

External calling comes to all human beings to whom the gospel is presented. It is not limited to any age or nation or class of men, and comes to those who reject the gospel as well as to those who accept it. However, it extends only as far as the gospel is disseminated, and thus is not universal in the strictest sense of the word.

Isaiah 45:22 -- "Turn to Me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For I am God, and there is no other."

Isaiah 55:1 -- "Ho! Every one who thirsts, come to the waters;
And you who have no money come, buy and eat.
Come, buy wine and milk
Without money and without cost."

Matthew 11:28 -- "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

2. It is conditional

That is, the promise of forgiveness and eternal life contained in the external call can only be received by means of true faith and repentance.

John 1:11-13 -- "He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 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 5:24 -- "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

3. It is sincere

God calls sinners in good faith to repent and trust in Jesus Christ. He earnestly desires that they accept His invitation, and in all sincerity promises eternal life to those who repent and believe.

Ezekiel 33:11 -- "Say to them, 'As I live! declares the Lord God, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways! Why then will you die, O house of Israel?'"

Matthew 23:37 -- "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, the way a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were unwilling."

Revelation 22:17 -- "And the Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.' And let the one who hears say, 'Come.' And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."