

Ladies Bible Study
All Things for Good
Chapters Eight & Nine
Lesson Eleven

Catechism on how to respond to effectual calling:

Q. How should you that are effectually called respond?

A. You that are effectually called should respond by *adoring God's free grace to you, pitying those not called, and living according to your calling,*

An exploration of the above catechism:

1. Respond to your effectual calling by: *Adoring God's free grace to you*
 - a. If you have received mercy you should be praising. You who have received mercy have more reason to thank God and praise God than you do to pray to Him.
 - b. Mercy and misery always go together.
2. Respond to your effectual calling by: *pitying those not called*
 - a. Those who have not right now been called to God are living under the power of the devil. They are on the precipice of eternal hell. We should pity them and pray for them.
 - b. You should view every single person as a candidate for salvation. You do not know who God is going to save, but you know that He can save anyone and you should view each person as a potential convert to Christianity.
3. Respond to your effectual calling by: *Living according to your calling*
 - a. You are effectual called by God to live for God – Rom. 8:29; Eph. 4:1; 1 Pet. 1:15-16, 2:9-12 (proclaim Him in word, 2:9, and deed 2:12), 2:21, 3:9.
 - b. Are you called by God to live a self-focused selfish life?
 - c. Are you called by God to live however you want?
 - d. Living according to your calling means:
 - i. You walk *faithfully*¹.

¹ One foot in front of the next. Plodding the course.

ii. You walk singularly.

iii. You walk cheerfully (Phil. 4:4).

1. “There is a seriousness without sourness, so there is a cheerful liveliness without lightness. When the prodigal was converted "they began to be merry" (Luke 15:24). Who should be cheerful—if not the people of God? They are no sooner born of the Spirit—but they are heirs to a crown! God Himself is their portion, and heaven is their mansion—and shall they not rejoice?” (130)

iv. You walk wisely. What does it mean to walk wisely?

1. You walk *watchfully* (Ps. 1).
2. You walk *respectfully* (Acts 23:1-5)
3. You walk *boldly* (Acts 28:30-31)

v. You walk influentially.

Conclusion to chapter eight:

“Here is matter of consolation to you who are effectually called. God has magnified rich grace toward you. You are called to great honor to be co-heirs with Christ; this should revive you in the worst of times. Let men reproach and miscall you; set God's calling of you against man's miscalling. Let men persecute you to death: they do but give you a pass, and send you to heaven the sooner! How may this cure the trembling of the heart! What, though the sea roars, though the earth is unsettled, though the stars are shaken out of their places, you need not fear. You are effectually *called*—and therefore are sure to be *crowned!*” (132).

Chapter nine:

1. What does Watson say is the “fountain-head of our spiritual blessings”? (133).
2.
 - a. Why are we called according to Romans 8:28?
3. Is one man saved and another man not saved because some people are just better than other people?
4. Did God choose us because we were worthy? Deut. 7.
5. Does God save those who save themselves?

6. Paul gives God glory for man's salvation in Galatians 1:3-5. Why do you think Paul did not give glory to man for his salvation in Galatians 1:3-5?
7. People give God glory for Paul's salvation in Galatians 1:21-24. Why do you think people did not give Paul glory for his salvation in Galatians 1:21-24?
 - a. From points 5 & 6 above, what do you think one of the dangers of a theology that teaches that man saves himself?
8. Does God call you according to your good works? 2 Timothy 1:9
9. Does God call you unto good works? Eph. 1:4
 - a. One way we show we love someone is by imitation. Do you imitate Christ?

Conclusion:

You can have assurance of God's calling on your life and that assurance ought to encourage you to more obedience. Effectual calling is the ground of your salvation and an encouragement to your growth in grace (1 Peter 1:15-16).