

Which Comes First: Our Love for God or God's Love for us?

Those whom God loves must first be made spiritually alive before they have any hope of loving Him.

The former is proved by 1 John 4:10 & 19.

The latter is proved by common sense.

Spiritually dead men do not, because they cannot, love that which is spiritual.

They are dead to the things of the Spirit, just as men who are literally dead are dead to the things of the world.

Both types of dead men cannot hear nor see.

The former cannot hear and see that which pertains to the Spirit.

The latter cannot hear or see that which pertains to the world.

Spiritually dead men must FIRST be made spiritually alive before they hear or believe.

Physically dead men must first be made physically alive before they can hear and rise from the dead.

Lazarus is given us as an exemplary model of our being made alive by the powerful call of God.

Before Lazarus could rise to physical life, Jesus FIRST had to call him to life.

Similarly, before an unregenerate, spiritually dead man can rise spiritually, God must first call him to life.

Paul teaches this truth in Romans 8.

He lays out the specific order God has designed, by which men are brought to glorification.

God predestines men He first loved (who now love Him) by FIRST calling them.

*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are **the called** according to his purpose [to save them].*

²⁹ For whom he did foreknow [read: loved], he also did predestinate [decree their destiny] to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

*³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also **called**: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

Those God calls He will justify because His calling is to make them spiritually alive which will bring them to faith in Christ, thereby justifying them.

Paul language assumes the infallibility and absolute necessity of God's call resulting in the glorification of those called.

Make sense?