

- 1) Election - A sovereign act of God before the creation of the world in which he unconditionally chooses some to be saved. (Eph. 1:4-11)

Do you believe that God chose to save you before he ever created you? Do you believe God chose you because he knew you would choose him or that you would choose him because he chose you?

Have you had a resistance to the doctrine of election because it feels or sounds fatalistic? Does believing in God's sovereign election diminish your sense of responsibility or cause you to feel like a robot? Do you think it should make you feel that way? Why?

These types of questions have spark great debate for centuries among those who have tried to resolve the sovereign election of God with the responsibility of man. Have you ever found yourself frustrated by the unyielding arrogance of people on both sides of the debate? Why should the doctrine of election bring incredible humility?

How does a belief that God has chosen to save some, give you confidence in sharing the gospel with everyone?

How does thinking about God's election of you inspite of your sin evoke praise to him?

- 2) Common Grace – Undeserved patience and kindness of God toward all people prior to salvation. (Acts 14:16-17)

List evidence of God's common grace that He showed you before you were saved.

How much patience did God have to exercise to bring you to salvation?

How much patience do you extend to those who have yet to believe?

- 3) Effectual Calling - An act of God, speaking through human proclamation of the gospel, in which he draws people to himself in such a way that they respond in saving faith. (Rom. 8:30, Eph. 3:13-14, John 6:44)

Name those God used to get the gospel to you.

Discuss the first memories you have of sensing God calling you? What were the circumstances?

Describe the feeling when you knew God was extending an internal, effectual call to you for salvation. How was this different than other times you heard the external, general call of the gospel?

- 4) Regeneration - A secret act of God in which he imparts new spiritual life to us. (Titus 3:5, John 3:3-8, Ezekiel 36:26-27)

Because regeneration is an act of God that brings new birth, it is right to think of it as something that happens at a specific POINT in time. It happens only once. At one moment you were dead and in the next moment you were made alive. We do not always know exactly when it happens but we should be able to point to a season when it became obvious that once was dead in you was made alive by the regenerating power of the Holy Spirit. You may have gradually become aware of your newfound life, but nevertheless, your new life was the result of a new spiritual birth that happened instantaneously in an unseen, invisible way. The changes will become more obvious with time as your desires and behaviors become more pleasing to God.

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Can you identify the point God regenerated your dead heart? Discuss the point at which you realized God had brought new life to the spiritual deadness in your life.

Read 1John 3:9. What kind of changes did God bring when he regenerated you?

- 5) Conversion - Our decisive response to the gospel call, in which we sincerely repent of sin and place our faith in Christ alone for salvation. (Acts 20:20-21, 2Tim. 2:24-26, Phil. 1:29)

What is repentance? What did you feel was the biggest area of sin you had to repent of in order to be saved?

What is faith? What did you have to stop trusting in order to start trusting Christ for salvation?

All of the Christian life is one of faith and repentance. What evidence of faith and repentance is there in your life today?

**Additional Scripture**

- Romans 10:9-10
- Romans 8:30
- Romans 8:7
- 1Cor. 2:14
- 1Cor. 15:10
- Phil. 2:12
- Romans 1:20-21
- Roman's 9:20-24
- 2Tim 2:10
- Eph. 1:13-14
- John 6:44
- Titus 3:5
- Acts 16:14
- 2Cor. 7:9-10.