

which the Spirit exerts is of two kinds, the common influence and the special, faith-necessitating or irresistible influence. The common influences are not converting and not intended and not expected to convert. These common influences are exerted on all. The special, faith-necessitating or irresistible influence is given to the elect only, those whom God in a past eternity determined to save. This influence infallibly secures the salvation of all on whom it is bestowed. This is the Calvinistic view of the work of the Spirit.

To show that we are not misrepresenting the Calvinistic view of the work of the Spirit we make one or two quotations from the Westminster Confession of Faith. In the Confession, Chap. X, sections I and II, we read, "All those whom God hath predestined unto life, and those only, he is pleased, in his appointed and accepted time, effectually to call, by his word and Spirit, out of that state of sin and death in which they are by nature, to grace and salvation by Jesus Christ; enlightening their minds spiritually and savingly to understand the things of God, taking away their heart of flesh; renewing their wills, and by his Almighty power determining them to that which is good; and effectually drawing them to Jesus Christ; yet that they come most freely, being made willing by his grace. This effectual call is of God's free and special grace alone, not from anything at all foreseen in man; who is altogether passive therein, until, being quickened and renewed by the Holy Spirit, he is thereby enabled to answer this call, and to embrace the grace offered and conveyed in it." "Others not elected, although they may be called by the ministry of the word, and may have some common operations of the Spirit, yet they never truly come unto Christ, and therefore cannot be saved." Sec. IV. We might quote from the larger Catechism to the same purpose. You see then the Calvinistic view of the Spirit's work. The only influence, according to Calvinism, which can convert, is irresistible, and infallibly secures the conversion of all to whom it is given; and it is given only to the eternally and unconditionally elect.

The other view respecting the work of the Spirit is that his influence is not *directly* exerted on the soul, but mediately, through the truth, that it is moral and therefore resistible in its character: that the Blessed Spirit overrules the circumstances in which men are placed, so as to bring the truth respecting their state as sinners and Jesus as their Saviour before their minds, and leave them without excuse, if they do not believe it and be saved.