

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 28

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Call of God for Salvation



Wednesday, February 16, 2011

2 Thess 2:14 "It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven.

(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."
(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."



Lesson

We just finished our study on "common and efficacious grace, a ministry of God the Holy Spirit. Remember we are looking at the grace of God at work in salvation.



1. Common Grace = the ministry of God the Holy Spirit in making the Gospel clear, understandable and convincing to the unbeliever.
2. The Call of God = the invitation of God the Father to believe in Christ.
3. Efficacious Grace = the work or ministry of the Holy Spirit in making the faith (his or her "yes") in Jesus Christ of the spiritually dead person effective for eternal salvation.

Now let's take a brief look now at the "call of God." Our Bible teaches us about two calls from God:

1. As a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in common grace (making the Gospel message clear to the unbeliever), the invitation or "call of God" the Father goes out to the spiritually dead person to believe in Christ.
2. The "call of God" to election of the believer



We're first going to learn about the divine call or the invitation or "call of God" the Father to the spiritually dead person to believe in Jesus as their Savior.

Once the unbeliever has listened to the Gospel, and the Holy Spirit has made the issues clear so the unbeliever can understand the message, God the Father gives the invitation to believe. Now you know that the unbeliever does not hear a voice from heaven or anything like that! The invitation comes through the word of the cross, the announcement of the Good News by the person witnessing to the unbeliever. By the way this is part of our ambassadorship for Christ in serving others.

The "call of God" is a call to believe. Let's take turns reading these verses together. Really pay attention to what these verses are telling us. [John 20:31](#) "...but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have (eternal) life in His name."

[Acts 16:31-32](#) "They said, 'Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' (32) And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house."

Rom 1:16-17 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek (Gentiles). (17) For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.'"

1 Cor 1:21-22 "For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through (human) wisdom, it pleased God through the folly (to unbelievers) of what we preach to save those who believe. (22) For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom (they were so stubborn and would not believe by faith alone)..."

2 Cor 4:1-6 "Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. (2) But we have given up disgraceful, underhanded ways (sins). We refuse to practice craftiness or to interfere with God's Word, but by the open statement of the truth we would praise ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. (3) And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing (unbelievers). (4) In their case the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. (5) For what we say publicly is not from us, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with us as your servants for Jesus' sake. (6) For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

2 Cor 5:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal (the call of God) through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Eph 1:13-14 "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."

Col 1:5-8 "...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel (6) which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth; (7) just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf, (8) and has made known to us your love in the Spirit."

1 Thess 1:4-5 "...knowing, brethren beloved by God, His choice of you; (5) for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake."

2 Thess 2:14 "It was for this He called you through our gospel, that you may gain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."

The invitation from God the Father comes to us through understanding the issue of the Gospel, which is Jesus Christ. Believe in Him and you have eternal life. Reject Him and you have eternal condemnation. John 3:16-21 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. (17) For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. (18) Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already (at birth by the imputation of Adam's sin to the old sin nature), because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. (19) And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. (20) For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, in case his works should be exposed. (21) But whoever

does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God."



The ministry of God the Father in the divine call or invitation can be seen in [John 6:44](#). "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day." The invitation or "call of God" the Father is what causes us to come to Christ. The Father's invitation to the spiritually dead person to believe in Christ removes several attacks against God's Holy Word, including adding human good works for salvation, and the blasphemy or falsehood of inviting Jesus into your heart. You cannot invite our perfect Savior into a depraved or evil person. He invites us to come to HIM!

Remember again there are two categories of the "call of God."

1. As a result of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in common grace (making the Gospel message clear to the unbeliever), the invitation of the Father goes out to the spiritually dead person to believe in Christ.
2. Another calling is explained in the doctrine of election. Election is the expression of the sovereign will of God in eternity past. Election is for believers only.

God's will starts at salvation. What is His will when it comes to the salvation of unbelievers? Let's look at the Bible for the answers. God is faithful in providing us the answers, kids.

[1 Tim 2:3-4](#) "This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, (4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." [2 Peter 3:9](#) "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to a change of mind."

Paul made a great speech when He was in Athens, Greece to the intellectual unbelievers that gathered everyday to discuss different subjects about life. Most of them didn't believe in God let alone our Savior Jesus! So Paul wanting them to know the True Gospel gave them this divine viewpoint in hopes they would believe!! [Acts 17:27-31](#) that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel their way toward Him and find Him. Yet He is actually not far from each one of us, (28) for in Him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.' (29) Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. (30) The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now He commands all people everywhere to change their minds, (31) because He has fixed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by a Man (Jesus) whom He has appointed; and of this He has given assurance to all by raising Him from the dead."

The second "call of God" is that He wants us to have what He has planned for us after we are saved and what kind of spiritual life we should live. This is second "call of God," the doctrine of election...what he has for us after we are saved...a pre-designed plan just for us. You have to be able to tell the difference between the first call of God , the call that goes to the

unbeliever to believe in Christ, and the second call...the call of election that expresses God's will in life for the believer.



The second call is for believers only. Everyone gets invited to the party and God wills His highest and very BEST for those who accept His invitation. And God knew you were going to say "yes" to His gift of salvation so He went ahead in eternity past and elected you to privilege and went ahead and prepared every spiritual blessing for you and deposited them in Christ for you. [Isa 65:24](#) "It will also come to pass that before they call, I will

answer (common grace); and while they are still speaking, I will hear (efficacious grace). He knew before you said it that you were going say "yes." That's the way it is with true love.

Eph 1:3-14 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, (4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless (+R imputed) before Him. In love (5) He predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will, (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved (Jesus). (7) In Him we have redemption through His blood (spiritual death on the cross), the forgiveness of our sins, according to the riches of His grace (8) which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and insight (9) He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (10) with a view to a dispensation (Church Age) suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him (11) also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will, (12) to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory. (13) In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation...having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

What more could be possibly ask for, kids? This is so wonderful...SAVED by the GRACE of GOD and then BLESSED with EVERY SPIRITUAL BLESSING in CHRIST!!!!

So common and efficacious grace, the two ministries of God the Holy Spirit, saved us and the call of God after we believed provided everything we will ever need to live and be happy in a very special plan that God has made for each and everyone of us. Take this oh so great gift after salvation. AMEN!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on Thursday, September 30, 2010
Lighthouse Bible Church

