



chosen &
choosing
How God's life becomes ours

Week 5: An Offer You Can't Refuse?

The "I" in TULIP stands for Irresistible Grace – meaning that once God chooses to save someone, they will be unable and unwilling to resist his will. Good Christians on both sides of the debate have strong opinions...

Self-determining choice and refusal have been given by the Lord to men.

-- Clement of Alexandria (150-215), *Stromata*

God limits himself out of love so that his initiating, enabling grace is resistible. It is powerful and persuasive but not compelling in the determinative sense. It leaves the sinner a person, not an object.

-- Roger E. Olson, *Against Calvinism*

It is the glory of God and his essential nature mainly to dispense mercy (but also wrath) on whomever he pleases.

-- John Piper, *The Justification of God*

Calvinists believe that God uses irresistible force to change a person from not loving Christ to loving Christ. Hence, irresistible love is forced love. But forced "love" is not love at all.

-- Norman L. Geisler, *Chosen But Free*

God unilaterally and monergistically does for us what we cannot do for ourselves.

-- R. C. Sproul, *What is Reformed Theology?*

The grace which the Holy Spirit extends to the elect cannot be thwarted or refused, it never fails to bring them to true faith in Christ.

-- D.N. Steele, C.C. Thomas, and S.L. Quinn, *The Five Points of Calvinism: Defined, Defended, Documented*

Just as Christ had the power and authority to raise Lazarus to life without obtaining his "permissions" to do so, He is able to raise His elect to spiritual life with just as certain a result.

-- James White, *Irresistible Grace: God Saves Without Fail (in Debating Calvinism: Five Points, Two Views)*

Merely to override a human will would be for Him useless. He cannot ravish. He can only woo.

-- C.S. Lewis, *Screwtape Letters*

In the Reformation view, the work of regeneration is performed by God and by him alone. The sinner is completely passive in receiving this action.

-- R. C. Sproul, *What is Reformed Theology?*

God deals personally with personal beings.... Grace that left no option whatever would not be grace, it would be something else. We should have to say, "By force were ye saved, and not of yourselves."

-- Vernon Grounds, *God's Universal Salvific Grace*

While non-Calvinists are willing to admit that high Calvinism is God-centred, they have good reason to wonder how exactly to distinguish between the God it centres itself on and Satan – except that Satan wants all people damned to hell and God wants only a certain number damned to hell.

-- Roger E. Olson, *Against Calvinism*

This is good and pleases God our Saviour, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

-- The Apostle Paul

Jerusalem, Jerusalem... how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.

-- Jesus