

The Holy Spirit Converts One To Christ By The Word Of God

Intro: Calvinism is a system of belief that was systematized by John Calvin but came from Augustine. The major ideas are generally taught by the acrostic TULIP: Total hereditary depravity, Unconditional election, Limited atonement, Irresistible grace, and Perseverance of the saints. The work of the Holy Spirit is intertwined within these points.

According to Calvinistic doctrine, since man is totally depraved thus incapable of doing anything pleasing to God, God must send the Holy Spirit directly into man's heart. The Spirit (acting directly upon man's heart without any medium) will then convict the man of sin, He will then convert that man to Christ, and then sanctify the man in Christ insuring him of eternal salvation. In this lesson I want us to center upon the Spirit's work in conversion.

I. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. Jesus promises to send the Spirit to the apostles.

1. John 14-16; Acts 1:4-8 ⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. ⁶ When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? ⁷ And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."
2. They were to wait in Jerusalem for power from on high.
 - a. Luke 24:49 ⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."
 - b. Acts 1:4 ⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me."
3. Purpose of sending the Spirit.
 - a. John 16:7-14 ⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. ¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. ¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you."
 - (1) *Reprove* is "to convict, refute, confute, generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted;... by conviction to bring to the light, to expose" according to Thayer.
 - (2) Threefold work: convict the world of:
 - (a) sin
 - (b) righteousness
 - (c) judgment

- b. To accomplish this the Spirit is going to:
 - (1) guide the apostles into all truth
 - (2) show the apostles things to come
 - (3) bring to the apostles' remembrance all that Jesus had said; John 14:26 ^{“26} But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
 - (4) He would be testifying of Jesus; John 15:26 ^{“26} But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:”
- c. *Righteousness* is that which is right. In its application of our relationship with God, it is being in a right relation with God.

B. The new birth.

1. John 3:3, 5 ^{“3} Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
2. To enter the kingdom of God (converted to Christ) one must be born again.
3. The Spirit has a part to play in that new birth.

II. HOW THE SPIRIT ACCOMPLISHES HIS WORK.

A. There are only two possibilities of how He achieves the conversion of man: directly or indirectly.

1. Directly
 - a. By directly we mean that He would not use any instrument.
 - b. He would act directly upon the mind of man in some mysterious way (some better felt than told way), or as some have expressed it: Holy Spirit upon my spirit.
 - c. This is Calvinism's answer to the question. They believe the Spirit must act directly upon man to convict, convert, and sanctify.
2. Indirectly.
 - a. The Spirit uses an instrument to convert (also convict and sanctify) one to Christ.
 - b. The instrument is the Word of God.
 - c. For example: If I use an axe to cut down a tree, I am still the one who cut the tree down, I simply used an instrument (an axe) to accomplish it. Yet, it would be completely proper to announce that I cut down the tree, or to announce that the axe cut down the tree.

III. CONFIRMATION

A. Since the apostles were to wait in Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Spirit, it is only logical to consider the events that took place in Jerusalem to learn how the Spirit accomplishes His work.

B. Jerusalem

1. Acts 2:2-4 ^{“2} And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

2. The apostles begin to speak. Notice the continued emphasis.
 - a. Acts 2:11, 14, 22 ¹¹ “Cretes and Arabians, we do **hear them speak** in our tongues the wonderful works of God... ¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all *ye* that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and **hearken to my words**... ²² Ye men of Israel, **hear these words**; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know”
 - b. The Spirit was doing His work in convicting the world of sin by the means of the words the apostles were speaking.
3. The Spirit was instilling within the Jews faith in Jesus as God’s Son.
 - a. They already believed in God.
 - (1) If they had not, the Spirit would have instilled faith in Him.
 - (2) Heb. 11:6 ⁶ “But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
 - b. They did not believe in Jesus as God’s Son.
 - (1) John 6:24 ²⁴ “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins”
 - (2) The Spirit implanted faith in Jesus by the use of the medium of the spoken word.
 - (a) Acts 2:37 ³⁷ “Now when they **heard this**, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”
 - (b) The Spirit through Peter and by the use of words informs them what they must do to be saved (converting men to Christ).
 - (i) Acts 2:38 ³⁸ “Then Peter **said** unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”
 - (ii) Notice their conversion: Acts 2:40-41, 47 ⁴⁰ “And with many other **words** did he testify and exhort, **saying**, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹ Then they that **gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls... ⁴⁷ And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved”
4. Peter being directed by the Holy Spirit used words to exhort man to be converted to Christ.
 - a. Only those who received the word were converted—were baptized.
 - b. There is absolutely no record of the Spirit working directly (in some mysterious or any other way) on man’s spirit.

