



BULLEEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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Series : "The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit"

Sunday, February 26, 2006 : Study 5

"SEALED BY THE SPIRIT"

Notes by Rev. Gary Lockyer

CONTEXT : Today's Study is the third of four that examine the Work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in bringing us to faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. These Studies are *Drawn by the Spirit* (Feb 12), *Born of the Spirit* (last Sunday), *Sealed by the Spirit* (today) and *Baptised With the Spirit*.

A. THE "ORDER" IN WHICH THE SPIRIT WORKS

It's time to give some explanation of the sequence of the Spirit's work in our lives in bringing us to faith. This will unavoidably sound somewhat mechanical due to the limitations of language as we make an attempt to confine the glory and freedom of the Spirit's creative genius and power to mere human words.

Being "Drawn" is a PREPARATORY work of the Spirit, although elements of this aspect of his work - convicting us of sin, convincing us of the authority of Jesus' teaching and glorifying Jesus - will continue throughout our Christian lives.

"Born of the Spirit" refers to the Spirit's work of REGENERATION - resurrecting us from Spiritual death and making us a "new creation." At this point we are Christian.

"Sealed by," and "Baptised with the Spirit" are CONTEMPOROUS with our Regeneration, not following on from it. (Some see Baptism with the Spirit as a "second blessing" after we become Christian. I can't preview the whole of the next Study, so we'll just have to wait to next Sunday!)

Using the figure of "being Sealed," the NT writers describe our RELATIONSHIP with God. our new status is affirmed and settled; we are "sealed" as a child of God.

Being "Baptised with the Spirit" unleashes the POWER of God in making us new and preparing us for genuine fellowship and effective service.

B. FOUR BASIC ASPECTS OF "BEING SEALED"

1. The FACT of the Seal

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come 2Cor1:21-22

2. The IDENTITY of the Seal ... The Holy Spirit himself

....you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit Eph1:13

3. The TIMING of the Seal at the moment of becoming a Christian. This happens when we are made new, not something done in / for us subsequent to our regeneration.

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth Having believed you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. Eph1:13. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption Eph4:30

Notice also the past tense of 2Cor1:22 (see point 1. above)

4. The SCOPE of the seal Every Christian.

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. 2Cor1:22 ... see also the inclusive plurals in Eph 1:13 and Eph4:30 ... no Christian is left out!

C. THE PURPOSE OF "BEING SEALED."

Sealed? Today this conjures up pictures of licking an envelope, applying silicon to a gap or expelling air from tupperware. In the First Century the picture would be of the emblem of Rome pressed into clay or wax to indicate that whatever bore the Seal was owned or protected by the power of Rome.

1. To establish who we BELONG to

He ... set his seal of ownership on us. 2Cor1:22

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. Eph1:13-14

2. To describe the NATURE of God's "ownership" of us

Ephesians 1:4-12 is an exhaustive list of every spiritual blessing in Christ (v3). Note Eph1:13-14, above. The seal, the promised Holy Spirit is the deposit guaranteeing those blessings, of being included in Christ. So then, "In Christ"

I AM	THIS IS MY	THIS ANSWERS
CHOSEN vss.4 & 11	PURPOSE : to be " <i>Holy and Blameless</i> " (1:4) and to " <i>live for the praise of his glory.</i> " (1:11)	WHY am I here?
ADOPTED v5	IDENTITY .. "as his sons"	WHO am I?
REDEEMED v7	VALUE : " <i>You were not redeemed by perishable things such as silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Christ.</i> " 1Pt1:18-19	Do I MATTER?

In the Roman world, if there was no heir, adoption of an adult son was used to secure the future of a family's name and estate. The adopted son was accorded full rights as son and heir under law, irrespective of what the status of the person may have been prior to adoption.

See Romans 8:11-17 and Galatians 3:26 - 4:7. Note the emphasis on :

- the ACTIVITY of the Spirit in establishing our new relationship with God.
- the change in our STATUS to one who has "full rights"
- and the emphasis on INHERITANCE ... that God has more than he's already given for those whom he embraces as his children . which leads us on to the third purpose

3. To securely maintain our RELATIONSHIP with God.

... the Holy Spirit ... guaranteeing what is to come. 2Cor2:22

... the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit, guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. Eph1:13-14

... the Holy Spirit ... with whom you were sealed until the day of redemption. Eph4:30

This is Jesus' promise : No one can snatch them (his disciples) out of my hand. Jn10:28.

It is the basis of Paul's promise to the Philippians : He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion on the day of Christ Jesus. Php1:6

... and of his own personal confidence : I know in whom I have believed and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him until that day. 2Tm1:12