



April 12, 2026

## The Spirit Seals and Assures

Ephesians 1:13-14



### 1. Sermon Outline:

- a. The Holy Spirit Is God's Mark of Authenticity and Ownership on Every Believer
  - i. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit when you believe the Gospel
  - ii. The Spirit's seal indicates authenticity, ownership, and protection by God
- b. The Holy Spirit Is God's Guarantee Believers Will Enjoy Eternity with Him
  - i. The Spirit in you is God's guarantee of your eternal future in Him
  - ii. The Spirit lets us taste God's presence in our life while here on earth
- c. The Holy Spirit's Presence Should Give You Peace About Your Spiritual Situation
  - i. Believers face many uncertainties and challenges, but spiritual assurance shouldn't be one of them
  - ii. How do you know you're sealed by the Spirit and what if you aren't sure?

### 2. *Sunday* – As soon as possible after the sermon, consider:

- a. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
- b. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
- c. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
- d. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
- e. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?

### 3. *Monday*:

- a. Before starting the devotional for today, discuss or answer individually: Many of us know and love the song “He Lives.” The chorus end with “You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart.” What do these words mean to you?
- b. Read Ephesians 1:13-14 from several different versions of the Bible. Then read it again from your preferred version and meditate on what Paul wrote.
  - i. What is the most important message you personally receive from these verses?
  - ii. What two things does Paul say that those he is writing to have done (verse 13)? Are you part of Paul’s audience because you have also done these?
- c. Within the first few words, Paul identifies his readers with the words “you also.” What do you think is the distinction between the “we” Paul writes about in verses 11-12 and the “you also” (consider Romans 1:16)?

- i. Why is this distinction important to us?
- ii. How do these verses reinforce what Paul tells the Galatians in Galatians 3:28-29?

#### 4. *Tuesday:*

- a. Today, before turning to the Scriptures, consider and discuss: The second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence starts with the words “We hold these truths to be self-evident.” What is the significance of the word “truth” in this phrase? In today’s society, where we are often told all truth is relative, wouldn’t it be better to substitute “opinions” or “beliefs” for “truths”?
- b. Read and meditate on these passages Ephesians 1:13-14, John 1:14 & 17, 8:31-32, 14:6, 17:17, 1 John 2:20-21.
  - i. Based on these passages, how would you answer Pilate’s question, “What is truth?” (John 18:38)?
  - ii. What two things do these passages teach us are “truth” (John 14:6 and 17:17)? How does John show us they are actually one and the same (John 1:1)? How should this help us when we are told there is no such thing as absolute truth?
  - iii. Read Romans 10:14-15. How does Paul explain the chain of events that were necessary for someone, including the Corinthians, to believe in the “truth”?
- c. Concentrating on the focal passage, Ephesians 1:13-14:
  - i. What is the “gospel” (consider 1 Corinthians 15:1-4)?
  - ii. What does “believe” mean? What must be believed (consider John 1:12, 3:15 & 18, 20:31, Romans 10:9-10)?

#### 5. *Wednesday:*

- a. Consider or discuss this question before moving on to the scriptures for the day: In 1982, in response to the Chicago Tylenol Murders, tamper-evident seals were introduced, sometimes making it seemingly impossible to open over-the-counter medications. Where else do you commonly see seals (not the marine animal)? How important do you think they are?
- b. Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30, Romans 5:5, 8:9-11, 8:14-17, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22, 6:17, 12:13, Galatians 4:6-7, 1 John 3:24 & 4:13.
  - i. If you are a Christian, when did you receive the seal?
  - ii. What are some of the things the Holy Spirit does in us or to us when we are sealed?
  - iii. What are four things that cannot be true if we are not sealed (see Romans 8:9, 8:14-17, 1 Corinthians 6:17, and 12:13)?
  - iv. Although it is possible to grieve the Holy Spirit, how long is the seal good for (Ephesians 4:30)? Why should that give us the ultimate assurance (see also Romans 8:38-39)?

- c. What Scripture passages have you seen recently that promise the Holy Spirit (see John 14:16-17, 15:26, and 16:13)? What does it mean to you that Jesus promised the Holy Spirit at least three times during His Farewell Discourse?

