

Irresistible Grace? No.

Here are three declarations of the same concept--Irresistible Grace. Each is false doctrine ----

False Idea #1: "All men are born totally depraved (each has the inherited sin of Adam) and this literally prevents men from—by themselves—believing the gospel. It is impossible for "unregenerate men" to believe. What is needed is a special "upgrade" from the Holy Spirit, which enables the regenerated man the ability to believe. So the only way any man believes is by the Holy Spirit performing a special act upon a specific person. Suddenly he springs up and proclaims, "I believe! Why didn't I see this before?" Why? Because without the Holy Spirit's special ability to make a man see and understand, it is impossible to believe. When men go to hell, it is because God never gave them the upgrade. They have no chance."

False Idea #2: No matter how hard a cow tries to fly on its own, it is unable without a lot of outside help. In the same way, the unsaved are unable to believe in Christ—no matter how hard they try—without the outside help of Holy Spirit. God, they say, has the "saved-n-lost list" that was compiled before creation. God not only knew your name before creation but He knew whether you destined to be lost or saved. If your name is on the "lost list," there is nothing you can do to go to heaven. Period. God predestined you to go to hell. However, if you were on the "saved list," you cannot be saved until the Holy Spirit changes your brain and your thinking, so to speak, which allows you the ability to believe. Until the Spirit performs this work upon you directly, you are simply a cow with high hopes, nothing more.

False Idea #3: "Irresistible grace" refers to the action of the Holy Spirit in saving you by imparting the ability for you to believe in Christ. Unless the Holy Spirit changes your brain, you cannot believe. This grace is irresistible because the sinner has no ability to resist it, but is a puppet acting out the will of his Master. The puppet has no freewill. His Master pulls the strings. It is "grace" because God has chosen these persons—and no others—to be saved. Once you are saved, there is no sin you can commit to cause you to be lost.

Notice the concept of "ability" in each. Supposedly the Spirit gives you:

1. the ability to understand the Bible.
2. the ability to become a Christian
3. the inability to sin
4. the inability to be damned
5. the ability to get to heaven
6. the inability to get to hell

MAN SAYS	BIBLE SAYS	WHICH IS RIGHT – MAN OR THE BIBLE?
Man has no freewill. He can make no choices to do good.	Deuteronomy 30:15-18 Joshua 24:15	
For some – “The Devil made me do it.” For others – “No need to beware Satan: I’m saved”.	John 15:6-7 1 Peter 5:8	
God forces me to do what is right. I am God’s puppet.	John 3:16 Rev 22:17-19	
The Holy Spirit provides irresistible grace. You have no ability. There is nothing you can do.	Acts 6:10 Acts 7:51-55	
Our salvation is based entirely on God’s choice and not our own choices.	Luke 6:46 Matt 11:28	
God chooses some for salvation. It’s His choice that some be damned.	Acts 10:34; Rom 2:11-12; 1 Peter 1:17 Titus 2:11; 1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9	
Man is not accountable for his actions. There is nothing that man can do.	Luke 9:5; 2 Cor 5:10; Matt 25:19ff	
You cannot understand Bible without the Holy Spirit’s guidance.	Eph 3:3-5	
Preaching the Word is not enough.	2 Thess 2:14; Acts 2; Acts 8; Acts 9; Acts 10; 1 Cor 1:21b	

Would an irresistible grace concept destroy a person’s faith? Well, 1) it opposes the Bible’s teachings and 2) it subverts the value of the Bible. 3) Many honest in heart give up on God, since they waited for a better-felt-than-told feeling that never came. 4) Those who got the feeling deceive themselves into a false sense of assurance of salvation; they feel they received the call of God. Your subsequent efforts to show them they are deceived bring replies like, “I feel I’m saved. No need to teach me. The Spirit is enough for me.”

Yes, We Are Predestined!

That's what the Bible says. So, is salvation (heaven or hell) God's choice or is it our choice?

