

was cast into the lake of fire."

The question today, "Is your heart like Esau when he despised his birthright from his father?" Do you treat your birthright from your heavenly Father in the same way? Just remember our birthright from God is an inheritance for each person who trusts and obeys the words from God in the Bible. Remember Esau wept aloud when he knew he had no more blessings from his father. Learn from others mistakes, and don't repeat them. It's your inheritance.

-Bill Davis

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Faithful Sayings

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Esau Despised His Birthright

Have you ever noticed how so many children and Christians today will often give everything away that their parents or God has to offer them because they do not think through their immediate actions? Sometimes when young people are growing up they tend to live on impulses rather than common sense. As always, when I write an article I will always go to the Bible for my examples to show the pit falls of life that a person will fall into when he doesn't listen to or obey God's word for guidance in his daily walk. In **Genesis 25:29-34** we read about a young man who at this time in his life was young and foolish, for when he was hungry he gave away his birthright for a bowl of SOUP. His actions would come to haunt him in the near future. Now Esau was a skillful hunter of the open country. He was the outdoor man of his time. If we take a closer look

at Esau we can see that he lived on the impulse of the moment; that is he did not think before he leaped. In **Genesis 25:32-33** we see that Esau was very hungry from hunting all day and when he saw his brother Jacob cooking stew Esau just lost it. **Genesis 25:29-33: "Now Jacob cooked a stew; and Esau came in from the field, and he was weary. And Esau said to Jacob, "Please feed me with that same red stew, for I am weary." Therefore his name was called Edom. But Jacob said "Sell me your birthright as of this day." and Esau said "Look, I am about to die; so what is this birthright to me?" Then Jacob said, "Swear to me as of this day.""** We see where Esau let his stomach do the thinking for him because he just knew he was going to die from being hungry. Does this type of thinking sound like us today, where we put our foot

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in our mouth before we think about what we are going to say or do? So when Jacob asked Esau for his birthright Esau thought nothing of it and just gave it away. Now a birthright at this time was a very special honor given to the firstborn son of a family. This birthright would include a double portion of the family inheritance as well. Also, a birthright meant that the firstborn son would someday become the leader of the family as well as the spiritual leader. If the oldest son so desired to sell his birthright or just give it away then he would lose the position of the leader of the family and he would lose any material possession that he would have been given. Also when Esau just gave away his birthright for a bowl of SOUP he showed complete disregard for his spiritual blessings that he would have received if he kept it. To keep it simple, by giving his birthright away he despised his blessings that he would have received from his earthly father and from his heavenly Father. When Esau said he was going to die from his hunger he did exaggerate his hunger just a little. When he made the statement "For I am about to die." the choice to give away his birthright was made a little easier because if he really was starving what good would his birthright be anyway. You see, the pressure at this moment distorted his perspective and made his decisions seem urgent and short-sighted. As Christians today, do we often feel or act in the

same way as Esau did? And I will say "Yes we do." As Christians, do we often just throw away our inheritance and our salvation due to the pressure of this world to pleasure and sinful living? How many times have we seen other Christians who have tasted the Lord, seen He was good and seen His beauty and riches that are promised just to give it away and go back into the world of sin and shame as seen in **Hebrews 6:4-6?** In **II Peter 2:20-22** Peter had a lot to say about Christians who gave up what they had just to go back into the pigpen. **II Peter 2:20-22:** *"For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit, and a sow having washed to her wallowing in the mire."*

Here Peter is speaking of those who have learned about Christ and how to be saved and to have everlasting life with God and His Son in heaven. These are those who have been taught the truth and have been washed in the blood of Christ in His death, burial and resurrection to

to have eternal life as a free gift from God. But then they reject the teachings of Christ and refuse to follow God only to return to their former ways of the world. This person is worse off than before because he has rejected the only way to be saved from his sins. Like Esau with his father, can we as Christians do the same thing with our birthright that God, our heavenly Father, has for us if we remain true? Can we throw away our birthright with God by showing utter contempt for God's grace and mercy which He has shown on us by sending His Son to die for all mankind? Can we show contempt for God's word by turning from His word, the Bible, and by not believing and obeying it? As Christians can we show our disregard for God's Son who showed us the way to heaven by dying on the cross for all of us? Do we show contempt by turning our backs against God when He forgave us of all our sins having canceled the written code with its regulations that were against us and that stood opposed to us? He took it away by nailing it to the cross. Can we be like Esau was toward his father by throwing away his father's blessing that his father would have given to him when the time was right? Can we be like Esau and tell our heavenly Father we don't want anything from Him and go our own way in the world? I dare say we today are like Esau when we turn our backs against God and tell God, " We don't hear you or want anything

from you." I dare say we as Christians need to thank God for His blessings which He bestows on us daily and blesses us with His love and His grace. Most of all, can we reject His Son who died on the cross for our sins to save us from the eternal pits of hell reserved for those who are lost? Yes, we can be like Esau and just walk away from our heavenly Father. Sadly, we can just say "no". Like Esau we today can reject our birthright from God only to desire it later on in life. Like Esau, we too can ask our heavenly Father to give us a blessing only to weep aloud when the time has come for the judgment day. In Revelation **20:11-15** we read that the dead are judged according to what each person has done.

"Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God and books were opened. And another book was opened which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life