

EPHESIANS 1:11-14

“SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT”

CHAPTER 1:13-14 KJV

11 In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, 12 that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory. 13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

10 Spiritual Blessings in Heavenly Realms

1. God **Elected** us to be... - (vrs 4)
2. God **Predestined** us ... - (vrs 5 also 11-12)
3. God **Adopted** us ... - (vrs 5)
4. God **Accepted** us - (vrs 6)
5. God **Redeemed** us - (vrs 7, 14)
6. God **Forgave us** - (vrs 7)
7. God **Lavished Grace** on us – (vrs 7-8)
8. God **Revealed** his will to us - (vrs 9-10)
9. God **Gave an Inheritance** to us - (vrs 11)
10. God **Sealed** us – (vrs 13)

[] The Holy Spirit's Work and Ministry

Great is the mystery – seven spirits of God in Revelation

The Holy Spirit – 14 times in Ephesians (9 topics)

1. The Seal of the HS – Ephesians 1:13-14
2. The Work of the HS – Ephesians 2:5 quickening, 3:16
3. The Baptism of the HS – Ephesians 4:5 (term not used in Eph)
4. The Fullness of the HS – Ephesians 5:18, 3:16, 19
5. The Fruit of the HS – Ephesians 2:22, 4:3, 5:9
6. The Gifts of the HS – Ephesians 4:9-16
7. The Grieving of the HS – Ephesians 4:30

Sword of the Spirit – Eph. 6:17

Prayer in the Spirit – Eph 6:18

[] The Mystery of Holy Spirit's Work & Ministry

Great is the mystery – seven spirits of God in Revelation – Holy Ghost

(ie) The Emperor's New Clothes

Whatever is referred to here, it is certain that it is something that happened after conversion, that is, after you believed, not before, and possibly not at conversion.

The Holy Spirit is a controversial topic, just as **Election and Predestination** are controversial. Just as no one has a corner on full understanding of Election and Predestination, so it is with the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. No one has a corner and all understanding. It seems to be a mystery like Election and Predestination, beyond our full grasp, thus the Holy Spirit is referred to, illustrated, demonstrated, but not fully explained to us by the Apostle. If there were to be a “do over” which the Apostle Paul could come back and rewrite his epistles it would be to clarify, leave perfectly understood the baptism and fullness of the Holy Spirit. Even having said that we must not that much is taught about the Holy Spirit both by Jesus in John 14-15 and by Paul in I Corinthians 12-14. Yet much is left unsaid.

The passage before us is much misunderstood, variously interpreted to suit one's predisposition on the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit. It is difficult indeed to approach any Biblical topic without prior prejudice. No one is really objective having no preconceived idea before beginning to examine a passage. The best we can do in interpreting (not translating, but paraphrasing) is to compare Scripture with Scripture. Let Scripture shed light on itself for the Holy Spirit never contradicts himself in the Word.

(ie) “**Just the facts Ma'am, Just the facts**” This catchy phrase of Sgt. Joe Friday (Jack Webb) of the famous “Dragnet” television series in the fifties, sixties and seventies.

So our first question in approaching this delicate passage is “**Where else is this sealing of the Holy Spirit spoken of?**” The second, or maybe it should be the first question is, “What else has Scripture taught us about the Holy Spirit that can shed light on this passage?”

I. The Meaning of the “Seal”

Charles Hodge and Martin-Lloyd Jones and many other commentators agree that there are **three meanings to being sealed**.

Charles Hodge:

There are several purposes for which a seal is used.

- a. To **authenticate** or confirm as genuine and true. – King’s seal. Esther 8:8
- b. To **mark as one’s property**. – Song of Solomon 8:6
- c. To **render secure**. – The tomb (Matthew 27:66)

1. The first hint is given in Ephesians 4:30

“And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

2. Then, II Corinthians 1:21

2 Corinthians 1:22 Who has also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

3. Then, Romans 8:14-16

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

4. Next, I John 5:10

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

5. Finally, 2 Timothy 2:19

*Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, **having this seal**, ‘The Lord knows them that are his.’ And, Let every one that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

The Holy Spirit is referred to 200 plus times in the New Testament.

The Holy Spirit’s work and ministry are not unknown to us.

But what is this SEAL of the HOLY SPIRIT that Paul refers to here?

II. **The Facts Concerning This Seal**

(ie) “Just the facts Ma’am, Just the facts” This catchy phrase of Sgt. Joe Friday (Jack Webb) of the famous “Dragnet” television series in the fifties, sixties and seventies, has been popping into my head these days.

Whatever it is...

There is confusion over the Holy Spirit’s work and ministry.

Many have experiences and say this is that.

This is the baptism of Acts 2:4.

This is the gift of tongues.

This is the Second Work of Grace.

This is the powerful encounter with the Holy Spirit.

This is Sanctification

FACTS: What it clearly says ...

