

The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 59

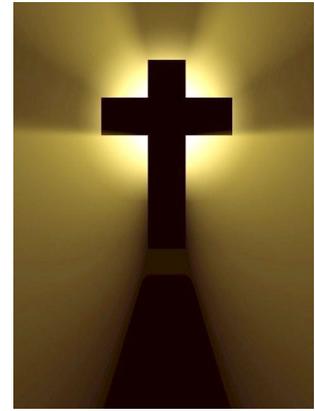
The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Sealing Ministry of God the Holy Spirit



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 us One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*



Lesson

Guess what? We're now ready to move our study to the next ministry of God the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. It's called the Sealing Ministry of the Holy Spirit. 2 Cor 1:22 "...and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." Eph 1:13-14 "In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory." Eph 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." The "day of redemption" refers to the Rapture of the Church when we receive our resurrection bodies.



The sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit is God's final stamp of approval which guarantees that you will be in heaven forever. The Sealing Ministry of the Holy Spirit is our assurance from God of our eternal security, our secure future...in heaven forever with Jesus.



Sealing with the Spirit means that God the Holy Spirit, by virtue of the fact that He indwells or lives in us permanently, is the seal placed by God the Father upon every believer, marking us with His ownership, approval, protection, and signature guarantee of our eternal security. Did you hear that? His guaranty!!! YOU CANNOT LOSE YOUR SALVATION! You are:

Signed (divine decree in eternity past)
Sealed (sealing with the Spirit at salvation)
Delivered (resurrection body at the Rapture)



So, kids, whenever you think of the sealing ministry of God the Holy Spirit, from now on I want you to think "eternal security," okay?

Now let the Bible teach us about this ministry. Look at this verse carefully:

2 Cor 1:21-22 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) and anointed us (indwelling of the Holy Spirit) is God, (22) who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (a guarantee from God's House, keeping us by His seal of approval for the day of redemption, and we are Son-kissed)." And again look at Eph 1:13-14. "In whom also, when you heard (common grace) the message of truth (as an unbeliever), the Gospel of your salvation, in whom also, when you believed (efficacious grace), you were sealed by the promised Holy Spirit, (14) who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." Eph 4:30 "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

All right, while you are still pretty much paying attention, it's time for a little Greek and a picture. We're going to end up studying two Greek words in these passages. These are two fascinating, stimulating, outstanding words that can change your life if you let them. So let's get started. First up is that word "sealed." It is the Greek verb *sphragizo* (sfrag-id'-zo) and it means to stamp for

security (with a signet ring or private mark) or to preserve. Remember this is a verb (action word) and this Greek verb is tightly connected with the Greek noun from which it came from. That Greek noun is *sphragis* (sfrag-ece'); a signet (as fencing in or protecting from using in a wrong way); the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness).

It means a seal of guaranty. It can refer either to the instrument that actually makes the mark, or the mark itself ...the impression that it made. This will become important once we see that God the Holy Spirit is the *sphragis* when it comes to our being sealed for the day of redemption! He is the signet or the stamp or mark.

Let's start with the noun, the concrete object. In the Apostle Paul's day, an official document would be sealed with clay or wax. An impression would be made in the hot wax with the signet ring of the king or another high ranking official.

This is a picture of a signet ring and the wax impression it makes to seal a document of importance:



The seal would mean that the document was official. It carried the authority of the king. God's seal is not a ring; God's SEAL is the HOLY SPIRIT Himself. God the Holy Spirit is our SEAL or GUARANTY.

The seal was used to confirm legally binding documents such as wills (our inheritance), bills of sale (our redemption), and marriage contracts (our promised marriage to Christ).

The use of the Greek definitions of *sphragis* (sfrag-ece') and *sphragizo* (sfrag-id'-zo), will give you seven characteristics concerning the meanings of these words that are very important for our subject of the Sealing Ministry of God the Holy Spirit:

1. First of all, the seal was a mark of ownership. In the ancient world, a seal was put on horses and chariots as a sign of ownership (like branding cattle today). In [2 Cor 1:22](#), the sealing of the Spirit refers to God making the believer His very own possession, which no power on earth or in heaven can take away!!!

