

The Blessed Person and Work of God the Holy Spirit

Lesson 5--The Sealing Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit is a wonderful and encouraging truth. Many passages in the New Testament help us to understand this vital ministry:

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and answer these questions: Paul describes the believer's body as _____ Did Paul expect the Corinthian believers to know this truth? _____ *Where* is the Holy Spirit (verse 19)? _____ Now that we are saved, are we our own? _____ Who do we now belong to? _____ Are we free to live for ourselves (2 Cor. 5:15)? _____ Why are we not our own (1 Cor. 6:20)? _____ Who paid this incredible price (1 Peter 1:18-19)? _____ Salvation is *free*, but it is certainly not *cheap*! Circle the one sentence that is *false*:

- God the Holy Spirit lives and dwells within every believer.
- Every believer has been bought with a price and belongs totally and completely to the Lord.
- Every person who has the Holy Spirit belongs totally and completely to the Lord.
- There are some believers who belong totally and completely to the Lord, but they have not yet received the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:9 teaches us that if any man does not have the _____ of Christ he is _____. This means that if a person does not have the Holy _____ then he does not belong to _____. Therefore, everyone who truly belongs to Christ has the _____ dwelling within.

True or False:

_____ Every person who belongs to Christ has the Holy Spirit.

_____ Every true believer has the Holy Spirit.

_____ It is possible that a true Christian may not have the Holy Spirit dwelling within.

_____ If a person does not have the Holy Spirit, then He is not a true Christian.

In Ephesians 1:13 we learn three things that have happened to every person who is truly saved: "In whom ye also trusted, (1) after ye heard the _____ of _____, the _____ of your salvation; in whom also (2) after ye _____, (3) ye were _____ with that _____ of _____ promise." We shall now study these three ingredients of salvation:

1. In order for a person to be saved, he must first hear the W_____ of T_____ which is the G_____ (Good News) of his S_____ (Ephesians 1:13). Without faith, can a person be saved (Ephesians 2:8)? _____ Faith is properly and correctly **responding** to the Word of God. Is it possible to respond properly to God's Word if you have never heard it? _____ Can a person believe on the Lord Jesus Christ if he has never heard of Him (Romans 10:14)? _____ "Faith comes by _____ and _____ by the _____" (Romans 10:17). Therefore, for a person to be saved, he must first H_____ God's W_____.

2. Many people hear God's Word, but, sadly, they are never saved. Not only must a person H_____ God's Word, but he must respond properly to God's Word by B_____ on the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 1:13; Acts 16:31). Men and women, boys and girls are saved in only one way – they are saved through F_____ (Ephesians 2:8) and not by _____ (Ephesians 2:9).

3. When a person hears the gospel and responds by trusting Christ and Him alone as his personal Saviour, then God does something very wonderful him! He is S_____ with the _____ of promise (Ephesians 1:13). According to 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, who is the One who has sealed us? _____ According to Ephesians 1:13 what (or **Who**) are we sealed with? _____ Therefore God the Father is the Sealer (the One who seals) and God the Holy Spirit is the Seal! Where is the seal (2 Cor. 1:22)? _____ God has sealed us with His Holy Spirit and this seal is a *mark of ownership!*

Suppose Cowboy Sam were to brand his cattle with this mark:



Suppose Cowboy Hank were to brand his cattle with this mark:



If you were riding on your horse and you came across a stray steer with



branded on its hide, then you would know that the steer belongs to whom?

A little further down the trail you come across another steer and as you examine this animal you discover that it is branded with, and therefore it must belong to Cowboy Hank. Every steer that is branded with  must belong to _____. If you were a steer with  branded on your hide, then you could proudly say, "I know that I belong to Cowboy Hank. He has branded me with his own personal mark of ownership!"

The believer in Christ has been "branded" or sealed with what (or **Whom**)—(Ephesians 1:13)?

_____ Who has sealed the believer (2 Corinthians 1:21-22)? _____ Therefore the believer can say, "I know that I belong to _____ because He has S _____ me with His Holy _____." In 2 Timothy 2:19 we read: "Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure (solid), having this _____, the _____ knoweth them that are _____." He knows those who truly belong to Him! Does the Lord know who His true believers are? _____ Does the Lord know which people He has sealed with the Holy Spirit and which people He has not sealed? _____ As you watch and observe other people, is it possible for you to **actually see** the Holy Spirit in them? _____ Is the Holy Spirit visible or invisible? _____ Therefore, is God's seal visible or invisible? _____ The first time you looked in the mirror after you were saved, did you see any great difference in your appearance? _____ Did you see the Holy Spirit living in you? _____ Did you find God's name written on your forehead as the people will who are described in Revelation 14:1? _____

Answer TRUE or FALSE:

- _____ The believer is sealed with the Holy Spirit, but no one can see this seal except the Lord.
- _____ When a sinner is saved his physical appearance changes drastically.
- _____ The Lord knows which people have the Holy Spirit in their hearts (compare 1 Samuel 16:7 with 2 Corinthians 1:22).

Certainly God knows that we belong to Him, but how can other people know that we belong to the Lord? The answer to this question is found in the last part of 2 Timothy 2:19: "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from _____ (unrighteousness)." According to this verse, explain how other people can know that we are truly Christians:

Although people **cannot** see the Holy Spirit dwelling within us, are they able to see the **fruit of the Spirit** (Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 5:9)? _____ How can the world know that we belong to Christ (John 13:35)? _____

Answer TRUE or FALSE:

- _____ The world can actually see the Holy Spirit in the believer.
- _____ The world can see the way we live and conduct ourselves and they can see the evidence of the Spirit at work in our lives.
- _____ The person who truly has the Holy Spirit will want to depart from iniquity and unrighteousness. His desire is to please and obey the Lord.

