

GOD GIVES US BREAD FROM HEAVEN

JOHN 6:41-59

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

BACKGROUND: You know that grace is God's power (**II Corinthians 12:7-9**) but what is bread from heaven? "Our Lord's messages recorded in the Gospel of John are filled with symbolism and imagery. To take them literally is to make the same mistake the people made who first heard them." Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, New Testament, Volume I, p. 313.

TO SAVE BY HIS GRACE. By grace Jesus drew me to Himself. With this irresistible grace, I could see the absolute wonder of who He is and feel the immense love and forgiveness poured into my newborn heart. I believed and the seal of the Holy Spirit gave me a joy and an assurance that I belonged to Him and was eternally saved! (**John 6:44, fn 6:44, Romans 11:6, fn 11:6, Ephesians 2:4-9, fn 2:4, 5, fn 2:8, 9, II Corinthians 5:17, fn 5:17, II Corinthians 5:5, fn 5:5**) *What part did grace play in your salvation?*

TO KNOW HIM. There is no spiritually hierarchy in those that belong to Jesus. Whether or not you stock shelves, own a huge oil company, or have an advanced degree from a prestigious seminary, God promises to teach everyone that comes to Him in faith. No pastor, priest, or layman can stand between you and God. By the Holy Spirit, God gives insight to all His children so that they may know Him more and more. (**John 6:45, 46, fn 6:45, Hebrews 8:11, fn 8:8-12, John 14:26, fn 14:26, John 16:12-15, fn 16:13[2nd], I John 2:20, fn 2:20, I John 2:27, fn 2:27, Ephesians 5:18, fn 5:18**) *Why is it important to be filled (controlled) by the Holy Spirit to know God?*

TO GIVE FAITH. Jesus used eating as figurative language for believing in Him. F. F. Bruce quotes from the Anglican Book of Common Prayer when speaking of the Lord's Supper: "Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee and feed on Him in the heart by faith with thanksgiving." F. F. Bruce, The Gospel and Epistles of John, p.161. The bread represents Christ's life that is given by faith. (**John 6:48-59, fn 6:47ff, fn 6:51, fn 6:56, Hebrew 11:6, Romans 3:28, fn 3:28, Romans 4:5, fn 4:5, Romans 10:17**) *How does Jesus become bread to you by faith?*

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?