Westminster Shorter Catechism
Question 31
Discussion led by Steven Anderson

Q. 31. *What is effectual calling?*

A. Effectual calling is the work of God's Spirit, whereby convincing us of our sin and misery, enlightening our minds in the knowledge of Christ, and renewing our wills, he doth persuade and enable us to embrace Jesus Christ, freely offered to us in the gospel.

2 Thessalonians 2:13, 14.

Ezekiel 36:26, 27.

John 6:44, 45.

Acts 2:37.

Acts 26:18.

2 Timothy 1:8, 9.

Philippians 2:12, 13.

Personal Application:

Heidelberg Catechism
appended for comparison

Q. 21. *What is true faith?*

A. True faith is
not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true
all that God has revealed to us in his Word (John 17:3, 17; Heb. 11:1–3; James 2:19);

it is also a wholehearted trust (Rom. 4:18–21; 5:1; 10:10; Heb. 4:14–16),
which the Holy Spirit works in me (Matt. 16:15–17; John 3:5; Acts 16:14) by the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 1 Cor. 1:21),

that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also (Gal. 2:20),
forgiveness of sins,
eternal righteousness,
and salvation (Rom. 1:17; Heb. 10:10).

These gifts are purely of grace,
only because of Christ's merit (Rom. 3:21–26; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8–10).

Q. 53. *What do you believe concerning "the Holy Spirit"?*

A. First, that the Spirit, with the Father and the Son,
is eternal God (Gen. 1:1–2; Matt. 28:19; Acts 5:3–4).

Second, that he is given also to me (1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 1:21–22; Gal. 4:6),
so that, through true faith,
he makes me share in Christ and all his benefits (Gal. 3:14),
comforts me (John 15:26; Acts 9:31),
and will remain with me forever (John 14:16–17; 1 Peter 4:14).