

Earthly Consequences

6-29-25

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and (make every effort to be *holy); without holiness no one will see the Lord.

This is addressing “earthly consequences” not our salvation. This concerns our living experience on this earth. We do not come before the Lord in our holiness for our salvation. We come to the Lord as those separated from God to be cleansed by HIS blood that HE shed on the cross. After salvation God teaches us to behave in a holy manner as stated in Hebrews 12:10. Therefore as believers we make every effort to let God live through us.

***Holiness means to be set apart for God. We make a decision to experience holiness by hearing God and letting HIM work through us.**

Hebrews 12:15 (NIV)

See to it that no one “falls short” of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

Grace is the divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life, favor and power.

Falling short of God's Grace is the root of bitterness. When believers blunder through life ignoring God, living like HE doesn't exist, we miss God's grace and don't experience God's power.

Jeremiah 17:6 (NIV)

⁵This is what the LORD says: "Cursed is the one who trusts in man, who draws strength from mere flesh and whose heart turns away from the LORD. ⁶That person will be like a bush in the wastelands; they will not see prosperity when it comes."

When we don't look to Jesus, we can't even see God's blessing when it comes. We become bitter! However, God is working in us. We need to let Him work. [Here is a Definition of Grace:](#)

Philippians 2:13 (ESV)

For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Seeing God gives us the will and the power to obey HIM or gives us the desire and the strength to obey HIM. When we are not operating in Grace, we will operate out of our own selfish self-interests, which leads us to live powerless lives.

It is clear who walks in grace or self-interest!

Titus 1:15 (ESV)

To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure.

Those operating out of God's grace see all things as pure with God at working through every situation. Those operating out of bitterness nothing is pure, and their minds are corrupted. **Nothing is ever right.** Without seeing the Lord and not having an eternal view in situations, instant gratification becomes a way of life. *Esau was an example of living a life of "instant gratification" and suffering the consequences.*

Here is a Definition of Instant Gratification:

Hebrews 12:16 (ESV)

See that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright **for a single meal.**

In the OT, Esau came back from a hunting trip. His brother Jacob was cooking up some food and Esau asks him for something to eat. Jacob agrees if Esau will give him his birthright. Being very hungry, Esau traded his birthright to Jacob for a meal.

For this instant *gratification*, *Esau sold his future inheritance for a single meal.*

Here is a Definition of Earthly Consequences:

Hebrews 12:17 (NIV)

Afterward, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. Even though he sought the blessing with tears, **he could not change what he had done.**

Like Esau, instant gratification often results in “Earthy Consequences” that we can never change. This is not a question of God’s forgiveness. Esau could have returned to God. However, he could not undo what he did. King David disobeyed in a similar fashion and could not undo what he did. However, David confessed his sin. Even though the damage was done, God forgave David and ultimately called David a man after HIS own heart. Brothers and sisters, we need to live this life with our eyes set upon Jesus. Even though God will always forgive us we should make every effort to let HIM work through us because as believers we can still cause a lot of damage. There are earthly consequences for decisions we make.

1 Thessalonians 4:7 (ESV)

For God has not called us for impurity, but for holiness (set apart for God).

Lesson: We do not want to miss God's Grace and cause problems we can never undo. But no matter what, God forgives. Like David, we can regroup and continue to serve God because we are covered in the blood of Jesus.

Colossians 2:13–14 (ESV)

God has forgiven us all our trespasses. ... HE set them aside, nailing them to the cross.