

The Eight Cannot's

There are 8 things that an unsaved person cannot do:

He **cannot**¹ see the kingdom of God: Jn.3:3-5 *Unless a man is born again [or born from above] he **cannot** see the kingdom of God.*

He **cannot** understand the things of God: 1 Cor. 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he **cannot** understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

He **cannot** please God: Rom. 8:8 *Those controlled by the sinful nature **cannot** please God;* and Hebrews 11:6 *Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

He **cannot** hear Christ's call: John 8:43 *"You are **unable** to hear what I say."*

He **cannot** accept the truth: John 14:17 *The world **cannot** accept [the Spirit of Truth], because it neither sees him nor knows him..."*

He **cannot** come to Jesus: John 6:44 *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him..."*

He **cannot** say Jesus Christ is Lord: 1Cor. 12:3 *No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit"*

He **cannot** believe what the Bible says: John 12:39,40 *For this reason they **could not** believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere: 'He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts..."*

So, a man who is without the help of God, who is dead in trespasses and sin, and who is not saved, *cannot* see the kingdom of God, *cannot* understand the things of the Spirit, *cannot* please God, *cannot* hear Jesus' calling, *cannot* accept Jesus, *cannot* come to Jesus, *cannot* say "Jesus is Lord," and he *cannot* believe the Gospel. That is the situation he is in without Christ. That is why we emphasize the great and irresistible work of God's Holy Spirit.

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¹ Each verse here uses the Greek *a-dunamai* [NT:1410] – lacking the power, permission, strength, or ability