6. **Thursday:**

- a. Guarantees seem to be ubiquitous in our society, but often mean little if anything. Generally, what is your view of a guarantee? What has influenced your opinion? How does a guarantee differ from a promise?
- b. Read Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5-7, Romans 8:23, 1 Peter 1:3-5.
- c. In modern Greek, the ancient (Koine) Greek word that our Bibles translate “deposit guaranteeing,” “guarantee,” “down payment,” or “earnest” in 2 Corinthians and Ephesians now means “engagement ring”.
  - i. In what ways does that help you understand what is meant in these verses?
  - ii. Why is it a less-than-ideal analogy for God’s guarantee by the sealing of the Holy Spirit?
  - iii. Because of the similarities, some writers actually call the Holy Spirit the “divine engagement ring.” What would be a better ring analogy in view of Romans 8:39 and 1 Peter 1:3-4 (with Matthew 5:31-32, etc.)?
  - iv. How does the translation “down-payment” offer a significantly different understanding? In what ways is a down payment more meaningful than a promise implied by a modern engagement ring?
- d. What does the Holy Spirit’s sealing guarantee for those who have received it?
  - i. What is significant about the fact that being sealed guarantees an inheritance (see Romans 8:14-17)?
  - ii. How does Paul’s statement that we are “fellow heirs with Christ” elevate the significance?

7. **Friday:**

- a. Do you ever wonder who really pays attention to those strange labels on soft drink containers that say something like: “IA-HI-ME-MA-NY-VT\$.05”? Would it surprise you that the redemption programs behind those numbers pay out about \$4 billion annually? What lessons might we take away from this?
- b. Read Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 3:23-24, 1 Corinthians 1:30, Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 1:3-8a, and Col 1:13-14.
  - i. Based on these passages, how would you define “redemption”?
  - ii. Why is it correct to say that redemption has “been partially completed”? What accomplished that redemption?
  - iii. When will our redemption be completed? What will be different when that happens (see Romans 8:23 and Revelation 21:4)?
  - iv. How do Ephesians 1:7, Romans 8:1-4, and 1 John 3:2 demonstrate the three stages of our redemption?

- c. What is the ultimate purpose of the Holy Spirit's work (see 1 Corinthians 10:31, 2 Corinthians 4:6, Hebrews 1:3)?
8. **Saturday:**
- a. Read and meditate on Ephesians 1:13-14, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, and Romans 8:16.
  - b. How is the Spirit influencing the way you live your life? What needs to change to be more responsive to the Holy Spirit?
9. **Application:**
- a. If you are not a Christian, then you are not sealed by the Holy Spirit, and you need to seek Jesus as your Lord and Savior. See one of our Pastors or a Christian you trust and have them explain the few simple steps necessary to be saved.
  - b. If you are a Christian, then rest in the assurance that you have been sealed, that you are a child of God and a joint heir with Christ, and that the seal cannot be broken – no matter what you are going through, the Holy Spirit will carry you through to the final redemption when Christ returns and establishes His eternal Kingdom. But always remember that the seal does not give us the right to live as we want – it requires that we obey His commands and accept Him as Lord.
10. **Pray:** This week, we pray for two unreached people groups from Peru that the IMB has included in their Loving the Lost through Prayer guide for 2026:
- a. Asheninca Perene: The Asheninca Perene (ah-SHAY-noon-kah pay-ray-NAY) live in high jungle areas of the Peruvian rainforest, where they practice traditional agriculture and hunting, passed down through generations. Many also work as peasant laborers on neighboring coffee plantations. Their animistic worldview includes belief in good and evil spirits that influence their daily lives. The Asheninca Perene often rely on the local shaman to communicate with and appease the spirits on their behalf. Pray that the Asheninca Perene people will hear the gospel and believe in the God who created them and the world in which they live.
  - b. Northern Conchucos Quechua Ancash: The Northern Conchucos Quechua Ancash (con-CHOO-cohs KAY choo- ah AHN-cahsh) live secluded in some of the most remote regions of Peru's Andes Mountains. Their lives are difficult. They work hard to farm potatoes and beans. Most families build their own small, adobe homes out of mud bricks that help provide warm shelter during the harsh Andean nights. This people group has a variety of beliefs. They worship an Incan goddess called Mother Earth, or Pachamama. They also visit shamans for healing and help with curses, and they bow to idols of local Catholic saints for blessings and miracles. Many live without the hope of the gospel. Pray the good news of Jesus Christ will reach the Northern Conchucos Quechua Ancash people and fill them with hope for eternal life in Him.