

# The Earnest of Our Inheritance

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## Ephesians 1:1-11

**Ephesians 1:12** That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

**Ephesians 1:13** 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,

**Ephesians 1:14** Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

### I. There is a sealing of the children of God upon believing

- Sealed: the eternal king has placed His stamp on us; His signet or private mark
  - > We have God's personal and peculiar brand showing ownership
  - > because "ye are bought with a price...." (**1Cor. 7:23**)
- Sealed: for the purpose of guaranteeing security and preservation (Gr. ye were sealed - sfragidzo = sealed for the purpose of security or preservation)
  - **Jude 1:1** (identifying the saved of God: "...them that are sanctified by God the Father, and **preserved in Jesus Christ**, and called:")
  - To violate a seal made by a king was to ask for death
  - The king (Ahasuerus) intended to counter the devices that Haman had planned against the Jews; in that intent we have a law which fits even more perfectly with God's power as King of the universe: **Esther 8:8** "Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king's name, and seal *it* 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."
- > In our condition of being sealed, the Lord will destroy those who try to tamper with that seal
- > That seal is unbreakable, because it is forged by the all powerful King
- > That seal signifies security for the property of Almighty God; the kind of security that can only exist when the owner is omnipotent
- > That unbreakable seal is absolute proof of preservation from all spiritual dangers that might damage the quality of that which is sealed
- > That unbreakable seal is absolute proof of preservation from spiritual theft by intruders

### II. The sealing is with the Holy Spirit

- Said here to be "that Holy Spirit of promise"
  - > We have been sealed with the signet that is the third Person of the Trinity
  - > That seal on us is to be looked upon as an unassailable and unmovable promise from God the Father that we are kept, and shall be kept
    - **1Pet. 1:5** "Who are kept by the power of God through faith...."
  - > Our awareness of that seal on us should always remind us that God has made an unchangeable promise to us about salvation and eternal life
    - **1Pet. 1:5** "Who are kept by the power of God through faith **unto salvation....**"

- This sealing of us is a heart thing: **2Cor. 1:22** Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit **in our hearts**.

### III. **This sealing by the Holy Spirit is the “earnest of our inheritance”**

- Cash on the barrel-head as a down payment from God for us to look at (with eyes of faith)
- This is God’s **pledge to us** that we are securely possessed by Him
- Every time we are made aware that the Holy Spirit is with us and in us, we should view it as that down payment from God testifying that we have something greater to look forward to
- The sureness of our eternal inheritance is witnessed to us each time we recognize that the Holy Spirit is God’s seal upon us

### IV. **This earnest of our inheritance is to be the absolute proof of the intent of God until He does wholly redeem those He has bought** (“...until the redemption of the purchased possession.”)

- There is a total redemption day waiting for us
- Right now we have the presence of the Holy Spirit reminding us of it, and guaranteeing it by his watchcare over our souls. If someone, man or devil, can overwhelm the Holy Spirit, such a being can break the seal of God and jeopardize our souls. If none can...we are that secure!
- One day we will experience the complete fruits of Christ’s redemption: we will enter the eternal state, and be given immortal and sinless bodies. We will be given everything that God intends to give His children
  - > It has not all been revealed, or unveiled to us yet: **1Pet. 1:5** “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time.**”
  - > It is reserved in heaven for us: **1Pet. 1:3-4** Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 **To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,**