But is captived, and proves weak or untrue.  
Yet dearly I love you and would be love'd fain,  
But am betrothed unto your enemy;  
Divorce me, untie or break that knot again,  
Take me to you, imprison me, for I,  
Except you enthrall me, never shall be free,  
Nor ever chaste, except you ravish me.

**Question 30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?**

**Answer:** The Spirit **applieth** to us the redemption **purchased** by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.

**Westminster Shorter Catechism**  
Chapter 10 Paragraph 1  
Of Effectual Calling

All those whom God hath predestinated unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, **by his Word and Spirit**, out of that state of sin and death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; **enlightening their minds**, spiritually and savingly, **to understand the things of God**; taking away their heart of stone, and giving unto them an heart of flesh; **renewing their wills**, and by his almighty power **determining them to that which is good**, and effectually drawing them to

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Jesus Christ; **yet so as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.**

**Romans 4:2-3**

*(ESV)*

*2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."*

**BELIE'VE**, *verb transitive* To credit upon the **authority or testimony of another**; to be persuaded of the truth of something upon the declaration of another, or upon evidence furnished by reasons, arguments, and deductions of the mind, or by **other circumstances, than personal knowledge**. When we *believe* upon the authority of another, we always put **confidence in his veracity**.

[Webster's Dictionary (1828)]

**Faith**

**Evangelical, justifying, or saving faith** is the

**assent of the mind to the truth of divine revelation,**

on the **authority of God's testimony,**

accompanied with a **cordial assent of the will or approbation of the heart;**

an entire **confidence or trust** in God's character and declarations,

and **in the character and doctrines of Christ,**

(Webster - 1828).

**Roman 10:17**

*(KJV)*

**So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

**1 Corinthians 2:12-16**

*(KJV)*

*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.*

*13 Which things also we **speak**, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

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*14 But the natural man receiveth not  
the things of the Spirit of God:  
for they are foolishness unto him:  
neither can he know them,  
because they are spiritually discerned.*

*15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things,  
yet he himself is judged of no man.  
16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord,  
that he may instruct him?  
But we have the mind of Christ.*

**FOOLISHNESS**, *noun*

1. Folly; want of understanding.
2. Foolish practice; want of wisdom or good judgment.
3. In a scriptural sense, absurdity; folly.

**[Webster 1828]**