- 1. YOU WERE SEALED WITH THAT HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE**
- 2. IT IS THE EARNEST OF OUR INHERITANCE**
- 3. IT IS UNTIL THE REDEMPTION OF THE PURCHASED POSSESSION.**

FACT: What it really means...

1. All True Believers Have It.

He did not say, some of you have the seal but others are still waiting, need to wait for it, or seek after it. Every true believer has it.

2. It Is A Seal From God. Not to be sought after, but is already given.

Not an award. Not earned or merited. It is ours as with all these spiritual blessings already given in heavenly realms. It has to do with our inheritance and redemption.

3. It Is A Down Payment of Our Inheritance.

It is a guarantee, a sign, a seal, a promise of that which is to come.

Paul is revealing things to us that are spiritual blessings in heavenly places. They are not blessings yet to be received, except the full redemption of the body, which he makes clear, that full redemption, and full inheritance are yet to come.

This seal of the Holy Spirit has to do with the witness of the Spirit that we truly belong to Christ.

III. The Person (or *Identity*) of that Seal *It is the Jesus In Us. The Abba, Father Spirit in us.*

It agrees with the passage and its context of Adoption, Inheritance, and Redemption.

1. *Spirit of Truth* – Jn 14:17
2. *I Will Come To You* – Jn 14:18
3. *Abide in me & I In You* – Jn 15:4
4. *I Will Never Leave You* – Heb 13:5

Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if **any man have not the Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.

It is the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Indweller

Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Romans 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Romans 8:23 And not only *they*, but ourselves also, which have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the **adoption**, *to wit*, the **redemption** of our body.

Received Him, receives him that sent me, received by the Holy Spirit.

John 1:11-12 He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

John 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and *of* the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 14:17 *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but ye know him; for he dwells with you, and shall be in you.

It is the wonderful transforming presence of the Holy Spirit in your life. Now we can go on to gifts of the Holy Spirit, fullness of the Holy Spirit, praying in the Holy Spirit.

He that has the Son has life, and he that has not the Son of God has not life, but the wrath of God abides on him. – I John 5:12

(ie) Christ in Me, O Wonderful Story

(ie) Christ in Me, O Wonderful Story #166

This is my wonderful story
Christ in my heart has come;
Jesus the King of glory
Finds in my heart a home.

I am so glad I received him,
Jesus my heart's dear King,
I who so often have grieved him,
All to His feet would bring.

Christ in me, Christ in me,
Christ in me O wonderful story;
Christ in me, the hope of glory.

Colossians 1:27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

Himself - #248

Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord.
Once it was the feeling, Now it is his Word.
Once His gift I wanted, Now the Giver own.
Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be.
Once I tried to use him, Now he uses me.
Once the power I wanted, Now the Mighty One
Once for self I labored, Now for Him alone.

Let's deal first of all with what it is not.

What he is NOT talking about:

1. Not the convict the world of sin, righteousness, & judgment. The Convicter

John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

2. Not the work of the Holy Spirit in Salvation. The Drawer

John 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

3. Not the work of sanctification of the Spirit. The Perfecter

2 Thessalonians 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:

1 Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

4. Not the Joy Unspeakable and Full of Glory. The Joy Giver

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

5. Not the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Enabler

1 Corinthians 12:1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ephesians 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

6. Not the Gift of Tongues – The Prayer-er

1 Corinthians 12:30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

7. Not the sealing of Revelation Seven – The Protector

Revelation 7:3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

8. Not the coming of the Spirit at Pentecost. The Baptizer

Matthew 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

Mark 1:8 I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

Luke 3:16 John answered, saying unto *them* all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

9. Not the Comforting Holy Spirit. The Comforter/Helper/Teacher

John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 14:26 But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

10. Not the one who prays for us. Not the Intercessor

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Emperor's New Clothes is a [Danish fairy tale](#) written by [Hans Christian Andersen](#) and first published in [1837](#), (*Fairy Tales, Told for Children*).

Many years ago there lived an emperor who was quite an average fairy tale ruler, with one exception: he cared much about his clothes. One day he heard from two swindlers named Guido and Luigi Farabutto that they could make the finest suit of clothes from the most beautiful cloth. This cloth, they said, also had the special capability that it was invisible to anyone who was either stupid or not fit for his position.

Being a bit nervous about whether he himself would be able to see the cloth, the emperor first sent two of his trusted men to see it. Of course, neither would admit that they could not see the cloth and so praised it. All the townspeople had also heard of the cloth and were interested to learn how stupid their neighbors were.

The emperor then allowed himself to be dressed in the clothes for a procession through town, never admitting that he was too unfit and stupid to see what he was wearing. He was afraid that the other people would think that he was stupid.

Of course, all the townspeople wildly praised the magnificent clothes of the emperor, afraid to admit that they could not see them, until a small child said:

"But he has nothing on!"

This was whispered from person to person until everyone in the crowd was shouting that the emperor had nothing on. The emperor heard it and felt that they were correct, but held his head high and finished the procession.