

Adult Bible Study

in Simplified English

Living in the Spirit

Lesson 9: The Holy Spirit and Salvation

Bible Text

Ephesians 1:13-14

Memory Verse

“God’s Spirit will be with us until God finishes His work of making us complete.” (Ephesians 1:14b)

Word List

Good News: the message that God has made a way for people to have their sins forgiven and live with God through faith in Jesus

mark (seal or stamp): the Holy Spirit is given to each believer to show we belong to God

salvation: rescue from the punishment and power of sin

My mother loved to make all kinds of art. She made pottery, painted pictures, and carved wood. She made quilts, and embroidered pictures and clothes. Every time she made something she put her special **mark** on it. Her name meant “love” in Greek, and because she loved my father, she always placed two hearts on everything she made. When we saw those marks we knew this was something she had made.



This lesson tells us that believers are marked by God’s Holy Spirit to show that we are His.

The Mark and Promise of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)

13 The truth is the Good News. When you heard the truth, you put your trust in Christ. Then God marked you by giving you His Holy Spirit as a promise.

Paul had taught the believers in the great city of Ephesus how much God loved them. God sent His Son Jesus to save them from the power of evil and death. The Holy Spirit makes this **salvation** a sure thing. Paul wrote them to remind them what God had done for them.

First, the believers had heard the truth of the **Good News**. It is important for everyone to hear God’s word about Jesus Christ’s birth, death, and that He was raised from the dead. This is the Good News about salvation. In Romans 10:14, Paul asks how can anyone put their trust in Christ if they have not heard of Him.

Second, the believers in Ephesus believed. Hearing leads to faith. They heard the truth. Then they put their trust in Christ. They were made right with God. This is what saves from the punishment of sin. To have

faith means trust in God and in Jesus His Son.

Third, at the same time they became believers, God marked them by giving His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was a promise from God that they would always be His. What is this mark? It can also be called a seal. In Paul's day, seals were used many ways.

Seals, or marks, were sometimes put on letters to show who wrote it. Kings might seal their letters. They marked them with a ring in hot wax. The mark or seal showed it was the real thing and correct. Sometimes today when we buy clothes, we find a piece of paper that tells who looked at it before it was sold. It means it is good.

In the time of Paul, many had their own stamp or mark. They were used to mark things like letters to show that everything inside was true and not false. It was a promise. You could be sure that no one had opened the letter and changed anything inside it.

A seal was also placed on boxes sent from one place to another to show who they belonged to and where they were going. Today we might write names in our books, or on a child's clothes when they go to camp. Ranchers put a brand on their cattle. We put luggage tags on our suitcases when we travel. This mark shows who the owner is.

Another seal was for protection or warning. When Jesus was put in the tomb, Pilate told the soldiers to put his personal seal on the tomb. This was to protect the tomb and warn everyone to stay away and keep out. We seal glass jars of food by heating them and keeping air out so the food stays fresh. We buy medicine that has been sealed to show it has never been opened.

God has placed His Holy Spirit as a seal on us. It means we are for real, that we belong to God. We are right with God, and we are safe and protected. We are God's children. We are His people. Paul wrote the Corinthians the same truth: God "has put His mark on us to show we belong to Him. His Spirit is in our hearts to prove this" (2 Corinthians 1:22).

In the same way that we cannot see the wind, we cannot see this mark. We may not see the wind, but we can see what the wind does. The Holy Spirit is the seal for the Christian. The seal in us is a proof of our faith. The Spirit shows others that our faith is real. The Holy Spirit makes us sure that we have life that lasts forever. It keeps us safe. Because it was God Who did this, no one can break the seal. We will be safe with Jesus. It is for all those who have heard and believed.

God Promises the Holy Spirit to Make Us Complete (Ephesians 1:14)

14 The Holy Spirit was given to us as a promise

that we will receive everything God has for us. God's Spirit will be with us until God finishes His work of making us complete. God does this to show His shining-greatness.

In the time of Paul, when you bought something, you might pay only a part of the whole price. You made a promise that you would pay the rest of the price later. The Holy Spirit is God's promise to all who believe in Him. One day God will make us complete. God does this to show His shining-greatness.

Today when you buy a house, you have to make a "down payment." This is a promise that you will finish paying the rest of the money.

The Holy Spirit is like the "down payment" of heaven. God always keeps His promises. God promises to love us, save us, and give us His power. He also promises to judge those who do not obey. God promised

the Holy Spirit as the mark that we are saved.

Peter also writes, "We will receive the great things that we have been promised. They are being kept safe in heaven for us . . . You are being kept by the power of God because you put your trust in Him and you will be saved from the punishment of sin at the end of the world" (1 Peter 1:4-5).

When we buy a house or car or loaf of bread, we are given proof that we paid for it. Some stores will not let you leave until you show them this paper. The Holy Spirit is our proof of God's promises.

Paul wrote the word "promise" two times in these two verses. First, the promise shows we belong to God. A person who believes in Jesus cannot lose his or her salvation and the seal of the Holy Spirit makes us know that is true. The Spirit comes and we have the promise that this seal cannot be taken away. Second, the promise is to let us know there is more to come in heaven.

As God's people, we should be grateful for what God has done for us. We should let God's Holy Spirit work in our lives so we can help other people. Then our lives will truly bring honor to God, and show His shining-greatness.

Things to Remember

Ephesians 1:13-14 gives praise to God for the blessings He has given. Believers are

Things to Think About

1. What does the Holy Spirit want to help you do that will bring honor to Jesus?
2. Since God owns believers, can God disown a believer? Why? Why not?
3. Paul wrote about believers who "heard the word of truth." What do you do to help people hear the word of truth about Christ?
4. How does it help us to know that God has given us the promise of the Holy Spirit?

blessed because God chose, before creation, to save us. That salvation came at a great cost: the death of Jesus Christ. As children of God, we can be sure that God will give us what He has promised: living with Him forever in heaven. We are in Christ.

Other believers are around us. Respect them and live with them in such a way as it brings honor to God. We are led by the Spirit. Do not be afraid of where the Spirit leads. Let Him be in charge. He has only good planned for us.

We know that God will keep His promises to us. God marked the believers as His own. He sealed the promise by giving each one of us His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will be with every believer until God finishes His work in them. Praise God for His shining-greatness.

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