

# **BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE**

## **Signed, Sealed and Delivered**

Ephesians 1:13-14

1998

### **Introduction**

In verses 4-12 where Paul praises God for our "spiritual riches" in Christ, we discovered the amazing blessings given to us as believers:

- 1) "Chosen by God", to be holy and without blame before Him in love (1:4)
- 2) "Predestined by God", to receive the adoption as sons of God (1:5-6a)
- 3) "Accepted by God", that is, to be highly favored by Him (1:6b)
- 4) "Redeemed" through the precious blood of His Son (1:7a)
- 5) "Forgiven" of our sins by virtue of His grace (1:7b-8)
- 6) "God has revealed His Will to us" pertaining to His plan to gather into one all things in Christ (1:9-10)
- 7) "And given us an inheritance" as part of His predetermined plan (1:11-12)

All of these blessings are found "in Christ"!

Verses 13-14 conclude this "doxology", by highlighting one of the most remarkable events of all -- the gift of the Holy Spirit!

### **I How To Be "In Christ"**

#### **A. Hear the Word**

John 5:24 "I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life."

Rom 10:14-15 "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"

Rom 10:17 "Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ."

#### **1. The Word of truth**

Eph 4:21 "Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus."

Col 1:5-6 "... the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth."

2. The gospel of salvation

Rom 1:16-17 "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

B. Believe the Word

Rom 2:13 "For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous."

Acts 28:26-27 "Go to this people and say, "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving." For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

1. One believes the gospel

Rom 10:9-10 "That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."

John 1:12-13 "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

2. One becomes a child of God

Gal 3:26-27 "You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Gal 4:6-7 "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."

## II God's Seal On The Deal

*Seal* = sphragizo = "to set a seal upon, mark with a seal, to seal"

### A. The purpose of a seal

#### 1. To guarantee authenticity (of a document)

Esth 3:12 "Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring."

1 Cor 9:2 "Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord."

#### 2. To protect against tampering or harm

Matt 27:66 "So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard."

Rev 5:1 "Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals."

#### 3. To mark ownership

Song 8:6 "Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame."

In certain New Testament cults, members would be tattooed as a sign of a seal. In the Old Testament the people of Israel had circumcision as a seal.

Rom 4:11 "And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness that he had by faith while he was still uncircumcised. So then, he is the father of all who believe but have not been circumcised, in order that righteousness might be credited to them."

### B. The Holy Spirit as our seal

#### 1. He guarantees our authenticity (that we are children of God)

Rom 8:16 "The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children."

Gal 4:6-7 "Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir."

2. He protects us from tampering or harm

Rom 8:13-14 "For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live, because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God."

It is by the Spirit of God that we "put to death the deeds of the body" so we can live (i.e., to some degree helping to protect against tampering or harm)

Eph 3:16 "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being ..."

3. He marks us as belonging to God

1 Cor 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

2 Cor 1:21-22 "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

The context of this passage indicates that Paul has "ownership" in mind when he speaks of the role of the Holy Spirit

"This 'seal' as a 'mark of ownership' is something that might be of more significance to God (and to Satan, who would try to steal what belongs to God) than it does to us, but we can take comfort in knowing that God considers us His property, and that the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to be evidence of such ownership.

Paul describes the Spirit in this passage as "the Holy Spirit OF PROMISE", which could be understood in two ways:

- 1) the promised Holy Spirit (cf. Ex 36:26-27; 37:1-14; Joel 2:28-29; Lk 24:49; Jn 14-16; Acts 1:4-5; 2:33,38-39); or
- 2) the Holy Spirit which gives promise of what else lies ahead."  
(Copeland, Mark. [https://executableoutlines.com/eph/eph\\_04.htm](https://executableoutlines.com/eph/eph_04.htm))

C. The Holy Spirit as our guarantee

**Deposit** = arrabon = an earnest = "A pledge or downpayment accompanied by a promise that the balance will be paid in full"

The word is applied in Modern Greek to the giving of an engagement ring.

1. He is the guarantee of our inheritance

2 Cor 1:21-22 "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

2 Cor 5:1-5 "Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

He is the first installment of the Christian's inheritance.

## 2. Until the redemption of God's possession

### a. We have been redeemed

Eph 1:7-8 "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding."

### b. We will be redeemed

Eph 4:30 "And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."

The Holy Spirit serves as a guarantee that our **final** redemption will one day take place

Hendriksen: "At the moment when believers receive THEIR full inheritance, which includes a glorious resurrection body (4:30), the redemption of GOD'S own possession takes place, that is, the full release to him of that which is his by virtue of the fact that he both made it and bought it."

(Copeland, Mark. [https://executableoutlines.com/eph/eph\\_04.htm](https://executableoutlines.com/eph/eph_04.htm))

## III How to Be Filled With The Holy Spirit

### A. We already have the Holy Spirit

Rom 8:9-11 "You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you."

B. We are commanded to be filled with the Holy Spirit

Eph 5:18 "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

C. We have a part in being filled with the Holy Spirit:

1. Obedience

I Jn 3:24 "Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us."

John 14:21 "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."

Acts 5:32 "We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

2. Surrender

Josh 24:23 "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

Rom 12:1 "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship."

1 Cor 6:19-20 "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

3. Desire - Ask

Luke 11:9-13 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

## **CONCLUSION**

We have the Holy Spirit as a "seal" and a deposit guaranteeing what is to come. Signed, Sealed and Delivered. How should we respond?

Note Paul that emphasizes three times (1:6,12, and now in verse 14), that these blessings are "to the praise of His glory"!

God loves us and wants us to respond by enjoying intimate relationship with Him.

We're not employees of God. He wants our hearts. We are the Bride of Christ. Let Him fill you! Let the Holy Spirit teach you to be the Bride of Christ. Do what brings life! Let His intimacy flow into your life. His power and fruit will flow out of your life as a result of your intimacy with Him!