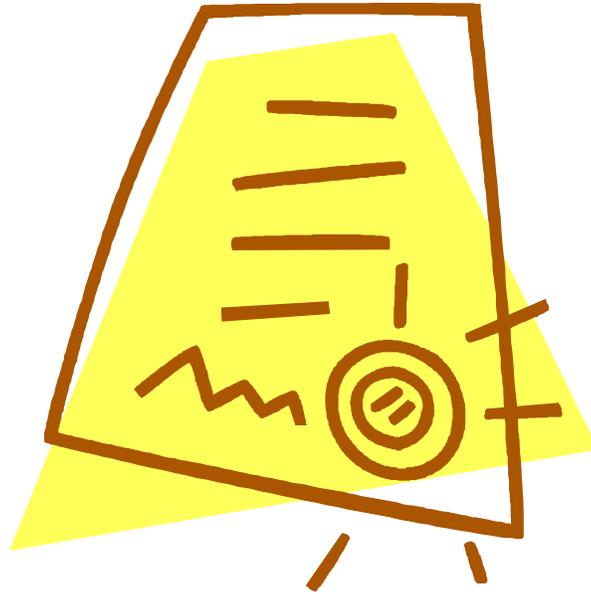


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 60

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
For What Purpose Were We Sealed by God the Holy Spirit?



2012

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. *(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved."* *(John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

In our last lesson we learned about the SEALING ministry of God the Holy Spirit. In review, what exactly does the Holy Spirit seal for the believer? The seal is the last step of our so great salvation. At salvation many things have been put in place and all was made secure by the seal of the Holy Spirit. Let's review:



In [Ephesians 1:3-14](#) Paul has already identified the things that are sealed and made secure by God the Holy Spirit.

- (3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ (Baptism of the Holy Spirit),
- (4) just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless (+R) before Him. In love
- (5) He predestined us (God has a plan for our lives) to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will,
- (6) to the praise of the glory of His grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved (Jesus).
- (7) In Him we have redemption through His blood (freed from the slavery of our sin nature), the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace
- (8) which He lavished on us. In all wisdom (the Word of God) and insight
- (9) He made known to us the mystery (doctrines of the Church Age) of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him (Jesus)
- (10) with a view to an dispensation suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth. In Him
- (11) also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose (our sanctification or setting us apart for a special job to do here on earth) who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- (12) to the end that we who were the first to hope (confidence) in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.
- (13) In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation...having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,
- (14) who is given (He lives in us) as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory."

These are the things in [Ephesians 1:3-14](#) that are sealed with the Person of The Holy Spirit! Remember, we are "in Christ" (our current position in Christ by means of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit). You can't forget the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, right?



Let's break it all down a bit and look a little closer. One of the highlights concerning our spiritual gifts is in verse 4 where it states that we are chosen (for privilege and set apart for a purpose...our spiritual gift) and made blameless (+R) before Him.

In verse 5 we learn that we have been given a pre-designed plan for each of us, and we have been set in place as the adult sons and daughters of God the Father. You remember that lesson, don't you? Roman adoption is what our spiritual adoption was designed after and it does not mean the same as adoption today in America. Our

spiritual adoption is much higher and affects our relationship with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Verse 6 tells us that we have been accepted in the Beloved (Jesus) through His grace. How wonderful!!

Verse 7 teaches us that we have been forgiven and redeemed from the slave market of our sin nature and verses 8 and 9 state that God's will has been revealed to us. How? In the Bible of course.

In verses 10 and 11 we discover that we have an eternal inheritance because of our union with Christ. We are given the same things Christ was given while He was here on earth! Awesome, isn't it?



Then in verses 12 and 13 we come to the point where God places His seal on all these blessings by sending the Holy Spirit to live inside us. Remember the fact that He lives inside us **IS** the seal or guaranty of our eternal security.

Okay, now I want to get serious here. I want to bend your minds and souls a bit...NO a lot!!!

Whenever you see something fantastic that God has done for you, ask the question: why? For what purpose am I sealed? Why has He sealed me with the Holy Spirit?

What is the purpose behind the sealing ministry of the Spirit?

What does this prepare me for? What does this enable God to perform in and through me?

How is Christ glorified by this act of my being sealed with God the Holy Spirit for the day of redemption (the Rapture)?

What's the reason?

What is the design, the expected outcome, the end game, the goal of His sealing?



Let's look at 3 "sealed with the Spirit" Bible passages in the New Testament to find out what is expected of us from God Who guaranteed all our blessings through the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit:

[2 Cor 1:21-22](#) "And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, (22) and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."

Let's look at our first passage in [2 Cor 2:5-11 and 17](#). It's about a person who did something really bad in the church in Corinth and the believers in that church asked this person to leave because of what that person had done. Whatever this person had done had shocked them and they tossed the person out of the church. "But if any has caused sorrow, he has caused sorrow not to me, but in some degree...in order not to say too much...to all of you. (6) Sufficient for such a person is this punishment which was inflicted by the majority (they asked him to leave the church), (7) so that on the contrary you should rather **forgive** and **comfort him**, otherwise such a person might be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. (8) Therefore, I urge you to **confirm your love for him**. (9) For to this end also I wrote, **so that** I might put you to the test, whether you are **obedient in all things**. (10) But the person you forgive, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for your sakes in the presence of Christ, (11) **so that no advantage would be taken of us by Satan**, for we are not ignorant of his schemes. [2 Cor 2:17](#) "For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's Word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God **we speak in Christ** (to believers and unbelievers)."

Do you see what the Apostle Paul is teaching here? We have commands from this passage and God to:

1. Forgive others.
2. Love others.
3. Be obedient to the word of God.
4. Be on your guard about the Angelic Conflict swirling around you.
5. Show the knowledge of Christ to believers and unbelievers.



