

**Theology 2**  
**Subjective Aspects of Salvation**  
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*The doctrine of salvation encompasses a **large and complex area** of biblical teaching and of human experience. Consequently, it is necessary to draw some **distinctions** among its various parts.*

**Effectual Calling**

- Effectual calling is God's special work with the elect, enabling them to respond in repentance and faith, and rendering it certain that they will.
- How does it work?
  - Conviction – The unbeliever is confronted with his sin through the power of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8). The Word of God is a key means of effectual calling (Rom. 10:17). The Gospel is the essential portion of God's Word that God uses to produce conviction and salvation (Rom. 1:16).
  - An Opening of the Heart Through Illumination – A good example of this from the NT is Lydia: "The Lord *opened her heart* to give heed to what was said by Paul" (Acts 16:14).
- God has saved and will save **all that He has called** (John 6:37, 44).

**Conversion**

- A radical **transformation** that is evident in the life of everyone that God has called unto salvation. (2 Cor. 5:17)
- Conversion is a single entity which has two distinguishable but inseparable aspects (two sides of the same coin):
  - Repentance – the **negative aspect** of conversion (repudiation of sin)
    - Turning from something – sin and self (Luke 13:3, Acts 3:19)
      - Repentance involves a **genuine brokenness** and regret for one's sins – in particular, what his sins have done to Christ.
      - Repentance also involves a **willingness to turn** away from that which grieves God through unconditional surrender to Him.
  - Faith – the **positive aspect** of conversion (receiving the Savior)
    - Turning to Someone – Jesus Christ alone (1 Cor. 15:3-4)
      - Faith is **believing that Jesus Christ paid my sin debt** through His sacrificial death on the cross.
      - The evidence of faith is **a life that is surrendered** to the Lordship of Christ (James 2:17-18).

**Regeneration**

- To be "born again," not of water but by the power of the Holy Spirit (John 3:3, 5-6).
- Evidence of rebirth - presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of believers (1 John 2:20, 27)