

The Five Points of Calvinism

Irresistible Grace

The TULIP

- **T**otal Depravity
- **U**nconditional Election
- **L**imited Atonement
- **I**rresistible Grace
- **P**erseverance of the Saints

Irresistible Grace Illustrated

- God wrote the Book of Life before the world began and recorded names (Rev 13:8; 17:8).
- As God did not consult the darkness about creating the light, so too did He not consult me the year before my birth about my impending birth. That would be absurd! Likewise, God did not consult me about my *rebirth*. Having written my name in the Book before the world began, He summoned me to salvation; He called me.

Lazarus Raised from the Dead

- Before Jesus raised Lazarus, He did not consult him about doing so. Likewise, Jesus did not need Lazarus' cooperation to raise him.
- All unbelievers walk according to the ways of the world, which implies movement. They are physically alive but spiritually dead.
- “The letter kills, the Spirit gives life” (2 Cor 3:6)
- When God gives us a new heart, the first thing we do is repent and believe (Acts 16:14).

Irresistible Grace Summarized

- All those whom God has predestinated unto life, and those only, He is pleased, in His appointed and accepted time, to effectually call. He does this through the preaching of His word, through the regeneration of the Spirit. He thus moves His elect out of that state of death, in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ. By opening their minds to understand His word, God is able to draw them to the Son. Through this, their heart of stone is made into a heart of flesh; their wills are renewed. They willfully come to Christ by God's efficacious calling.

The Spirit of God Saves

- *For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God (Rom 8:14).*
- *Such were some of you; but you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God (1 Cor 6:11).*
- *Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:3).*

- *who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life (2 Cor 3:6).*
- *Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to... those who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood (1 Peter 1:1–2).*

Spirit Gives New Birth

- *But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God (John 1:12–13).*
- *Unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:5–8).*

- *He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).*
- *for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God (1 Peter 1:23).*

The Spirit Effectually Calls

- *among whom you also are the called of Jesus Christ; to all who are beloved of God in Rome, called as saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 1:6–7).*
- *and these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified (Rom 8:30).*
- *...to make known the riches of His glory upon vessels of mercy, which He prepared beforehand for glory, even us, whom He also called... (Rom 9:23–24).*

- *Paul, called as an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God... To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who have been sanctified in Christ Jesus, saints by calling, with all who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, their Lord and ours (1 Cor 1:1–2).*
- *God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord (1 Cor 1:9).*
- *“but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called... Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. (1 Cor 1:23–31)*

- *But when God, who had set me apart even from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, was pleased to reveal His Son in me so that I might preach Him among the Gentiles... (Galatians 1:15–16).*
- *There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling (Ephesians 4:4).*
- *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity (2 Timothy 1:9).*

- *For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance (Heb 9:15).*
- *Jude, a bond-servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are the called, beloved in God the Father, and kept for Jesus Christ (Jude 1).*

- *After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you (1 Peter 5:10).*
- *His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence (2 Peter 1:3).*
- *He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful (Revelation 17:14).*

The New Covenant

- the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live (Deut 30:6).
- I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances (Ezek 36:26–27).

- *And you were dead in your trespasses and sins... even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:1, 5).*
- *When you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our transgressions (Colossians 2:13).*

The Spirit Reveals God's Secrets

- *He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit, and said, "I praise You, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight" (Luke 10:21).*
- *Why parables? Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted" (Matt 13:10–11).*
- *But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear (Matt 13:16).*

- *“But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:15–17).*
- *All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out” (John 6:37)... No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day (6:44).*

- *It is written in the prophets, “AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.” Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me (John 6:45).*
- *But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised (1 Cor 2:14).*

The Spirit Gives Faith & Repentance

- *He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins (Acts 5:31).*
- *When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life” (Acts 11:18).*
- *When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed (Acts 13:48).*

- *Lydia...was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul (Acts 16:14).*
- *For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast (Eph 2:8–9).*
- *For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Phil 1:29).*
- *...correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will (2 Timothy 2:25–26).*

Salvation a Gift from the Sovereign God

- *So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).*
- *John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given him from heaven” (John 3:27).*

- *even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life (John 17:2).*
- *So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy (Romans 9:16).*
- *I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).*

- *What do you have that you did not receive? And if you did receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it? (1 Cor 4:7)*
- *...work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil 2:12–13).*
- *In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be a kind of first fruits among His creatures (Jas 1:18).*
- *And we know that the Son of God has come, and has given us understanding so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life (1 John 5:20).*

Ezekiel and the Dry Bones

- Ezekiel preached the way a man of God must preach in the valley of dry bones (Ezek 37). We are not here to treat illnesses or encourage people to love themselves. We are in the middle of a desolate graveyard, and we serve a God who raises the dead. He resurrects by means of His Word—the incorruptible Seed. This we are commanded and privileged to declare. After all, when we do so faithfully, the dead are raised—*irresistibly*.

BTCP Question

- Read Ezekiel 36:22—37:14
- Either write a paper or make an in-depth outline (complete sentences) about the future of Israel through the lenses of irresistible grace. Note where Israel is today spiritually (and apply this also to all the spiritually dead), and note what God plans to do about it.
- One to three pages in length.