C. Lydia

1. Acts 16:14-15 ¹⁴ “And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. ¹⁵ And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.”
 - a. Did the Lord open her heart directly, without a medium or agency?
 - b. Let us consider the background.
2. When Paul was at Troas, he received a vision.
 - a. Acts 16:9 ⁹ “And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.”
 - b. Paul realized that this was a call to preach the Gospel; Acts 16:10 ¹⁰ “And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to **preach the gospel unto them**”

3. They immediately go into Macedonia, preach the Gospel, and Lydia is converted.
 - a. Now we have a better understanding of how God opened Lydia's heart: through the medium of preaching the Gospel.
 - b. Luke does state she "heard us."
4. If God was going to act directly upon her heart without any medium, there would have been no need for Paul and his company to come to Macedonia and preach the Gospel.

IV. THE NEW BIRTH.

A. The Spirit performs a function in the new birth.

1. John 3:5 ⁴⁵ "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **born** of water and **of the Spirit**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."
2. 1 Cor. 6:11 ¹¹ "And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and **by the Spirit** of our God."
3. 2 The. 2:13 ¹³ "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to **salvation through sanctification of the Spirit** and belief of the truth."
4. 1 Pet. 1:2 ² "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through **sanctification of the Spirit**, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied."
5. John 6:63a ⁶³ "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life."

B. Does the Spirit do this directly or indirectly.

1. The Scriptures affirm the Spirit does this through the Word.
 - a. John 6:63 ⁶³ "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life."
 - b. 2 Cor. 3:6 ⁶ "Who also hath made us able ministers of the **new testament**; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."
2. 2 The. 2:13 ¹³ "But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to **salvation through sanctification of the Spirit** and belief of the truth."
 - a. We are chosen by God to salvation which takes place by sanctification of the Spirit.
 - b. While God choice has been made, man must be called to it.
 - c. This calling takes place by the Gospel; 2 The. 2:14 ¹⁴ "Whereunto he called you by our **gospel**, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - d. Ones spiritual life begins when they hear the Word and obey it; the Spirit uses the medium of the Word to sanctify man.

C. The Spirit begets us through the Word.

1. 1 Cor. 4:15 ¹⁵ "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have **begotten you through the gospel**."
 - a. The Spirit produced life in the Corinthians by Paul's preaching the Gospel to them, their acceptance, and obedience to the truth.
 - b. Acts 18:8 ⁸ "And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."
2. Jam. 1:18 ¹⁸ "Of his own will **begat he us with the word of truth**, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures"
 - a. It is God's will that man be saved; 1 Tim. 2:4 ⁴ "Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."

- b. God saves by the new birth which is by water and Spirit; John 3:3, 5 ³ Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. ⁴ Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? ⁵ Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
- (1) Water is the act of baptism which washes away sin.
 - (2) The Spirit produces life by the Word of Truth.
3. 1 Pet. 1:22-23 ²² Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:* ²³ Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”
- a. The purification of one's soul is one's conversion or salvation; the washing away of sins at baptism; Acts 22:16 ¹⁶ And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
 - (1) This washing takes place by the Spirit; 1 Cor. 6:9-11 ⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, ¹⁰ Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. ¹¹ And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”
 - (2) The Spirit accomplishes this by the truth; as one obeys God's Word, the Spirit purifies his soul.
 - b. The Seed Principle.
 - (1) Luke 8:4-15 ⁴ And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: ⁵ A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. ⁶ And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. ⁸ And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. ⁹ And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? ¹⁰ And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. ¹¹ Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection. ¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.”
 - (a) The Word sustains the same relation to the spiritual kingdom that vegetable seed sustains to the vegetable kingdom.
 - (i) When good seed (seed that has life in it) is planted in good soil it will bring a harvest.
 - (ii) The same is true spiritually.
 - (b) The seed is the Word of God, the heart is the soil.
 - (i) The seed (the Word) enters the soil (the heart) through hearing.
 - (ii) God Word has life in it; Heb. 4:12 ¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

