**Sealed with the Holy Spirit**

*Ephesians 1:13-14*

**Introduction**

1. Part of what we crave as children of God is confidence.
2. The world speaks of confidence in spiritual contexts as coming in the form of feelings and anecdotal experiences.
3. However, true confidence in any field comes down to evidence – something of verifiable proof.
4. Among the spiritual blessings in Christ enumerated in Ephesians 1, Paul notes one that especially exudes confidence for the believer – being sealed with the Holy Spirit, the guarantee of our inheritance.
5. The Nature of the Holy Spirit
6. A Divine Person
   1. Not an “it,” but a He – **John 16:12-15** (“He”)
      1. Not a mystical force.
      2. Not a feeling.
   2. Part of the Divine Nature, or Godhead:
      1. **Acts 17:29** – contrasted to idols – definite article – *theios* (status of deity)
      2. **Romans 1:20** – evidence of creation points to this – *theiotēs* (characteristic of deity)
      3. **Colossians 2:9** – Christ as the fullness of the Godhead – *theotēs* (state of being God)
   3. **Genesis 1:1** – “God” – ’*elôhîym* – plural noun (**cf. John 1:1; Genesis 1:2**)
   4. Three members of Godhead/Divine Nature – **Romans 15:30; 2 Corinthians 13:14**
7. Intelligent
   1. I.e. not an unexplainable phenomenon; not ambiguous.
   2. **1 Corinthians 2:11-13** – knows and teaches.
   3. **1 Corinthians 12:11** – wills. (choice, volition)
   4. **1 Timothy 4:1** – speaks. (“expressly” – precise, distinct, clear)
   5. **John 15:26** – testifies.
   6. **Acts 16:6** – forbids.
8. The Work of the Holy Spirit
9. Revelation of the Word
   1. Paul’s stewardship of the mystery – **Ephesians 3:1-7**
      1. **(v. 5)** – revealed by the Spirit.
   2. Apostles and prophets – **Ephesians 2:19-22** (foundation upon which temple of God’s household is built, dwelling of God IN THE SPIRIT – through revelation/adherence to)
10. Inseparable from the Word
    1. Prayer for strength in the inner man through the Spirit – **Ephesians 3:14-17**
       1. Christ dwell in hearts through faith – synonymous with Spirit in the inner man – **Romans 8:9-10; 10:17** (by faith – word of God)
    2. Understanding the will of the Lord by being filled with the Spirit – **Ephesians 5:17-19 (cf. Colossians 3:16**)
    3. Taking up the armor of God – **Ephesians 6:10-11, 17** – sword of the Spirit.
       1. The word of God is the Spirit’s instrument.
11. The Seal of the Holy Spirit
12. Seal
    1. Seal – sphragis (N) – (1) the instrument used for sealing or stamping, signet; (2) the substance which bears the imprint of a signet and seals a document, seal; (3) the impression made by a signet, mark; (4) that which confirms or authenticates, attestation, confirmation, certification (BDAG)
       1. **Romans 4:11** – circumcision as a seal of the righteousness of Abraham by faith.
          1. When was his faith accounted for righteousness? Before or after circumcision? (Is circumcision necessary for justification?)
          2. **(vv. 9-12)** – before – circumcision, in addition to being the sign of the covenant (**cf. Genesis 17:11**), as a seal (“stamp of approval”) of Abraham’s righteousness which God accounted to him because of his faith.
          3. **Romans 4:3; Genesis 15:6** – Abraham’s faith was accounted to Him by God for righteousness before He was circumcised (**Genesis 17**).
          4. Circumcision as a sign of the covenant between Abraham and God also acted as a seal (authentication, confirmation) of his righteousness by faith.
       2. **1 Corinthians 9:2** – the faith (conversion) of the Corinthians a seal of Paul’s apostleship.
          1. **(vv. 3-7, 12)** – Paul using self as example of forgoing liberty for the sake of brethren and the gospel.
          2. **(vv. 1-2)** – Using self as an example is based on evidence of his apostleship/authority/right.
          3. Seal – **2 Corinthians 12:12** (signs of apostle); **1 Corinthians 1:7** (came short in no gift – **cf. 1 Corinthians 12**)
             1. That they obeyed the word due to confirmation by the signs of an apostle…
             2. …and that they were given spiritual gifts (by Paul)…
             3. …act as a seal of his apostleship.
       3. **2 Timothy 2:19** – seal that the Lord knows those who are His.
          1. Context – presenting self approved of God **(vv. 15-18),** depart from iniquity **(v. 19b),** making self a vessel of honor **(vv. 20-21).**
          2. Implication – He knows, but we can know too.
    2. Sealed – sphragizō (V) – (3) to mark with a seal as a means of identification, mark, seal; (4) to certify that someth. is so, attest, certify, acknowledge (BDAG)
       1. **John 3:31-33** – God “certified” (sphragizō) as true through belief of Jesus’ testimony.
       2. **John 6:27** – Jesus has God’s “seal” set on Him as the one who can provide the spiritual food. (Through prophecy, Spirit descending on Him, miracles, etc.)
13. Identified and Authenticated as God’s Sons
    1. What does being sealed with the Holy Spirit mean? How does it happen?
    2. **Ephesians 1:13** – sealed with the Holy Spirit.
       1. ***“you also”*** – looks to (**vv. 11-12** – promise [**v. 13**] of what?) – Inheritance – **(v. 5**) – predestined to adoption by Jesus Christ – ***“in Him” (v. 4).***
