

4. It is resistible

Men may despise the gospel, refuse the invitation, and scorn the promise, but in doing so they display their guilt and justify God in His condemnation of them.

Luke 14:16-24 -- "But He said to him, 'A certain man was giving a big dinner, and he invited many; and at the dinner hour he sent his slave to say to those who had been invited, 'Come; for everything is ready now.' But they all alike began to make excuses. The first one said to him, 'I have bought a piece of land and I need to go out and look at it; please consider me excused.' And another one said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to try them out; please consider me excused.' And another one said, 'I have married a wife, and for that reason I cannot come.' And the slave came back and reported this to his master. Then the head of the household became angry and said to his slave, 'Go out at once into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in here the poor and crippled and blind and lame.' And the slave said, 'Master, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.' And the master said to the slave, 'Go out into the highways along the hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste of my dinner.'"

B. Internal Calling

Internal calling is that gracious act of God whereby He savingly applies to sinners the external call of the gospel by the operation of the Holy Spirit.

It contains three elements:

1. a quickening and enlightening of the understanding
2. a convicting of the heart concerning the truth of the gospel
3. a persuading of the will, to repent and trust in Jesus Christ, and to trust God's promise of forgiveness and eternal life through Him.

It has at least three characteristics:

1. It is particular

That is, it is not only the external call of the gospel addressed to its hearers in general; it is the call of the Holy Spirit quickening, convicting, and drawing sinners to saving faith in Christ.

I Corinthians 1:18-24 -- "For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will set aside.' Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God,