The seal of the Holy Spirit represents God's ownership of every believer. He marks each believer as God's own possession, and declares the transaction of salvation to be official and final. No one can EVER change that or take it away. Kids, this is the Word of God and you should be very happy learning about this fact. This will give you inner peace. You were bought and paid for by Jesus on the Cross...He paid a huge price for you. YOU ARE SAFE IN HIM.

2. To seal something was to mark it as authentic or genuine to prove, confirm, or verify that a thing was true. It means to confirm, authenticate, or place beyond doubt. The seal was used to sign contracts. An individual's personal seal was used as a signature guarantee for cashing checks. God the Holy Spirit makes real the fact that our faith in Christ is genuine, and our salvation has been placed beyond doubt. We are confirmed to be the adopted sons and daughters of God the Father. In the verses we read and studied above in [Eph 1:13-14](#) and [4:30](#), the Spirit is a pledge of our inheritance and so the seal by which believers are marked and appointed for redemption and deliverance from the Lake of Fire.
3. It was a mark of privacy, and a mark that kept the contents hidden and it protected things that needed to be kept secret. God the Holy Spirit is the one who protects our privacy and also teaches us the hidden things of our life in Christ and the mystery doctrine of the Church Age.
4. The Greek noun *sphragis* was a badge of security and permanency. God the Father seals us with the Holy Spirit to show us our security in Him, the fact that we can never lose our salvation. The Holy Spirit has been given to us permanently and we can never lose Him. God cannot deny Himself in us.

This sealing means that God loves us with an infinite (unending) love and that will never change because God is immutable, which means He never changes. Nothing we can do can break that seal or guaranty! God drew up the contract, and all we did was sign on the dotted line when we

believed in Jesus as our personal Savior. Anything on which God places His seal belongs to Him FOREVER. NOW THAT'S VERY COMFORTING!!!

5. To seal meant to preserve something for safekeeping. It shows us that there was a target for that which was sealed. Target is stressed by the phrase "the Holy Spirit of promise", "you were sealed unto the day of redemption." It refers to the promise that at the Rapture we will receive our resurrection bodies and at the evaluation seat of Jesus we will receive our rewards. We have been rescued out of darkness and we are marked for blessings and rewards in time and in eternity.

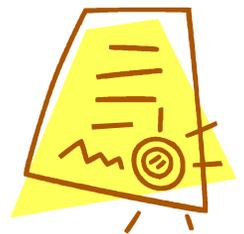


6. The seal stood for authority, and the sacredness of the contract or agreement. The king's seal gave authorization. Holding a seal expresses an element of power. Seals make documents legally valid. Esther 8:8 "Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king's name, and seal it with the king's signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's signet ring may not be cancelled." This verse teaches that a decree sealed with the king's signet ring could not be overturned. Not even the king himself could cancel or overturn the decree once it had that seal. So no matter what we do, God will not reverse the eternal security of a believer who bears His seal of the Holy Spirit. How's that for comfort? This is fantastic.

When Christians are sealed with the Holy Spirit, we are entrusted to make known, teach and defend God's word with His authority.

7. The seal served as a proof of identity. Seals protected houses and graves against harm. The Holy Spirit is a sign of our identity as adopted sons and daughters of God the Father, and our union with the Lord Jesus Christ. The presence of the Holy Spirit inside the believer becomes a "distinguishing identification," a mark that while invisible to the human eye is quite visible and meaningful to God. 2 Tim 2:19 "Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'the Lord knows those who are His' and 'everyone who names the name of the Lord is to withdraw from wickedness.'"

Nothing we can do can break the seal that God gave us. God drew up the contract, and confirmed the contract when we believed in His Son, Jesus. Anything on which God places His seal belongs to Him forever. 2 Cor 1:21-22 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, (22) who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (a guarantee from God's House, keeping us by His seal of approval for the day of redemption, and we are Sun-kissed)."



The second word we'll go to in the Greek today is the English word "pledge" found in our verse in 2 Cor 1:22. It is the Greek noun *arrhabon* (ar-hrab-ohn'). It comes from a Hebrew word. It means a pledge (for example, part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest of the payment owed). *Arrhabon* originally, "earnest-money" deposited by the purchaser and given up if the purchase was not completed.