       2. ***“sealed with the Holy Spirit”*** = identifying/certifying mark of the Holy Spirit – regarding sonship/inheritance.
       3. How? – ***“having believed” “after you heard the word of truth…gospel”***
    3. Spirit bearing witness with our spirit – **Romans 8:12-17** – that we are sons.
       1. **(vv. 12-13)** – not indebted to the flesh, but the spirit.
       2. Why? – **(vv. 14-15)** – Sons of God as led by the Spirit – not bondage (slave of sin and death) but adoption (disposition).
       3. Verification – **(vv. 16-17)** – Spirit (revelation of will of God) bears witness with our spirit (in submission) **(vv. 9-10** – Spirit of God/Christ dwelling in you).
    4. Suffering for doing good – **Romans 8:17; 1 Peter 4:14**
       1. **Romans 8:17** – ***“if indeed”*** – *eiper* – if perhaps, provided that (notes a condition of previous statement).
          1. I.e. suffering is another identifying and authenticating mark of a child of God by the Holy Spirit.
       2. **1 Peter 4:12-16** – (context – suffering for the will of God) – don’t think strange, nor be ashamed.
          1. **(v. 14)** – Spirit of God (HS) rests on you in regard to approval of such suffering…
          2. **(vv. 15-16)** – not through suffering period, but for righteousness sake.
          3. I.e. when you suffer for submitting to the Spirit’s teaching, such is validation of your relationship to Christ.
    5. Renewal of the Holy Spirit – **Titus 3:4-7; Ephesians 4:23**
       1. **(v. 5)** – occurred at baptism (**cf. John 3:5**).
       2. Continues daily – **2 Corinthians 4:16**
       3. **Ephesians 4:17-24** – contrast of the previous life with what is learned in Christ.
          1. **(vv. 22-24)** – putt of old, renewed mind, leading to putting on new.
          2. **(v. 25)** – Therefore – practical examples of putting off the walk of the Gentiles.
          3. **(v. 30)** – do not grieve HS by whom you were sealed – through obedience to word, and transformation.
    6. Fruit of the Spirit – **Galatians 5:22-25** – **(vv. 24-25)** – crucified flesh, walk in the Spirit = Christ’s
    7. **To be sealed with the Holy Spirit is to be identified and authenticated as a child of God through obedience to, and adherence to the Spirit’s revelation.**
14. The Holy Spirit as the Guarantee of Our Inheritance
15. Guarantee
    1. **Ephesians 1:14** – the HS is the guarantee of our inheritance.
    2. Guarantee – *arrhabōn* – a pledge, i.e. part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest (STRONG)
    3. How is the HS a down payment of our inheritance? (along with being sealed with the HS)
16. Promise
    1. **Ephesians 1:13** – the HS OF PROMISE is the guarantee…
    2. God’s promises are certain – **Titus 1:2**
    3. God’s promises are so dependable we can be fully assured of their fulfillment – **Hebrews 6:11-20** – full assurance through endurance in response to a promise from One with immutability of counsel.
17. Transformation
    1. Part of what makes God’s future promises certain is the fulfillment of other promises:
       1. **2 Peter 1:4** – through promises of God we can be partakers of the divine nature.
       2. This fellowship (partakers) as a promise is fulfilled in our time on earth through inner transformation.
    2. **2 Corinthians 1:21-22** – Paul’s defense of his apostleship, but also paralleled to all believers throughout context.
       1. The down payment of the Spirit in their hearts was observable.
       2. Contrasted with behavior of the false apostles – **2 Corinthians 10:12; 11:16-21** (comparison among themselves, ungodly mistreatment of Corinthians)
       3. **2 Corinthians 3:18** – being transformed from glory to glory (in contrast with OT – Judaizers’ boast – Moses’ glory pales in comparison to apostolic ministry)
       4. ALL BELIEVERS – **2 Corinthians 4:1-6** – their ministry is for ***“every man’s conscience”*** – for the image of God in Christ to shine on all.
          1. **(vv. 12, 15)** – life working in them (Corinthians), grace spread through many.
       5. **2 Corinthians 4:16-18** – outward perishing, but inward renewal – inward transformation.
    3. **2 Corinthians 5:1-5** – there is a heavenly body prepared for those in Christ, and the Spirit is the down payment of it.
       1. **(v. 5)** – Spirit as a guarantee of the resurrected body looks back to **4:16-17** – inward renewal, working a ***“far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.”***
       2. I.e. our inward man is transformed into the image of Christ through the work of the HS in the word, and is the down payment of what is to come in the final transformation of our body to house our spirit.
    4. **Ephesians 1:14** – until the redemption of the purchased possession **(cf. Philippians 3:20-21** – transform our lowly body to be conformed to His glorious body).

**Conclusion**

1. Our craving for confidence is satisfied through the Spirit revealed will of God, and our response to it.
2. We can know we are God’s children as much as He knows (**cf. 2 Timothy 2:19**).
3. If we allow the Spirit to dictate our lives, thus, transforming our inner man, we can know we belong too God, and we will see the consummation of our inheritance in the end.