

“Blessings from God the Holy Spirit”  
Ephesians 1:13-14

Introduction - Paul wants the believers in Ephesus to understand the blessings they have in Christ! We are rich in Christ! These riches were *planned by the Father, purchased by the Son, and presented by the Spirit.*

So in our text today, Paul’s focus is on the believers blessings from God the Holy Spirit. It’s through his work we are brought into union with Christ. It’s the Holy Spirit that “links us up” to salvation.

Undoubtedly the least understood Person of the Godhead is the Holy Spirit.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- He is the third Person of God.
- So, He’s a person.
- And, He’s God
- He’s The Holy Spirit of Promise, vs. 13b.

Jesus promised to send “the Comforter,” the Spirit of Truth, John 16.

What is the Holy Spirit’s work in salvation?

Six works of the Spirit:

**I. “Ye heard,”** vs. 13.

What is it they heard? “The word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.”

**1. “Convicting”-** The Spirit of God uses the word of God to convict the sinner!

- John 16:8-11 - Sin, righteousness, judgement.
- Rom. 10:17 - Faith cometh by hearing.....  
    Illus. - Heard Stephen’s sermon, Acts 7, so kick against the goads.

**II. “Ye believed,”** vs. 13

- It’s faith. See 2:8.
- John 3:16 - “Believe” same as “receive,” John 1:12

So what happens when we believe in Jesus?

## **2. Rengenrating** - We are regenerated, 2:4-5.

- Titus 3:5, “Not by works of righteousness...”
- It’s Born Again, John 3.

## **3. Indwelling**

- I Cor. 6:19, What? Know ye not that your body...”
- Rom. 8 & 9, if not “he is none of his.”

## **4. Baptizing**

- I Cor. 12:13
- Eph. 4:5

## **II. “Ye were sealed,” vs. 13**

### **5. Sealing**

Who are sealed?

All Christians! Even carnal Corinthians. II Cor. 1:22. Scriptures nowhere exhort any believer to be sealed. Contrast with filled! Eph. 5:18.

Who does the sealing? God the Father! II Cor. 1:22

When are believers sealed? At the moment of believing and receiving Christ as Savior. Eph. 1:13. In the K.J. version it reads, “after that ye believed.” Literally, in whom having believed ye were sealed.”

When are we sealed?

- Authenticity
- Security

### **1. Authenticity**

- A seal is used to confirm an object or document as being true or genuine!  
Illus. - The United States seal on a passport. So it’s proof that we are really saved.
- Also a seal was used to mark a thing as one’s property. Illus. - A name plate on the fly leaf of a book.

So we are God's property!

**2. Security** - This is the chief idea behind the believers sealing for the primary meaning of sealing is security.

*Illus.* - Pilate sealed the tomb of Jesus! In Matt. 27, “‘You have a guard; go, make it as secure as you know how.’ And they went and made the grave secure, and along with the guard they set a seal on the stone” (Matt. 27:65, 66). “Seal” in this passage is the same Greek word used in passages which speak of the sealing of the Holy Spirit. A.T. Robertson says that the sealing in the stone was “probably by a cord stretched across the stone and sealed at each end as in Dan. 6:17. The sealing was done in the presence of the Roman guard who were left in charge to protect this stamp of Roman authority and power.” In an even more meaningful way, when the Spirit seals us or puts His mark on us, we are secure in Christ.

Billy Graham, book, *The Holy Spirit*, “An English missionary died in India in the early part of this century. Immediately after his death his former neighbors broke into his house and started carrying away his possessions. The English Consul was notified, and since there was no lock on the door of the missionary's house, he pasted a piece of paper across it and affixed the seal of England on it. The looters did not dare break the seal because the world's most powerful nation stood behind it.”

*When the believer is sealed, he is secure!*

Romans 8:38,39, “*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*”

How long are we sealed? See 4:30.

You can grieve the Holy Spirit, so don't sin. But you can't grieve Him away!

One of the best illustrations of sealing is a piece of registered mail. Only two persons can open registered mail. The *sender* and the *recipient*. God is both!

**6. The work of “Guaranteeing.”** vs. 14 K.J.V. “*earnest.*”

1. It meant “*the down payment to guarantee the final purchase of some commodity or piece of property.*” So a “*down payment*” or “*pledge.*” Such as buying a house or car.

So a foretaste of what was to come! For us the Holy Spirit is a foretaste of Heaven! For example, the spies Joshua and Caleb, the grapes of Eshcol (Num. 13). So, (vs. 14) until we are fully redeemed, God won't go back on the deal!

2. But, "earnest" was also used for an "engagement ring". So our relationship with God is not simply a commercial one, but also a personal experience of love.

"All the praise of His Glory," vs. 6 & vs. 12. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify Jesus!

- 1. Convicting**
- 2. Regenerating**
- 3. Indwelling**
- 4. Baptizing**
- 5. Sealing**
- 6. Guaranteeing**

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow...."

"Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost!"