A teacher tells her students, "If you come to class on time and get A's on all exams, you will receive an A+ in this class." She has foreknowledge of who her A+ students will be. She has predestined the A+ students in her class. She has already chosen (elected) her A+ students.

But she has not forced her students to give up their personal choices and free will. They can choose to do the right thing. They can choose to attend classes. They can even choose to fail the class. Each student has the power over his grade. It's in their hands. To do otherwise, the teacher would be playing favorites.

Just like the teacher, even so God has predestined that Christians go to heaven and He has had foreknowledge of this plan before the world was ever created. He knew that He was setting in motion a vehicle that would save some that met His criteria for being called sons. Does this mean that you have no power to become a son of God? Of course you do (Phil 2:12 – "Work out your own salvation"). You even have the power to fail spectacularly. It's in your hands.

Consider that if God cherry-picked certain people to be saved, then this would make Him a player (He likes these, He doesn't like those and He likes these more than those). But the Bible clearly states God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34; Romans 2:11-12; 1 Peter 1:17). In fact, the Bible says that God wants all men to be saved, not just some, so it's up to man to make the right choices (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9). God wants you! It's up to you.

Bible Passages about predestination	Is this passage addressing the personal identities of the persons being saved (e.g., I do not choose Joe, but I do choose Jenny)?	Is this passage addressing the character of the saved, the purpose of God and the rules for salvation that God put into motion?
Ephesians 1:3-5		
1 Corinthians 2:7		
Romans 8:29,30		

Consider that if God is only saving certain persons He picks, then why did He send His Grace to *all*—Titus 2:11—so that *all* could be saved. He wants them *all* saved, He says in 1 Timothy 2:4. It would make no sense if He selects certain persons. Are we predestined? Sure! Now it's all in our hands. Are we saved by our merits, thereby earning salvation? No way! Eph. 2:8-10. But, Phil 2:12 is important.

Yes, the Spirit is in the Bible!

So can we learn the Bible miraculously?

No. We understand the Bible the same way we learn anything else in life -- reading, study and hard work. Then it is working in us. But some believe that the Bible is a special case. They say the only way you can understand the Bible is through the direct guidance and interpretation of the Holy Spirit.

They say: "The Spirit will tell you when to pick up your Bible. The Spirit will tell you what passage to turn to and read. Then put the Bible down and the Spirit will tell you the meaning of that passage."

Yet the Spirit tells you and me in Ephesians 3:3-5, that we can understand the Bible when we simply read it. How terrific is that. And, Romans 10:17 says that faith comes from hearing/reading the Bible. Again, what simplicity from the God that we serve.

They say, "That can't be true. Rather, the Holy Spirit guides us to understand the Bible as we read it." The texts they use to justify themselves are John 16:12,13 and 2 Peter 1:21,22.

Read these passages. Are these passages telling you how we can interpret the scriptures? Or rather, are they telling you how the Bible was written?

"And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe." -- 1 Thessalonians 2:13

Yes, we are Called!

They teach that only the "predestined saved" are personally called by God. Yet, the Bible teaches that all men are called through gospel: 1 Thessalonians 2:14. Some accept it and others rejected it.

Humans are the means that God always uses preach the Gospel to save men. God may directly or providentially send a preacher to a sinner, but only humans preached the actual message.

Notice that *the Holy Spirit never preached* the Gospel directly, for example in Acts 8 at the conversion of the eunuch, although the Spirit was directing traffic, so to speak.

Jesus Christ never preached the Gospel after His ascension, for example in Acts 9 at the conversion of Paul, although He was very active in the conversion so to speak.

And, *angels never preached the gospel*, for example in Acts 10 at the conversion of Cornelius, but they were active there too.

Notice the difference between God's way and Man's way:

God's way: Rom 10:6-16	Preacher + Hear = Believe	Believe + Call/Obey = Salvation
Man's way: _____	Holy Spirit + Believe = Saved	