

"God's Grace in the Believer's Life"

Part 6

Ephesians 1:11-14

Introduction: Last week in our study I told you that I would review the past several weeks one more time and then that would be it, but I was wrong. We need to look one more time at what we have considered. We have been looking at who we are IN CHRIST. These first three chapters of Ephesians tell us who we are and then chapters 4-6 will tell us how to live based upon who we are. Let me show you one more time who we are IN CHRIST.

When you repent of your sin and you place your faith in Jesus Christ you are:

- 1. Blessed with all spiritual riches in Christ.**

Ephesians 1:3

- 2. Made holy and blameless.**

Ephesians 1:4

- 3. Placed into God's royal family.**

Ephesians 1:5

- 4. Accepted in Christ.**

Ephesians 1:6

- 5. Redeemed by His blood.**

Ephesians 1:7

- 6. Forgiven of all our sin debt.**

Ephesians 1:7

- 7. Blessed with an Eternal Hope.**

Notice Ephesians 1:8-10

Then there is another point which we did not get to last week.

- 8. The Guarantee of our Blessings.**

There are some questions in light of all of this. What if I mess up? What if I fall into sin? Does that mean I lose all of this? How can I be sure that this will always be true of me and my position IN CHRIST?

The answer to these questions is going to be the focus of what we consider today in our study.

Notice Ephesians 1:13

There is much here to consider. Let me start by saying that every person who is saved has within them the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9

⁹ But ye 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.

This verse gives the appearance that the giving of the Holy Spirit is something that happens sometime after we are saved. That is not the case at all. The Spirit is given immediately at the very time you place your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior. Let me explain what happens the moment we are saved.

1. Jesus Christ baptizes us with the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:6-8

⁶ And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;

⁷ And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.

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

Jesus places the Holy Spirit within us, thus we are baptized WITH THE SPIRIT.

2. The Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:13

¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

Here we see that the Holy Spirit places us into the body of Christ, thus we are baptized BY THE SPIRIT.

All of this takes place the moment we are saved. This is not something that happens sometime after a person is saved. This is all instantaneous.

Notice Ephesians 1:13 again.

We see here that the Holy Spirit is called the Holy Spirit of PROMISE. Let me show you why this is His title here.

John 14:16-18a

¹⁶ *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

¹⁷ **Even the Spirit of truth;** *whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

¹⁸ *I will not leave you comfortless:*

I believe He is referred to as the Holy Spirit of PROMISE to be an encouragement to these Gentile believers. Jesus PROMISED to send the Spirit and He did; therefore, He was TRUE to His Word. This shows His faithfulness and if He was faithful to that PROMISE, we and they can be sure He will be true to all the PROMISES we read of in this chapter.

This shows the accuracy of the Word of God. Let me take a moment and show you why we can rely upon the Truth of God's Word. There is much fulfilled prophecy in the Bible but there is one prophecy which Jesus gave as a special encouragement to His disciples. In Matthew 24 Jesus was about to tell His disciples about the Great and Terrible Tribulation that will come upon the earth and His return at the end of the Tribulation. The events of the Tribulation would be so terrible that many would question the accuracy of His prophecy and they still do today. So, to show the accuracy of His Word he gives a prophecy concerning the Temple in Jerusalem which would also be hard to imagine how it would ever happen. He foretells this prophecy before He begins.

Matthew 24:1-2

And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple.

² *And Jesus said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, **There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.***

Listen to the words of Clark concerning what Josephus said concerning the stones:

"Josephus says the stones were white and strong; fifty feet long, twenty-four broad, and sixteen thick.

These stones of the Temple were gigantic and so the question would be, "How could this ever happen?"

Forty years (AD 70) after Jesus said this, there was a widespread Jewish revolution against the Romans in Palestine. Because of the Jews resistance the Roman soldiers became infuriated. Titus wanted to preserve the Temple, but the soldiers ignored his wishes and the Temple was burned. The fires were so hot all the gold in the Temple melted and ran down into the joints of the stones and in order to get the gold the Roman soldiers pried all the stones apart thus fulfilling the prophecy. Josephus tells us that 1.1 million people died when all of this took place.

This shows the accuracy of God's Word. Jesus had promised the Spirit and He was given and therefore He is the Holy Spirit of Promise.

Notice Ephesians 1:13

Next, I want us to look at the fact that we were SEALED with the Spirit. Now the SEAL in the Bible speaks of many things and each one applies to us.

The Bible speaks often of a SEAL and the SEAL speaks of many things.

1. Security

Matthew 27:66

⁶⁶ So they went, and made the sepulchre sure, sealing the stone, and setting a watch.

Application:

The seal of the Holy Spirit also speaks of the security of the believer. We are secure IN JESUS CHRIST. Our position of being IN HIM can never change.

John 10:27-29

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

Hebrews 10:14

¹⁴ For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified.

John 11:25-26

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

²⁶ And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

2. Authenticity

John 6:27

²⁷ Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 3:33

³¹ He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.

³² And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony.

³³ He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.

Application:

The Holy Spirit is the SEAL of authenticity upon those of us who know Jesus Christ as Savior.

Romans 8:9

⁹ But ye 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.

We who have the Holy Spirit are authentic believers those who do not have the Spirit are still lost in their sins.

3. Ownership

Revelation 7:1-3

And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

² And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

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

Application:

The Holy Spirit is proof that we belong to God.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹ *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

²⁰ *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

4. The Mark of a Finalized Transaction.

Jeremiah 32:6-11

⁶ *And Jeremiah said, The word of the LORD came unto me, saying,*

⁷ *Behold, Hanameel the son of Shallum thine uncle shall come unto thee saying, Buy thee my field that is in Anathoth: for the right of redemption is thine to buy it.*

⁸ *So Hanameel mine uncle's son came to me in the court of the prison according to the word of the LORD, and said unto me, Buy my field, I pray thee, that is in Anathoth, which is in the country of Benjamin: for the right of inheritance is thine, and the redemption is thine; buy it for thyself. Then I knew that this was the word of the LORD.*

⁹ *And I bought the field of Hanameel my uncle's son, that was in Anathoth, and weighed him the money, even seventeen shekels of silver.*

¹⁰ *And I subscribed the evidence, **and sealed it**, and took witnesses, and weighed him the money in the balances.*

¹¹ *So I took the evidence of the purchase, both that which was **sealed** according to the law and custom, and that which was open:*

This land would go into the hands of the Babylonians but since it was purchased, and the sale was sealed Israel would one day return to claim this land as her own. The SEAL was the MARK of the final transaction.

The same is true for us. God bought us with the blood of His Son, He sealed us with the Holy Spirit, and He is coming back to claim His possession. THE TRANSACTION IS FINAL!

Conclusion:

Notice Ephesians 1:14

The word "earnest" here means "down payment". The Holy Spirit is God's down payment upon the believer, and it is the guarantee that He is coming back to claim His purchased possession.

The purchased possession here is the CHURCH/BODY OF CHRIST.

Matthew 13:45-46

⁴⁵ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls:

⁴⁶ Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

Jesus gave all He had to purchase us. Our INHERITANCE is guaranteed.

1 Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

⁴ To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

⁵ Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.