

THE HOLY SPIRIT: GOD'S GUARANTEE

Part 4: The Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:11–14

The Holy Spirit is our guarantee that God will redeem us.

Trust that you will spend eternity with God.

Introduction

Imagine finding out that you were the heir to a vast inheritance.

N.T. Wright tells the story of an ancient British castle that had been passed from generation to generation for centuries. Then, suddenly, the owner died unexpectedly without children. Overnight, his brother became the heir to an inheritance that changed his entire future.

Everything changed because of what belonged to him.

Church, the Bible tells us something even more astonishing.

You are heirs.

Not of a castle.

Not of a fortune.

But of the Kingdom of God.

The question is this:

How do we know God will actually bring us into that inheritance?

Paul answers:

Because God has already given us His Holy Spirit.

The Spirit is God's guarantee.

His pledge.

His down payment.
His promise that what He started, He will finish.

Reading the Text

Ephesians 1:13-14

"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

I. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SEAL OF GOD

Paul says believers were "sealed."

In the ancient world a seal served several purposes.

A king sealed document.

A merchant sealed cargo.

An owner marked possessions.

The seal communicated:

- **Ownership**
- **Authenticity**
- **Protection**
- **Authority**

When God places His Spirit within us, He is declaring:

"That one belongs to Me."

The enemy may accuse you.

Your past may condemn you.

Your failures may haunt you.

But the Spirit reminds heaven, hell, and your own heart:

You belong to God.

Greek Insight

The word "sealed" is the Greek word *sphragizo*.

It means:

- **To mark ownership**
- **To certify authenticity**
- **To secure against tampering**

God did not merely forgive you.

He marked you as His own.

Illustration

Think about ranchers branding cattle.

The brand does not change the value of the animal.

It identifies ownership.

The Holy Spirit is heaven's brand upon the believer.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD'S DOWN PAYMENT

Verse 14 says:

"Who is the guarantee of our inheritance."

The Greek word is *arrabōn*.

It was a business term.

It referred to a down payment made to guarantee the completion of a purchase.

In today's language:

A house deposit.
A car down payment.
Earnest money.

The payment wasn't the full purchase price.

It was evidence that the buyer intended to complete the transaction.

Illustration: Buying a House

When you buy a house, the bank wants assurance.

So money is placed down up front.

Why?

Because the deposit proves commitment.

It says:

"I am coming back to finish this deal."

The Holy Spirit is God's declaration:

"I am coming back for you."

What we experience now is wonderful.

But it is only the beginning.

The Spirit is not the full inheritance.

He is the guarantee of the inheritance.

III. WE ARE REDEEMED, BUT NOT YET FULLY REDEEMED

This sounds strange at first.

Didn't Jesus already redeem us?

Yes.

But there is an aspect of redemption still ahead.

Craig Keener points out that Israel was redeemed from Egypt before they entered their inheritance.

They were free.

But they had not yet arrived.

Likewise, Christians are redeemed through Christ.

But we are still awaiting the completion of redemption.

We are saved.

Yet we await glorification.

We are forgiven.

Yet we await resurrection.

We belong to Christ.

Yet we await the fullness of His Kingdom.

Romans 8 Connection

Paul writes that creation groans.

Believers groan.

Even the Spirit intercedes.

Why?

Because we are waiting.

Waiting for new bodies.

Waiting for a new heaven and new earth.

Waiting for the completion of God's plan.

Story: The Exodus

Israel left Egypt with a promise.

The Promised Land belonged to them before they ever arrived there.

Every step through the wilderness was guided by God's presence.

The pillar of cloud.

The pillar of fire.

The tabernacle.

God's presence among them was proof they would reach their destination.

The Holy Spirit is our pillar of cloud and fire.

His presence assures us:

God will get us home.

IV. THE SPIRIT WORKS UNTIL THE JOURNEY IS COMPLETE

Darrell Bock writes that the Spirit is actively working within believers until God's promises are fully fulfilled.

The Spirit isn't merely waiting.

He is working.

He convicts.

He comforts.

He guides.

He teaches.

He empowers.

He transforms.

Every conviction you feel.

Every prayer He inspires.

Every victory over sin.

Every moment of spiritual growth.

These are reminders that God is still working.

And if He is still working, He is not finished.

Philippians 1:6

"He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion."

Notice:

God began it.

God sustains it.

God finishes it.

V. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES US CONFIDENCE ABOUT ETERNITY

One of Satan's favorite weapons is uncertainty.

"Maybe you're not saved."

"Maybe God has abandoned you."

"Maybe you've failed too much."

"Maybe you'll never make it."

But the Spirit constantly points us back to Christ.

The Spirit testifies:

You are forgiven.

You are adopted.

You are loved.

You are sealed.

You are God's possession.

You are destined for glory.

Illustration

Imagine receiving the keys to a new home before move-in day.

The house is yours.

You don't fully occupy it yet.

But the keys prove ownership.

The Holy Spirit is the key ring of heaven.

He reminds us every day that our future home is secure.

VI. THE GOSPEL IS FOR EVERYONE

One remarkable feature of Ephesians is that Paul is speaking largely to Gentile believers.

These believers wondered:

"Do we really belong?"

"Are God's promises for us too?"

Paul answers:

"You also."

You heard.

You believed.

You were sealed.

You received the Spirit.

You have an inheritance.

The same Spirit that lives in every Jewish believer lives in every Gentile believer.

No second-class citizens exist in God's family.

At the foot of the cross, everyone receives the same grace.

Applications

1. Trust God's Promise

Stop living as though your future depends upon your strength.

Your future depends upon God's faithfulness.

2. Rest in Your Identity

You are not trying to become God's child.

If you belong to Christ, you already are His child.

The Spirit confirms this reality.

3. Live With Hope

The world grows darker.

Bodies grow weaker.

Trials increase.

But our inheritance remains untouched.

The best is yet to come.

4. Listen to the Holy Spirit

Every day ask:

"Spirit of God, what are You teaching me today?"

The guarantee isn't silent.

He is speaking.

He is leading.

He is preparing us for glory.

Conclusion

One day faith will become sight.

One day prayer will become praise.

One day hope will become reality.

One day we will stand before Jesus.

And when that day comes, we will discover that every promise God made was true.

The Holy Spirit living within us today is proof of that coming day.

He is God's seal.

God's pledge.

God's guarantee.

God's down payment on eternity.

The same God who saved you is the God who will keep you.

The same God who redeemed you is the God who will glorify you.

The same Spirit who lives in you today is the assurance that heaven awaits.

So take courage.

Trust His promise.

Rest in His presence.

And remember:

If God was willing to place His own Spirit within you, He will certainly bring you all the way home.

Amen.