In general usage it came to mean "a pledge" or "earnest" of any sort. In the New Testament it is used only of that which is assured by God to believers. In Gen 38:17-18, 20, in Modern Greek, *arrabona* is an "engagement ring." It is said of the Holy Spirit as the divine "pledge" of all their future blessedness in 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5; in Eph 1:14, particularly of their eternal inheritance. Now all of this means that if God the Father were to somehow not complete our redemption by not giving us our resurrection bodies, He would have to give up...the Holy Spirit!!!! That's not going to happen! That is how certain our resurrection and our eternal security is!!!

2 Cor 5:1-5 "For we know that if the earthly tent (our earthly body) which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands (our resurrection body), eternal in the heavens. (2) For indeed in this house (our earthly body) we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven (our resurrection body), (3) in as much as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. (4) For indeed while we are in this tent (our earthly body), we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed (in our resurrection body), so that what is mortal (human body) will be swallowed up by (eternal) life. (5) Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge (guaranty)."

Rom 8:23 "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body (resurrection body)."

2 Cor 1:21-22 "And it is God (the Father) who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us (with the indwelling Spirit) (22) and who had put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (a guarantee from God's House, keeping us by His seal of approval for the day of redemption, and we are Son-kissed)."

Now what you need to take away from this passage is the ONE who is doing the sealing. Who DOES the sealing? Well, this is very exciting, because our first sealing verse is also a Trinity verse. We have each member of the Trinity on display here in 2 Cor 1:21-22. We see the Father, Son and Spirit.



Please understand that it is God the Father who sealed us. He sealed us by giving us the Spirit as a pledge or as the first fruits of things to come. The Holy Spirit and His work inside us is probably the most "real" evidence we have of our so-great salvation and of the entire plan of God for our lives. His guidance and mentorship by which we can understand the deep things of God...His WORD; His conviction (that means He convinces us); His leading; and His power to tackle the lusts of our flesh to the ground and overcome our sin nature for us.

The fruit of the Spirit, meaning that over the years of studying and being controlled by the Spirit we discover the virtues of Jesus growing inside us, supernatural virtues from God and only God like the kind of love that God has for His Son. And of course our unique spiritual gift that He picked out just for each of us that you get to live in and make a difference with. Your spiritual gift that can change people's lives and build people up when they're down.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the flashing forth of God, and He walked this planet for 33 years, but then He flew to Heaven and He said He would not leave us as orphans. Instead He sent another Helper of the same kind...the deity kind. This is the fact that the Holy Spirit is God just like Jesus. Since Jesus fulfilled the plan of God for salvation, He had to go up to Heaven to be glorified by God and all the angels for His unspeakable work defeating sin, Satan and death. So now that He's gone from us, He sent the Holy Spirit to be with us, in our bodies to work in us. So He yet walks with us, and in us, yet not just Him but the Spirit He has made to live inside us; the Spirit who has been poured into us; the Spirit who wishes to pour out of us as rivers of living water...THE WORD!

The same seal that sealed Christ seals us. The deity of Christ indwells us, yes; God in us but the humanity of Christ is at the right hand of the Father, so the person of the Holy Spirit is assigned to produce inside our souls the virtues of the living Christ. Christ lives His life through us by allowing the Holy Spirit to perform all that God the Father intended Him to perform when He sent Him to live inside us: life, Truth, discernment, power and to produce the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

This is a guarantee of His ministry of efficacious grace, of eternal life, of eternal security, of our invisible assets, and of a resurrection body.

So much of this life we live by faith, yet the Spirit is a very active present help in time of our trouble and so He is that real pledge (think engagement ring or down payment on a house). There's a lot more of this waiting for you until the Rapture when the King of Kings comes back to claim His bride. Eph 1:13 "In whom also, when you heard (common grace) the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation, in whom (Jesus) (baptism of the Spirit) also, when you believed (efficacious grace), you were sealed (*sphragizo*) by the Holy Spirit with reference to the promise." Notice that we are first placed into Christ and then in that position sealed permanently with a seal that is God's mark of ownership, authenticity, privacy, security, safekeeping, inviolability, and identity. That seal is the Holy Spirit Himself! EPH 1:14 "...who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." And here we have that same word for pledge, the Greek *arrhabon*. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that we will receive our inheritance. He is God's pledge that God will complete the work of redemption. We are God's possession and God's reputation is on the line. His glory is at stake. So we know that He will complete it...He alone. He who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus (the Rapture). You will receive your

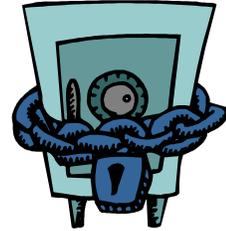


resurrection body that is the redemption of your body. Eph 4:30 "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

We now move from the vocabulary and documentation of Scripture to describing the ministry itself, the Sealing Ministry of God the Holy Spirit. The believer is eternally secure because he is sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit living inside us as an anointing (indwelling, living) is Himself the Seal.

