

**The Spirit of God**  
**Week 7**  
**The Sealing of the Spirit**

LBC 19/11/03

“Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”

**Ephesians 4:29-32**

**Introduction:**

**ILLUSTRATION** – When Christina’s engagement ring was posted to me. I wanted to make sure that it got to me safely – that no one stole it or damaged it. So, I had it sent by registered and insured mail. It was **SEALED until I opened it, because I was the owner.**

The Bible says that we are sealed by the Holy Spirit. **What does that mean? Why is it so important?**

**\*\* Let me teach you tonight about the sealing of the Spirit:**

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**1. The Christian is sealed by the Spirit.**

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

**Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

**How does the Holy Spirit seal us?** The word “sealed” means to close up and make sure with a seal. It is also used in the sense of setting a mark on anything to denote that it is genuine, authentic, confirmed, or approved, as when a deed or agreement is sealed.

The use of seals goes back to ancient days, especially in Egypt, Babylonia and Assyria. From the earliest period of civilization the finger-ring on which some distinguishing badge was engraved was in use as a convenient way of carrying the signet. From the East the custom passed into Greece and other western countries. In ancient times, almost every variety of precious stones was used for seals, as well as cheaper material. In the West wax came early into use as the material for receiving the impression of the seal, but in the ancient East clay was the medium used.

**1) One of the most important uses of sealing in antiquity was to give a proof of authenticity and authority to letters, royal commands, etc.** It served the purposes of a modern signature at a time when the art of writing was known to only a few. Thus Jezebel “wrote letters in Ahab’s name, and sealed them with his seal” (1 Kings 21:8); the written commands of Ahasuerus were “sealed with the king’s ring...for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse.”

**2) Also, the seal was the formal confirmation of a transaction or covenant.** Jeremiah sealed the deeds of the field which he bought from Hanamel.

**3) An additional use was the preservation of books in security.** A roll or other document intended for preservation was sealed up before it was deposited in a place of safety. In sealing the roll, it was wrapped round with flaxen thread or string, then a lump of clay was attached to it impressed with a seal. The seal would have to be broken by an authorized person before the book could be read.

**Revelation 5:1-5** “And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to

look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

**4) Sealing was a badge of deputed authority and power, as when a king handed over his signet ring to one of his officers.**

**5) Closed doors were often sealed to prevent the entrance of any unauthorized person.**

**6) A seal could be placed upon any object as an official mark of ownership.**

So, what are the spiritual applications of the seal? How am I sealed by the Spirit?

**1) The Holy Spirit dwelling within my breast is proof that I am indeed a child of God.**

**2) The Holy Spirit proves that God has made sure His covenant with me as His child.**

**3) The Holy Spirit preserves me and protects me from tampering until God receives me into Heaven.**

**4) The Holy Spirit gives me power as the deputy and ambassador of God.**

**5) The Holy Spirit protects my souls from the entry of any unauthorised spiritual entity.**

**6) The Holy Spirit indicates divine ownership.**

**2 Timothy 2:19** “Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – Noah and his family were put in the ark, and God shut the door. He sealed the ark shut and protected the occupants from judgment and death. They were safe and secure.

**Genesis 7:15, 16** “And they went in unto Noah into the ark, two and two of all flesh, wherein is the breath of life. And they that went in, went in male and female of all flesh, as God had commanded him: and the LORD shut him in.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – The seal upon the lions’ den in Daniel. No one was allowed to open the den without the authority of the king and the king’s laws.

**Daniel 6:16, 17** “Then the king commanded, and they brought Daniel, and cast him into the den of lions. Now the king spake and said unto Daniel, Thy God whom thou servest continually, he will deliver thee. And a stone was brought, and laid upon the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet, and with the signet of his lords; that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel.”

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## **2. The Christian is sealed and given the earnest of the Spirit.**

The Bible also uses the term “earnest of the Spirit” in combination with the idea of the sealing of the Spirit, because the two concepts are complementary.

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

**2 Corinthians 5:5** “Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.”

What is the earnest of the Spirit? How does it relate to the sealing of the Spirit?

The word “earnest” means a pledge given to confirm a contract; a part of the price, or purchase money; a down payment or deposit that confirms the bargain. It is a legal term denoting the payment of a sum of money to make a contract binding, guaranteeing complete payment at a later date.

In the spiritual sense, the earnest is the work of the Spirit of God in our hearts as being a guarantee of a perfect redemption and a heavenly inheritance. The gift of the Holy Spirit to believers is the assurance that their redemption will be fully carried out. This is the security which God gives us that we shall be saved –

the presence of the Spirit of God, His work in our hearts, and His gifts for service. God thus gives to his people the assurance that they shall be saved and by this “pledge” He makes our title to eternal life sure.

**ILLUSTRATION** – When a man betrothed a wife to his son, they entered into a formal, legal agreement. Gifts were given to the bride and her family as proof that the marriage would indeed be fully carried out, and the bride would soon be taken into the Groom’s home for life. These gifts were the earnest or pledge, somewhat similar to the modern engagement ring.

**Genesis 24:50-53** “Then Laban and Bethuel answered and said, The thing proceedeth from the LORD: we cannot speak unto thee bad or good. Behold, Rebekah is before thee, take her, and go, and let her be thy master’s son’s wife, as the LORD hath spoken. And it came to pass, that, when Abraham’s servant heard their words, he worshipped the LORD, bowing himself to the earth. And the servant brought forth jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment, and gave them to Rebekah: he gave also to her brother and to her mother precious things.”

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### **3. The Christian is sealed at salvation.**

**Ephesians 1:13, 14** “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”

When do we receive the Holy Spirit? At the moment of salvation, when we are made a new creature in Christ, our body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit. No Holy Spirit: no salvation.

**Romans 8:9** “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.”

**ILLUSTRATION** – I presented an engagement ring to Christina at the moment that I proposed. When she accepted my proposal, I placed the ring upon her finger.

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### **4. The Christian is sealed until the resurrection.**

We know that God will never Leave us or forsake us, and we know that He will never stop working in us, because we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. As a Christian, I can grieve and hurt the Holy Spirit, and I can quench Him, but I cannot remove His divine seal from my soul.

**Ephesians 4:30** “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

As we have learned, it is the Spirit Who works in us and assures us of our salvation.

**Philippians 1:6** “Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:”

**Ephesians 1:19, 20** “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,”

Although we enjoy the work of the Spirit in our hearts, every Christian anxiously awaits that day when we shall be free of the sinful desires of our flesh – we await our new existence in heaven, and our new body.

**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.”

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### **Review / Discussion:**