- (iii) Spiritual life (the new birth) comes as a result of the working of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit uses the Word to produce a new spiritual life in man—the new birth.

V. AFFIRMATION OF THE SCRIPTURES.

A. Rom. 1:16-17 ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. ¹⁷ For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

1. The “righteousness of God” is how man might be in a right relationship to God.
 - a. Making man in a right relation to God is a work of the Spirit; John 16:8 ¹⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:”
 - b. The Gospel reveals how man is to be made righteous.
 - c. The Holy Spirit is using the medium of the Gospel to make man righteous, to accomplish His work.
2. The Gospel is God’s power to save.
 - a. If there is a direct touching of the Holy Spirit upon man’s spirit to save man, then the Gospel is not necessary.
 - b. It is not just one of many ways, but it is the only way that God will save man.
3. This Gospel must be preached for it to have any effect.
 - a. Does the Holy Spirit directly proclaim the Gospel to man?
 - b. Rom. 1:13-15 ¹³ Now I would not have you ignorant, brethren, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you, (but was let hitherto,) that I might have some fruit among you also, even as among other Gentiles. ¹⁴ I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise. ¹⁵ So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.”
 - c. It is not a direct working of the Spirit on man’s spirit, but the Gospel is in man’s hands; 2 Cor. 4:7 ¹⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”
 - (1) This *treasure* is the Gospel of Christ—God’s power to save.
 - (2) This is why no one is saved in any way other than the Gospel of Christ preached by man to man.
 - (3) This is why Paul and others would travel the world to proclaim the Gospel.
 - (a) 2 Cor. 4:5 ¹⁵ For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.”
 - (b) 1 Cor. 1:21 ²¹ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”
 - (4) Why Paul instructed others; 2 Tim. 4:2 ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.”
 - d. There is no need if the Holy Spirit works directly upon man’s spirit in saving him (conviction, conversion, and sanctification).

B. 1 Cor. 15:1-2 ¹ Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ² By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.”

1. He explains the Gospel is the vicarious death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus from the grave.
2. Paul preached this Gospel to them.
 - a. 1 Cor. 1:23 ²³ For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.”

- b. 1 Cor. 2:2 “² For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.”
 - 3. The Corinthians had received this Gospel.
 - a. Thayer says that it is “to receive something transmitted...to receive with the mind”
 - b. The Gospel they received was transmitted by his preaching.
 - c. Calvinist teach the only way for a person to receive this is by the direct touching of the Spirit.
 - 4. They would be saved by the Gospel.
 - a. Calvinist teach that man is saved by the Spirit acting directly upon man’s spirit (heart).
 - b. Paul preached the Gospel to the Corinthians.
 - c. They possessed good and honest hearts to receive the message transmitted by Paul.
 - d. They obeyed the Gospel and were saved by it.
 - (1) Acts 18:8 “⁸ And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.”
 - (2) Rom. 6:17-18 “¹⁷ But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. ¹⁸ Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.”
 - (3) Heb. 5:8-9 “⁸ Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; ⁹ And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”
- C. **Jam. 1:21-22** “²¹ Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. ²² But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.”
 - 1. They must lay aside filthiness and wickedness.
 - 2. They are to receive: with the attitude of meekness.
 - a. *Meekness* is the humbling of oneself to meet the standards set by one recognized as greater than ourselves (God) and the strength of character and determination to live according to that standard.
 - b. We are to receive the engrafted or implanted word.
 - (1) Thayer defines engrafted as: “implanted by others instruction”
 - (2) When God’s Word is preached and man receives that message and is a doer of that Word, then the Spirit is converting him to Christ.
- D. **2 Cor. 5:18-19** “¹⁸ And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.”
 - 1. God gave the apostles the ministry of reconciliation which is the act of God restoring man to His favor or salvation.
 - 2. Lipscomb said, “He gave to them the terms on which man could be reconciled to God and sent them out as ambassadors to make known the terms of reconciliation to man.”
 - 3. How were the apostles going to accomplish man’s reconciliation to God?
 - a. Paul’s answer is the apostles were given “the word of reconciliation.”
 - b. The instrument of reconciling men to God is through the Word of God.
 - c. If, as Calvinism affirms, the Spirit does this directly, then the apostles had nothing (and we have nothing) to do with the ministry of reconciliation.

