

## Irresistible Call (Part 1)

The image of conception and birth does not need much explanation. On the contrary, as human beings we understand vividly and fully the passive activity of the infant in birth. At no time does the baby possess any decision or authority in its conception or growth, but it comes into the world helpless and in total dependence on external forces. Jesus knew the power and clarity surrounding this process, and He used it metaphorically to describe the work of the Holy Spirit in regeneration. This lesson demonstrates how Jesus, and John through Him, leaves no ambiguity about the process of salvation: God carries out His sovereign will in salvation, and spiritually dead hearts, like a baby, cannot contribute or refuse.

### I. Final Thoughts on Definite Atonement

#### a. John 17

##### i. Verse 2: the usage of “all”

1. The first usage of “all” refers to humankind in general.
2. The second usage of “all” refers to the elect.
3. Christ came into the world to give life to the elect, not all flesh.

##### ii. Verse 9: Jesus’ specific intercession

1. As a priest entering the Holy of Holies, so Jesus prays before His Father.
2. He clearly demarcates His salvific work for the elect, not for the world.

iii. Verse 19: Jesus sets Himself apart as the sacrificial lamb for the elect, the same group for which He has interceded throughout this prayer.

iv. Verse 24: Christ’s death on the cross and the Father’s love for His Son from eternity past results in the incorporation of the elect in the worship of God forever.

#### b. John 19:30

i. Jesus’ last words on the cross (“It is finished.”) refer to the completion of His mission to ransom the elect.

ii. Having paid the price for sin in full, Jesus merits His full inheritance: the elect.

iii. Christ triumphs in death, and not one of His sheep will escape His grasp.

### II. Irresistible Call

#### a. John 1:12–13

i. Regeneration of the heart enables an individual to receive the free offer of the gospel (2 Corinthians 5:17).

1. Regeneration does not occur through lineage.
2. Regeneration does not occur through human effort.
3. Regeneration does not occur through man’s will.
4. Regeneration occurs by the sovereign choice of God.

ii. John clearly affirms a monergistic regeneration, in which God alone quickens the dead spirit unto life.

#### b. John 3:3–8

i. The metaphors of water and wind refer to the Holy Spirit.

ii. While the water washes and cleanses, the uncontrollable wind blows wherever and whenever it will.

iii. Similar to the untamable nature of the wind, Jesus uses the metaphor of birth to demonstrate that human beings play no part in their regeneration. Just as a child cannot resist being conceived and brought into the world, so too a dead heart cannot ignore or reject the work of the Holy Spirit.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** John 1:12–13; 3:3–8; 17:2, 9, 19, 24; 19:30