

# Irresistible Grace

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This doctrine, like all of the Doctrines of Grace, are often misunderstood. Irresistible grace is not...

## Irresistible Grace is not the Irresistible Holy Spirit

I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me; I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here am I, here am I," to a nation that was not called by my name. I spread out my hands all the day to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; (Isa 65:1-2)

"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. (Act 7:51)

The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, (Act 17:30)

## Irresistible Grace is not Irresistible Condemnation

For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things. Therefore, **God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity**, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because **they exchanged** the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen. For this reason, **God gave them up to dishonorable passions**. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. **And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done**. (Rom 1:21-28)

## Irresistible Grace is not Irresistible Forcing Against Your Will

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And **whosoever will**, let him take the water of life freely.(KJV – Rev 22:17)

In short, the doctrine of Irresistible Grace **does not** teach that the Holy Spirit cannot be resisted. Man does what man wants to do. It **does not** teach that **God** prevents people from coming to Him. Man does what man wants to do. It **does not** teach that God forces people to Christ kicking and screaming against their will. Man does what man wants to do.

**So, what does the doctrine of Irresistible Grace teach?**

**It affirms the doctrine of Total Depravity. If left to his own will, man will choose not to come.**

**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.** For **everyone** who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 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.**" (Joh 3:19-21)

Therefore, having this ministry by the mercy of God, we do not lose heart. But we have renounced disgraceful, underhanded ways. We refuse to practice cunning or to tamper with God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we would commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God. And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled only to those who are perishing. **In their case the god of this world 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.** For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 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. (2Co 4:1-6)

**For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But** when the goodness and loving kindness of **God** our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,  
(Tit 3:3-5)

**And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. But God,** being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ--by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph 2:1-10)

**It affirms what Scripture says of God – he has mercy on whom he has mercy and hardens whomever he wills.**

"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, it will be more bearable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. (Mat 11:21-22)

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. (Act 13:48)

And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. (Rom 8:30)

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen me and yet do not believe. **All that the Father gives me will come to me**, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. **And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day.** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, **and I will raise him up on the last day.**" (Joh 6:35-40)

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the **excellencies of him** who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. (1Pe 2:9)

**It affirms – not that man comes kicking and screaming – but that God changes man’s heart so that he willingly comes.**

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. (Eze 36:25-27)

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. **And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me.** (Jer 32:38-40)

One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. (Act 16:14)

**It affirms the Sovereignty of God in all things – including our salvation.**

all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?" (Dan 4:35)

Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases. (Psa 115:3)

And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. (Rom 8:28) **Question: Who are those that love God?**

We love because he first loved us. (1Jn 4:19) **Answer: Those who love God are those whom God loved.**

"If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (Joh 14:15) **Those loved by God keep his commandments – just as the prophet Ezekiel prophesied.**

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for **it is God who works in you**, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Php 2:12-13)