



Daily Verse and Comment

Romans 9:9-16

(9) Because this *is the* word of promise: "According to this set time I will come, and Sarah shall have a son." (10) And not only *that*, but Rebecca also having conceived by one, Isaac our father, (11) But before *the children* had been born, or had done anything good or evil (in order that the purpose of God according to His own selection might stand— not of works, but of Him Who calls), (12) It was said to her, "The elder shall serve the younger." (13) Accordingly, it is written, "Jacob I loved, and Esau I hated." (14) What then shall we say? *Is there* unrighteousness with God? MAY IT NEVER BE! (15) For He said to Moses, "I will show mercy to whomever I show mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I have compassion." (16) So then, *it is* not of the one who wills, nor of the one who runs; rather, *it is* of God, Who shows mercy.

A Faithful Version

Our calling and election by [God](#) preceded even the slightest fragment of saving knowledge of God and thus our having [faith](#) in Him. Therefore, we could not possibly earn any grace of God, even as Jacob could not. As a vivid illustration for us, God deliberately chose to do this *before* Jacob could possibly do any works pertaining to salvation.

An almost overwhelming nugget of truth may be gleaned from these verses. If God is revealing here His general pattern which He follows to call *all* of those He is choosing to save at this time, then it shows that our personal calling and election into His spiritual creation is in no way random but very specific, even as Jacob's was.

Perhaps we, like Jacob was, are called from the womb so that, like him, there will never be any doubt that even the tiniest of our works had a part in saving

us. There is precedent for this in [Jeremiah 1:5](#) about Jeremiah's birth and calling; in [Luke 1:11-17](#) about John the Baptist; and in [Psalm 139:14-16](#) about David.

We might think that these were really great personages, people important to God's purpose. They were indeed, but are we not part of the same spiritual Body and part of the same Family as they are? Does not God say that there is no partiality with Him in [Romans 2:11](#)? Every part of the Body of [Jesus Christ](#) is important. Enough is revealed in Scripture for us to give this serious consideration.

— John W. Ritenbaugh

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