

GOD GIVES SALVATION

HEBREWS 12:16, 17

How did you see God working in your life this week? (Romans 1:11, 12)

BACKGROUND: God saved me on His terms, and He allows me to escape the corruptions of sin by participating in His divine nature; but Esau, like his ancestor, Cain, would not bow to God's terms.

ONLY BY GRACE. Godless Esau's parents were believers, whose faith allowed them to be greatly used by God; but God has no grandchildren. My personal relationship with the Lord is not through anyone but the Lord himself, who seeks my intimate fellowship and presence. As God looked down through eternity, He "knew" me; and, by His grace, He saved me. (Hebrews 12:16, 17, Hebrews 11:20, fn 11:20, Genesis 27:32-41, fn 27:33-37, Ephesians 1:4-8, fn 1:4, Ephesians 2:4-9, fn 2:8, 9) *How do you see God's grace work in your salvation?*

WITH HOLINESS. Esau was given the chance, as the first-born son in a Jewish family, to be the spiritual leader and priest to his siblings; but Esau was "a man who was preoccupied only with personal gratification. For such a person there are only the self and the present moment..." William L. Lane, Word Biblical Commentary: Hebrews 9-13, p. 455. If Esau was a man of faith and therefore, a believer, his actions surely did not prove it. "Esau despised blessings that ultimately affected a whole posterity rather than endure an empty stomach." Lane, p. 455. When I became a Christian, the Lord filled me with His life. Now I have a choice, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a faith-filled life of grateful obedience and love for the Lord. (Hebrews 12:16, 17, Hebrews 10:10-14, fn 10:14, John 17:17-19, fn 17:17, I Peter 1:8, 9, fn 1:8, 9, Hebrews 4:14-16, fn 4:16) *What is necessary for you to enter into God's presence and how do you do it?*

WITH REPENTANCE. Our salvation has two parts: Faith (or trusting God) and repentance (or turning from our old way of thinking and living) to God's way. Esau was sorry that he was not getting the blessing but was not interested in giving up on his old way of life. (Hebrews 12:17, John 1:12, 13, fn 1:12, 13, I Peter 2:10, Colossians 1:12-14, fn 1:12-14, Romans 6:6-11, fn 6:6, Hebrews 10:19-22, fn 10:21, 22, I John 1:9) *How does repentance help you to know God's rest in your salvation?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?

