

## God Never Breaks a Promise

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Study of Ephesians / Ephesians 1:11–14

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2 Peter 3:9 (NASB95)

The Lord is not slow about His promise...

Titus 1:2 (NASB95)

...God, who cannot lie...

Hebrews 10:23 (NASB95)

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;

Romans 4:21 (NASB95)

and being fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform.

Ephesians 1:11–14 (NASB95)

also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession, to the praise of His glory.

I. The Ground of Our Inheritance (Eph 1:11-13a)

A. We Are United with Christ (vv. 10c-11a)

| Ephesians 1:10–11 (NASB95)

...In Him

also we have obtained an inheritance...

Acts 4:12 (NASB95)

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Romans 6:3–5 (NASB95)

Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death?

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection,

Romans 8:29 (NASB95)

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to become* conformed to the image of His Son...

## B. Why Are We United with Christ? (vv. 11b-13a)

### 1. From God’s Perspective (vv. 11b-12a)

#### a. Predestined (v. 11b)

Ephesians 1:11 (NASB95)

...having been predestined according to His purpose...

Ephesians 1:4 (NASB95)

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love

“God has determined beforehand that those who believe in Christ will be adopted into his family and conformed to His son.” ~ Dr. Charles Ryrie

The Greek word translated “predestined” (proorizo) means, "to mark out the boundaries."

b. Power (v. 11c)

| Ephesians 1:11 (NASB95)

| ...who works all things after the counsel of His will...

The Greek word translated "works" (energeo) is the origin for the English words energetic, energize, and energy.

| Philippians 1:6 (NASB95)

| *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*

| Ephesians 1:19–20 (NASB95)

| and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. *These are* in accordance with the working of the strength of His might

| which He brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*,

Whatever God plans, He brings to completion.

C. Preeminence (v.12)

| Ephesians 1:12 (NASB95)

| to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

Isn't it wrong for God to want to receive praise and glory?

Why do you think Paul presented our salvation from the divine perspective?

2. From the Human Perspective (12-13a)

| Ephesians 1:12–13 (NASB95)

| to the end that we who were the first to hope in Christ would be to the praise of His glory.

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed...

#### A. Perplexing Question

How Can Predestination and Personal Faith Coexist at the Same Time?

#### B. Human Responsibility

Ephesians 1:13 (NASB95)

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed...

We must respond in faith and believe.

Romans 10:17 (NASB95)

So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

Romans 10:10 (NASB95)

for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.

John 1:12 (NASB95)

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,

Romans 3:20 (NASB95)

because by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified in His sight...

Ephesians 2:8–10 (NASB95)

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God;

not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.

## II. The Guarantee of Our Inheritance (Ephesians 1:13b-14a)

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NASB95)

...you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession...

What is the guarantee that once we jump into Christianity with both feet that we won't discover that it's a dead end?

We have not yet been totally redeemed.

Ephesians 1:13–14 (NASB95)

...were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,  
who is given as a pledge of our inheritance...

Romans 8:9 (NASB95)

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

1 Corinthians 6:19 (NASB95)

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you...

Romans 8:14 (NASB95)

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

Romans 8:16 (NASB95)

The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

### A. The Seal (v. 13b)

Ephesians 1:13 (NASB95)

...you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,

What does it mean to be sealed?

There are 4 things the Spirit's seal signifies...

1. Security

Daniel 6:16 (NASB95)

Then the king gave orders, and Daniel was brought in and cast into the lions' den. The king spoke and said to Daniel, "Your God whom you constantly serve will Himself deliver you."

Daniel 6:17 (NASB95)

A stone was brought and laid over the mouth of the den; and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the signet rings of his nobles, so that nothing would be changed in regard to Daniel.

2. Authenticity

3. Completed Transaction

4. Authority

B. The Guarantee (v. 14a)

Ephesians 1:14 (NASB95)

who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of *God's own* possession...

The Greek word translated "pledge" (arrabon) means "down payment."

A form of arrabon also came to be used for our tradition of giving an engagement ring.

The Holy Spirit is our engagement ring.

III. The Goal of Our Inheritance (Ephesians 1:14b)

Ephesians 1:14 (NASB95)

...to the praise of His glory.

God wants to be glorified through you.

1. How many of the promises of God are ours?

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NASB95)

For as many as are the promises of God, in Him they are yes; therefore also through Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.

2. Why is it important to know what God has promised us?

3. What are some of God's promises for us?

4. Do you exalt yourself over God? You may not do so in an overt way, but it is very easy to forget God as you make your plans for the day.