The Holy Spirit's presence in the Christian points out and guarantees eight different things:

1. A finished transaction.
2. Divine ownership.
3. Eternal security.
4. The ministry of efficacious grace.
5. That you have eternal life.
6. That you have eternal security in time.
7. That you get your very own invisible assets.
8. That you will have a resurrection body forever.



1 Cor 6:19 "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?" 1 Cor 6:20 "For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body." The believer is a temple of the Holy Spirit, and (though something ignored by far too many Christians) this fact of the indwelling of the Spirit is something that God considers very, very important!! This is only for the dispensation of the Church Age: Rom 7:6 "But now we have been released from the Law (of the sin nature), having died to that by which we were a slave, so that we serve in newness of the Spirit and not in oldness of the letter (of the Law)." 2 Cor 1:21 "Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God..." 2 Cor 1:22 "...who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge (a guarantee...from God's House, keeping us by His seal of approval for the day of redemption, and we are Son-kissed)." This passage contains four direct statements of fact and each one of them speaks of eternal security!

God has established you in Christ (Baptism by the Spirit). God has anointed you (indwelling of the Spirit). God sealed you (Sealing with the Spirit). God gave you the Spirit as a pledge.

It's a fact: the Holy Spirit has been given to us! And the presence of the Holy Spirit in the believer's heart is an example and a guarantee of the over-abundant blessings that you have not even enjoyed yet in time and in eternity. God in His Word presents this to you as a future certainty! Rom 5:5 "...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us." Look again at these verses: Eph 1:13 "In whom also, when you heard (common grace) the message of truth, the Gospel of your salvation [content of common grace], in whom also, when you believed (efficacious grace), you were sealed by the Holy Spirit with reference to the promise." EPH 1:14 "...who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory." The Holy Spirit is the earnest money, the down payment, of fantastic blessings in the future.

The Holy Spirit gives us GREAT HELP. He is the first fruits of that inheritance, meaning we get our first taste of what is to come in the form of the ministries of the Holy Spirit to the believer after salvation. Just look at what He does for us:

1. We receive the empowerment of the Spirit.
2. We receive the filling of the Holy Spirit.
3. His teaching ministry (unlimited spiritual IQ, depths of God, Mind of Christ).
4. His fighting the desires of our flesh (putting to death the deeds of the body).
5. Freedom from the law of sin and death.
6. Testimony to our adoption as sons and daughters.
7. The ability to tell right from wrong.
8. He provides us with encouragement.
9. He prays for us.
10. He guides and directs us to apply the Word in our souls in our daily walk with God.
11. He provides the fruit of the Spirit.
12. He sends forth rivers of living water (God's Word).
13. He is a help in time of our need.



So kids, listen to what Eph 4:30 tells us NOT to do. "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." This verse states flat out that as believers in Christ we have already been sealed until the day of redemption...the Rapture. If you are a believer in Christ, your soul has already been paid for by Christ. 1 Peter 1:9 "...obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls."

The second part of redemption is the redemption of your body. This is when your body is changed so as to become like the resurrection body of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Rom 8:23 "And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body (at the Rapture)."

Philip 3:20-21 "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself."



1 Cor 15:51-58 "Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. (53) For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. (54) But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, 'DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. (55) O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?' (56) The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; (57) but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our

Lord Jesus Christ. (58) Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord." The sealed one (that's all believers) is complete forever and will be just like the image of Christ in glory.

Let's end this lesson with these pearls of TRUTH. The sealing with the Spirit is completely the work of God. In not one of the passages that we have studied in this lesson that describes the sealing ministry does there appear any reference to any human merit, act, decision or condition. We can do NOTHING and have done nothing because the sealing with the Spirit is completely a work of God's grace.

Thank you, Father. We are so grateful to you. Keep us faithful to learning these truths.

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on May 25, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