VI. THE DRAWING POWER.

- A. John 6:44** ⁴⁴ No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”
1. Some teach that God draws man by the Spirit in some way beyond or above our comprehension and aside from God’s Word.
 2. God does draw man, but this verse does not tell us **how** He does it.
 3. The next verse informs us how.
- B. John 6:45** ⁴⁵ It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.”
1. The one who comes to Christ is the one whom the Father calls.
 2. The one who comes to Christ is the one taught.
 3. C. R. Nichol and R. L. Whiteside wrote, “It is plain therefore that the drawing power is put forth through the teaching. It is in this way that God’s power, the gospel, is brought to bear on people.”

VII. MAN’S PART IN SALVATION.

- A. God, by His grace, provided a way of salvation for man upon the death of Jesus upon the cross.**
1. The Scriptures teach man must do something to obtain this salvation.
 - a. Acts 2:37 ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?”
 - b. Acts 9:6 ⁶ And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord *said* unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.”
 - c. Acts 16:30 ³⁰ And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”
 2. What is man’s part.
- B. Belief.**
1. In God; Heb. 11:6 ⁶ But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”
 2. In Jesus as God’s Son and Savior of the world; John 14:1 ¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.”
 3. It is an obedient trusting faith.
 - a. Rom. 1:5 ⁵ By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:”
 - b. Rom. 16:26 ²⁶ But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:”
 - c. Consider all the examples in Hebrews 11.
- C. Faith that will cause us to repent of sins.**
1. Luke 13:3 ³ I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”
 2. Luke 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”
- D. Faith that will cause us to confess Jesus as God’s Son.**
1. Rom. 10:9-10 ⁹ That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”
 2. Acts 8:37 ³⁷ And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.”

E. Faith that will cause one to be baptized in water for the remission of sins.

1. Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
2. Acts 2:38 ³⁸ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

F. This faith comes by hearing God’s Word.

1. Rom. 10:17 ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
2. Thus, the need for a preacher.
 - a. Rom. 10:13-17 ¹³ For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. ¹⁴ How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? ¹⁷ So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”
 - b. There is no need for a preacher if the Spirit converts us to Christ without any medium.
 - c. When a preacher comes: he proclaims the facts concerning God, Christ, and the Gospel, he teaches the commands relating to what man must do and instructs concerning the promises of salvation.
 - d. The fact that the preacher is needed to teach what man must do to be saved shows that the Holy Spirit uses the medium of God’s Word to save man.

Conclusion: Calvinism begins with an improper supposition—the total depravity of man and his complete inability to do anything pleasing to God. When one begins with a false foundation, the entire structure is false. Jesus gave us a great commission to go preach the Gospel to every creature (Mat. 28:19-20 ¹⁹ Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰ Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen”; Mark 16:15-16 ¹⁵ And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned”; Luke 24:46-47 ⁴⁶ And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: ⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”). There would be no need for this if the Holy Spirit directly converted man to Christ. When we have a proper understanding that the Spirit uses the medium of the Word of God, we then see the importance of this commission. Let us get to our task, because there is no other way for man to be saved.