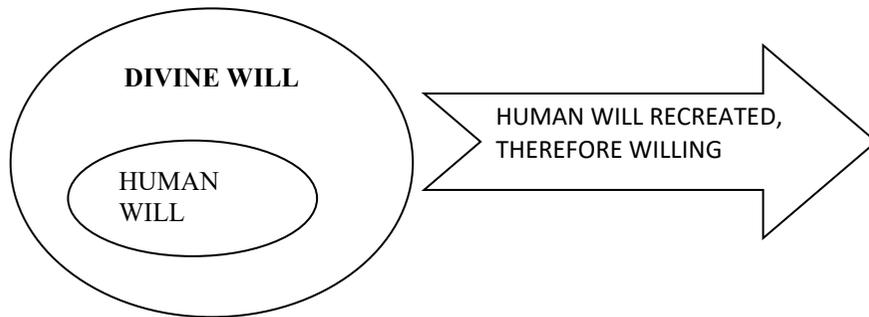


Through the Spirit's ongoing work, the regenerate person chooses to believe



**Summary** Westminster Confession chapter 10

“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 a heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and, by his almighty power, determining them to that which is good, and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ: yet so, as they come most freely, being made willing by his grace.”

**Irresistable grace... and effectual calling**

**Discuss:**

How did you become a Christian?!

**Introduction – Romans 8:28-39**

**Q: How DID you become a Christian?!**

**Q: How does God apply salvation to his people?**

- Predestination
- Effectual calling
- Regeneration
- Conversion
- Justification
- Adoption
- Sanctification
- Glorification

**Q: God's effectual call: which "call" are we talking about?**

- NO: "external call" of gospel to our ears
- YES: "internal call" of God upon our hearts

**A definition of "effectual calling"**

“By the regenerating work of his Spirit, God the Father irresistibly summons, normally in conjunction with the church's proclamation of the gospel, the elect sinner into fellowship with, and into the kingdom of, his Son Jesus Christ. His call is rendered effectual by the quickening work of the Spirit of God the Father and God the Son in the hearts of the elect.” Robert Reymond

## 2. What IS this call?

= a powerful summons that achieves what God wants

“summons”

which needs to be effective because we are dead in sin...

... and must be effective because God’s will cannot fail

Isaiah 55:10-11, “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, <sup>11</sup> so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

Also James 4:15, Ps 33:14-15, Prov 21:1, Eph. 1:11.

called into...

- Fellowship with Christ (1 Cor 1:9)
- Out of darkness and into his marvellous light (1 Peter 2:)
- Into his kingdom & glory (1 Thess 2:12, 2 Thess 2:14, 1 Peter 5:10)
- The final marriage supper of the lamb (Rev 19:9)
- To eternal life (1 Timothy 6:12)

God’s call cannot be revoked (Rom 11:29)

## 3. WHO calls?

= Not us, but God the Holy Trinity

God is sovereign – e.g. Romans 8:29

We are “altogether passive” – WCF chapter 10

Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 1:9, “God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful.”

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, “But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. <sup>14</sup> He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

## 4. Does God FORCE force us to do something against our will?

No: God TRANSFORMS the Christian’s will

God’s saving grace penetrates will and regenerates it

