

- Q30. How doth the Spirit apply to us the redemption purchased by Christ?  
A30. **The Spirit applieth to us the redemption purchased by Christ, by working faith in us, and thereby uniting us to Christ in our effectual calling.**

**Scripture References:** Ephesians 2:8; 4:15-16; John 6:63, 15:55; 1 Corinthians 1:9, 6:17; 1 Peter 5:10; Galatians 2:20

- DQ1: Who has purchased our redemption?  
DQ2: Who applied the redemption purchased?  
DQ3: What are the three steps by which the redemption is applied to us?  
DQ4: What does it mean to say “by working faith in us”?  
DQ5: Who does the working of our faith in us?  
DQ6: What does it mean to say “in our effectual calling”?  
DQ7: Is there a non-effectual calling?  
DQ8: What does it mean to say “uniting us to Christ”?  
DQ9: How did we become united to Christ?

**Notes:**

As we have already learned and determined, Jesus Christ purchased our redemption, i.e., Jesus Christ paid a price that we might be redeemed. How the redemption purchased is applied to us, however, is quite mysterious because it is applied to us by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Each of the three Persons of the Trinity was responsible for distinct duties. The Father, out of His love, sent His Son to this world. The Son, by His great grace and sacrifice redeemed sinners. The Holy Spirit did the work of applying the grace of the Son so that sinners may be united to the Son. This is the mysterious work of the Holy Spirit.

There are three different steps by which the redemption is applied to us. First, the Holy Spirit applies the redemption by working faith in us. The Bible makes it very clear that, without faith, we cannot participate in the redemption of the Son. Achieving redemption by works is not possible and is made possible by the life-giving faith in Christ. In other words, faith enables us to be redeemed. Therefore, the Holy Spirit will have planted in advance the seed of the redeeming faith in those sinners whom God will save.

Second, the Holy Spirit applies the redemption to us by His effectual calling of us into the relationship with Him. God’s calling is in the context of our redemption and is perfect in that He will accomplish what He sets out to accomplish, i.e., the redemption in us by His effectual calling. We will talk more about God’s effectual calling later in this discussion.

Third, the Holy Spirit applies the redemption to us by uniting us to Christ. It is the Holy Spirit that brings us to Christ, i.e., a redemptive relationship. Redemption is relational! The Holy Spirit is in the business of bringing sinners into a very special relationship with the Redeemer. This is how the Holy Spirit applies and completes the redemptive work in us.

Faith in us is not possible unless the Holy Spirit ministers to us. In other words, the presence of faith in us proves that the Holy Spirit has intervened in us. This is why faith is given by the grace of God or a free, undeserved gift of God. Faith proves the presence of the Holy Spirit, who is evidenced by the very faith that He has worked in the man. Faith allows you to possess the things of God and to be certain of what you cannot see. Faith allows us to taste and experience a glimpse of God and the heaven even while we live on this earth and suffer through life. More importantly, however, faith allows us to know and acknowledge Jesus Christ as who He is and accept Him as our Savior and Lord intellectually, emotionally and spiritually. It is the Holy Spirit that allows us to experience Christ this way.

Please read Galatians 2:19-20 again with care and meditate upon it. Verse 20 is the very apex of Apostle Paul's confession. "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me." This ought to be the confession of every person in Christ. This is a very telling expression of the spiritual condition of Paul who goes on to say, "The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Paul knew very clearly that his life was possible because of faith in the Son of God. If you have faith, you have the Son of God. Therefore, if you have faith, you have everything.

Redemptive work is impossible by man but, with God, all things are possible. God, by His effectual calling, brings sinners into understanding. First, what is "calling"? Calling is the work of the Holy Spirit that causes the separation of God's people from the world and brings them into the relationship with God and to carry out God's work at the precise time and under the precise circumstances. Calling is very personal and relational. Thus, God's calling allows us to partake in the communicable attributes of God. This is done by His grace.

Second, what is "effectual calling"? A31 will deal with this question much more in depth so we will only touch upon this question briefly here. Simply, it is the calling that no one can ultimately frustrate, hinder or ignore. When God's effectual calling falls upon a sinner, he would be much like a young man that instantly falls in love with a beautiful young woman. The pull between them becomes so strong that nothing can separate them and they become completely blinded to all negative aspects of each other. God's effectual calling is such that no one who experiences it will be able to ignore His calling and the recipient will mysteriously fall in love with God. The proof of an effectual calling is one's faith in the Son of God for faith will produce a clear and convincing response to the call.

If you experience true love, you can literally give up all other things. If you experience the true love of God, you cannot help but to fall in love with Him. If you have fallen in love with God, then you have the effectual calling. Even when we respond to God's effectual calling, we still need the power of God to be able to give up all other things. Listen to what the Palmist teaches us in Psalm 24:14. What is the cause of such an effectual calling? (1 Corinthians 5:14)

There is no ineffective calling of God. This is not possible. God calls those in whom the Holy Spirit has carefully planted the seed of faith. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in applying the

redemption to us cannot fail. From before the foundation, God's redemption is planned and is carried out without any error. (Isaiah 55:10-11)

The Holy Spirit unites us with Christ. Christ is our head and we are the parts of His body. Therefore, to say that we are united with Christ is to say that we will follow the will of Christ, who is our head. The body or any part thereof that is separate from the head cannot be one with the head. If God's commands are meaningless to us, then we are not one with Him.

To unite with Christ means also that we are one with each other for we are different parts of Christ's body. If we claim that we are one with Christ but cannot be one with each other, then we are lying and sick.

Finally, it is the powerful and mysterious work of the Holy Spirit that unites us with Christ. Apart from the ministry of the Holy Spirit, we, therefore, cannot enter into redemption.