

Your Call From God

As Christians, we have already been called, received, and accepted our invitation into God's family. For unbelievers, God is still calling and extending His invitation to all people to come to Him, seek repentance, and receive forgiveness. God tells us that no one is beyond redemption, no matter how far they've fallen or how sinful they may feel. God's love is unconditional, and His grace is available to everyone, even those who have strayed far from Him. God saves unbelievers through the gospel, which means "good news" and appears 93 times in the Bible. **Jesus said, Luke 15:7:** *"I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent."* Upon hearing the gospel, the Holy Spirit helps both believers and unbelievers understand the Word of God and be convicted of their sins. This doesn't save unbelievers but awakens them to their need for salvation. Christ's offer of salvation extends to all who hear the good news of the gospel. The call to sinners is an act of mercy. Jesus said, **Matthew 11:28:** *"Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* But Jesus also said that God has hidden the truth from some people according to His purpose, and that no one can know the Father except those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him. **Romans 8:29-30:** *"For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."* It is important that we recognize that the Bible teaches that we should believe in both election and the free offer of the gospel, because Jesus taught both. **Romans 8:32-35:** *"He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all—how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?"* **J.I. Packer** said, *"The New Testament never calls on a man to repent on the ground that Christ died specifically and particularly for him. The basis on which the New Testament invites sinners to put faith in Christ is simply that they need Him, and that He offers Himself to them, and that those who receive Him are promised all the benefits that His death secured for His people."* Eternal election is God's decision. Proclaiming the gospel is our duty and a distinct responsibility. God saves sinners through the gospel call. He always keeps His promise to those who repent and believe. Therefore, we must also preach the gospel. There are still many unbelievers who have been called but have not yet answered. We may be the channel through which they hear the gospel and believe. Therefore, let's give all our resources to Him: time, energy, money, skills, and even our very lives to participate in bringing the gospel to the world.