

SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

(Ephesians 1:13-14)

It is God's desire and will for every genuine Christian to know, enjoy and experience the reality and assurance of his or her salvation. The lack of assurance of one's salvation provides an opportunity for Satan to instill doubt, fear, and even spiritual depression upon our soul. This is the reason why God Himself gives us the Holy Spirit as the seal and pledge of our eternal salvation and glorious inheritance in Christ. As we reflect on Paul's concluding words of praise for God's saving work in Ephesians 1:13-14, we will consider three biblical details concerning the Holy Spirit as God's seal upon the believer.

1. *The _____ when We are Sealed with the Spirit*

The Ephesian believers heard the word of truth as it was proclaimed to them as the gospel of salvation (Eph. 1:13). But they did not merely listen to it; they received it with understanding and embraced it in their hearts as the true and trustworthy Word of God (Mark 4:20). There is but one saving response to the gospel and it is belief and trust in the Lord Jesus alone for salvation. Hearing the word of truth and belief in Christ are indispensable to salvation. Paul further explains that that belief in Christ and the sealing of the Holy Spirit happens at the same time. In other words, the sealing of the Holy Spirit upon the believer takes place at the very moment of one's conversion to Christ.

2. *The _____ of Being Sealed with the Spirit*

Being sealed with the Spirit means that we receive the promised Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13). The seal that God gives to every Christian is the Holy Spirit Himself who is promised by God in Christ (John 14:16-17). Only those who believe and trust in Christ experience and enjoy the blessing of the personal presence, help, comfort and power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). Being sealed with the Spirit further means that we belong to God forever. A seal in the ancient times is used to mark ownership and to authenticate and secure a document. When God seals us with the Holy Spirit, He marks us out as His very own possession, He authenticates and affirms that we are His children and He secures our eternal loving relationship with Him (Eph. 1:13; Rom. 8:9,14-16; 2 Tim. 2:19). Finally, being sealed with the Spirit means that we are guaranteed of our full and eternal inheritance in Christ (Eph. 1:14). The Holy Spirit is God's divine guarantee and pledge of assurance that He will secure and preserve us until we receive and enjoy the fullness of our glorious inheritance in Christ.

3. *The _____ of Being Sealed with the Spirit*

In his concluding words of praise, Paul reminds believers that God's ultimate goal in saving us, adopting us, redeeming us, blessing us with an eternal inheritance and in sealing us with the Holy Spirit is the praise of His own glory (Eph. 1:14). We must never cease to wonder and marvel at the greatness of God's saving love for us. For all eternity, we will declare in joyful and endless adoration and praise that God alone deserves all the glory, honor, majesty and worship!