The following basic principles summarize what it is to live the Christian Life. They are...

1. Know the angelic conflict.
2. Know how to glorify God.
4. Live for others.
5. Continually take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.



Now let's look at our second "sealed with the Spirit" passage. It is one of just a handful of times when the Bible actually records a prayer that Paul has for the church. Here it is:

Eph 1:13-23 "For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you and your love for all the saints, (16) do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers; (17) **that** the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him**. (18) I pray **that** the eyes of your heart may be open-minded, **so that you will know** (from God's Word) **what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints**, (19) **and what is the surpassing greatness of His power** (through the Holy Spirit) **toward us who believe** (faith). These are in harmony with the working of the strength of His might (20) which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. (22) And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and **gave Him as head over all things to the church**, (23) **which is His body** (us), **the fullness of Him who fills all in all.**"

Well, what comes directly after "**that**" in this passage is very interesting and marvelous.

1. Prayer.
2. Wisdom.
3. Learning new revelations about our Great God.
4. Knowing the hope of His calling.
5. Knowing the riches of the glory of His inheritance for you.



Knowing and living in the surpassing greatness of His POWER toward us who...who keep on BELIEVING! After all we are His body, the fullness of Christ who fills all in all.

Wow! Notice what we are called to do in this passage...two things really: Learn the things in the Bible and claim them as our own. Keep on believing...having faith!!!



There is POWER in believing. There is power in faith. That is, we have the faith in God and He has the power to deliver us. Confidence ("**hope**" in the passage) concerning your eternal destiny gives you courage to face today's troubles.

Now we have a third and final passage in [Ephesians](#). Let's look at it. In a simple way, the structure of the [Book of Ephesians](#) can fit into three words that we are instructed to do: **SIT WALK STAND**

In the first three chapters of Ephesians we see the **SIT** part. SIT and learn about all the marvelous things God did for you because you believed in His Son. Here's a small look at just one part of it. Eph 1:17 "...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom (from sitting down and studying His Word everyday) and of revelation in the knowledge of Him, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened (from sitting down and studying His Word everyday), that you may know what is the hope (confidence) to which He has called you, what are the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints..."



This is what you are doing right now in prep school. You are sitting and learning God's plan for your lives by studying His Word. I would like you to take the time to read the first 3 chapters of Ephesians a little at a time so you can see what God is telling us. For a very long time in your lives as a believer this is what you will be doing BEFORE you can do anything else He has planned for you. You have to learn His Word and fill your soul with it before the Holy Spirit can direct you to your spiritual gift and the job Jesus has for you to do here on earth. We don't just get saved and go right to work for the Lord. We SIT and study first for a long while, then we go out and become "**doers of the Word**" as James tells us in [James 1:22](#). "...be doers of the Word, and not hearers only..."



In [Ephesians 4:1-10](#) and in [chapter 5](#) we see how we must **WALK**. Here are 2 examples from these chapters. "...now walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called..." "walk in love as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a sweet aroma offering and sacrifice to God."

This means that after you SIT and study God's Word DAILY, you will saturate your soul with the Word through faith (believing the Word you study). Now you are ready to WALK worthy (in the eyes of Jesus) and fulfill the plan He has for your life through your spiritual gift. You will also on a regular basis love the lost and bring the good news of the Gospel to them personally or in a group as in an evangelism team like we have at our church. You will serve others and love them unconditionally and the best part is, you will love doing all of this because you know it is pleasing to the Father, Son and Spirit. And God supplies everything you will need to do this job!!! This will bring GREAT happiness and contentment to you. I see it already in many of you. You have been sitting and now you are walking in the plan of God. This is awesome and I'm proud of you.

In [Ephesians 6:11-24](#) we are told to "**STAND** firm against the schemes of the devil and to put on the full armor from God." We are also told to pray, pray, and pray when facing the daily exposure to the angelic conflict. Those daily attacks to keep you from living in God's plan. We are on the defense against the devil's schemes and tricks. We are supplied to the max from God to do this...His Word and the POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT. We are NEVER the ones to go on the offense...that's GOD'S job...not ours. He supplies us with the armor as you will see in this passage. Let's take turns and read it together.



In these chapters and passages of [Ephesians](#) and especially in chapter 4 after the call to unity and teamwork; after the description of the spiritual gifts; after the urging to lay aside our old self, being renewed in our thinking, and after putting on the new self; after urging us to stop stealing, stop lying, stop tearing down with words and replacing that with working and sharing, speaking truth, and building each other up...it's at the end of chapter 4 in the **WALK** part again making the statement that the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit is so very important for your daily **WALK**. The sealing wasn't just for our salvation and assurance of Heaven. It was for all the things we receive from God on earth at the moment we believed in Jesus for salvation. It is our daily guaranty so we can fulfill His plan for our lives!!! And we are urged to do these things DAILY and this is a fact that needs to be brought to mind all the time! You know I remind you practically every time we are together, right? Be occupied with Jesus and all that your salvation offers. It's as important to your spiritual life as the air you breathe to live. Take advantage of this sealing guaranty.

You cannot forget that you were sealed with God the Holy Spirit...protected, safeguarded all the way in God's plan on earth and then to your destination in heaven with a resurrection body; God's property; your faith marked as genuine; watching and guarding your privacy; eternally secure; backed by the authority of God; a contract that cannot be taken away EVER; marking your permanent identity as God's adult son or daughter; and in union with Christ FOREVER.

And just like in that letter of [2 Corinthians](#) that we looked at that encourages believers to take advantage of what this seal represents by showing the knowledge of Christ as a fragrant aroma to God the Father, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit against any kind of damage or attack made on our so great salvation, our blessings in time and our current position in Christ. Remember NOTHING can take that away!!!!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on June 1, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