_____ If a person is consistently living in sin and unrighteousness then he is giving evidence that he does not belong to the Lord (compare 1 John 2:29; 3:10).

_____ If a person *claims* to be a Christian then he must be a true believer. If you say you are saved then this means that you really are saved.

Ephesians 1:14 teaches us that the Holy Spirit is the " _____ (down payment, pledge) of our inheritance until the _____ of the purchased possession." This verse is talking about the believer's *final* redemption when the believer will be with the Lord forever and will never again sin. Christ has promised us that someday He will return for His believers (see John 14:2-3; Romans 8:23). As a guarantee that Christ's promise is true, God the Father has given us His Holy Spirit as an earnest or pledge that someday our salvation will be completed (compare Phil. 1:6). "God has also _____ us, and given the _____ (pledge) of the _____ in our hearts" (2 Cor. 1:22). "God also has _____ unto us the _____ (pledge) of the _____" (2 Cor. 5:5). To understand the word "earnest" just think of an engagement ring. When a young man gives his sweetheart an engagement ring, the ring serves as a pledge or a guarantee that someday he will come to marry the girl who has the ring. He will receive his bride and enter into a wonderful relationship with her. Therefore, the fact that we have the H _____ S _____ is a guarantee that someday Christ will come to receive His bride (John 14:1-3). We will be with Him face to face (1 Thess. 4:16-18) in a far greater and closer relationship than we enjoy even now (Phil. 1:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:8; 1 John 3:1-3).

Please answer *TRUE* or *FALSE*:

_____ The fact that we have the Holy Spirit **now** proves that someday our salvation will be complete and we will be with the Lord. All who are sealed will be saved forever!

_____ We are sealed with the Holy Spirit until we sin (Eph. 4:30).

_____ It is possible for the believer to grieve and sadden the **Holy** Spirit because of sin in his life (Eph. 4:30).

_____ When the believer sins, then the Holy Spirit leaves him and abandons him (Eph. 4:30; John 14:16-17).

_____ God the Father has given us the Holy Spirit so that He might abide and live with us forever (John 14:16).

_____ A saved person can lose the Holy Spirit and become **unsealed**.

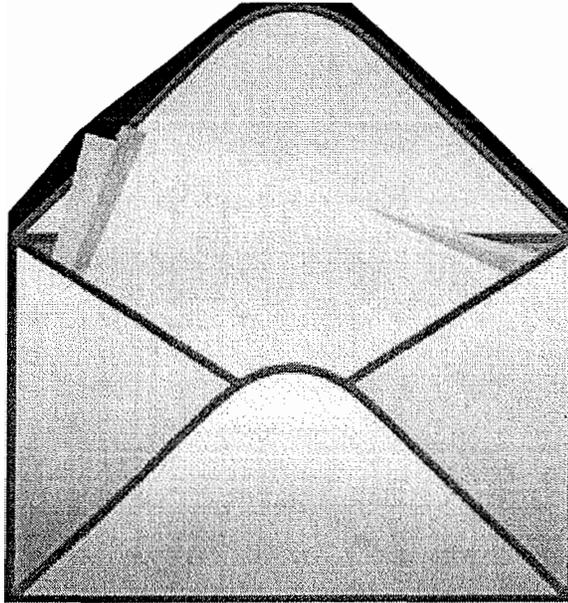
_____ The Holy Spirit sometimes leaves a believer (John 14:16; Hebrews 13:5).

_____ It is possible for a true believer to become **unsealed**.

_____ If a person claims to be a Christian, then he should show that he is really saved and really sealed by the way he lives (2 Timothy 2:19).

Object Lesson

An envelope has a seal. The purpose of the seal is to make sure that the contents of the envelope are kept safe and do not fall out, so that the contents can arrive safely at the desired destination.



God has a destination marked out for every child of God, a place "reserved in _____ for you" (1 Pet. 1:4). God will make sure that every believer is delivered safely to his final destination. The Holy Spirit is the "seal," or the guarantee that we will get there.

Every true believer receives the Spirit of God as a sign that he belongs to God and that he will be kept safe by God until the time he receives his glorified body. Just as in legal matters a seal indicates ownership and security, so it does in divine affairs. The indwelling Spirit brands us as God's property (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and guarantees our preservation until the day of redemption (Eph. 4:30).

—William MacDonald, *Believer's Bible Commentary*

Take an ordinary envelope. On a piece of paper have the student draw a picture of himself. We are assuming that this person is a believer in Christ. He can write his name next to the picture. Then fold the paper and place it in the envelope. Lick the flap of the envelope and seal it securely. On the back of the envelope write:

"I am Christ's purchased possession.
The Holy Spirit is the Seal
and because of Him I am safe and secure."

On the front of the envelope write in the destination address:

To the Father's House (John 14:1-3)
Located in the Third Heaven
Far Beyond Any Zip Code

Where the return address is normally found write:

From the Owner, the Redeemer,
The Lord Jesus Christ,
the One who purchased me

Where the stamp is normally put, write:

Paid in full
by the blood
of Christ

This object lesson will reinforce some of the truths of this lesson.

