



WCF Prayer:

Chapter 10 - Of Effectual Calling

Living and gracious God,

We praise you that all whom you predestine to life are effectually called and brought to faith, to your great pleasure. We stand in awe that this divine calling unfolds in your perfect timing.

Lord, we acknowledge that only those you predestine and call will truly come to you in faith. Heavenly Father, we realize this demonstrates the fullness of your immense mercy and grace but also that your calling carries a sovereign, powerful effect.

We see, Lord God that this powerful call comes through your Word as it is made effective by your Holy Spirit. Without His quickening power, we confess that we would remain in our state of sin and spiritual death—the nature into which we are born.

Yet we delight to praise you, for by your grace you bring our minds to spiritual life, enabling us to understand your way of salvation and all your ways more generally. You take away our stone-cold hearts and give us new hearts of warm flesh.

By your powerful and gracious hand, you renew our wills and irresistibly draw us to Jesus Christ. You reorient our deepest desires toward your goodness, and yet you do so in a way that we come most freely, wooed by your grace.

We know that our true and free decision to come to you is only possible because you first made us alive by your special grace through the Spirit's power.

Lord, you saw no inherent merit in us to compel your saving grace. We were passive to your divine demands. We marvel that only through your Word, working within us by your Spirit, were we enabled to embrace the grace offered in your call.

Lord, we confess our human limitations regarding the mysteries of salvation, especially concerning those incapable of outwardly responding to your Word, such as infants who die or those born without the capability to respond.

Yet, Lord, we believe that you are good and merciful, full of kindness and justice. We rest in the knowledge that all whom you purpose in your electing mercy will be regenerated and saved by Christ through the Spirit, who works where, how, and when He pleases.

We confess our limitations in understanding this mystery.

Holy God, we acknowledge that some may hear your Word and even show outward signs of your Spirit's work, but if not called by your electing grace, will never truly come to Christ. Where there is no true turning to Christ, we know there is no salvation, even for those in close proximity to the Church.

We understand with sorrow that those who do not profess faith in Christ will not be saved by any other means—neither by following the light of nature nor by adhering diligently to other religions and their laws. Lord, we know that to suggest otherwise is neither loving toward them nor honouring to you!

May we only hold out the glorious hope of the gospel that is presented in and through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Saviour. Amen.