

SUBJECT: THE HOLY SPIRIT’S RESPONSE to our TRUSTING in the GOSPEL MESSAGE

SCRIPTURE: Ephesians 1:13, 14 (KJV). 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. Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.

INTRODUCTION

In the opening verses of Ephesians 1, we have given to us Paul’s greeting to the saints at Ephesus and to all the faithful in Christ Jesus. Then, from verse 3 onward to verse 11, the focus turns to God “at work” blessing the Believer(s) in Christ.

**“Blessed by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”**

It is only now, in verses 12 and 13, that we see:

- The focus turns to the Believer and his personal responsibility and obligation to what God has done.
- The requirement for entering into further blessings from God.
- The Holy Spirit and His work of:
 - Indwelling the Believer
 - Sealing the Believer
 - Becoming the Believer’s Earnest

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY and HUMAN OBLIGATION

Ephesians 1:13, tells us of the work that the Believer does. **Notice the “Ye (you)” clauses:**

- **Ye (you) heard the word of truth.**

God has ordained the preaching of the Gospel as the primary means by which His gift of Jesus Christ is made known to mankind.

1 Corinthians 1:21. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

- **Ye (you) believed.**

God has ordained that **believing** of the Gospel preached is the obligation of the one who hears the Gospel.

- **Ye (you) also trusted.**

God requires that to the one who hears and believes the Gospel, he must place **faith and trust** in Jesus Christ as the means of salvation.

Romans 10:9, 10. That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

- **Ye (you) were sealed.**

Having met the righteous requirements of God, the Believer is now sealed by the Spirit of God. (Ephesians 1:13, 14)

From Ephesians Chapter 1, we see that **THE GODHEAD IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE Believer’s salvation.**

The Father – He Blessed Us (verse 3)

The Son – In Whom we have Redemption through His Blood and the Forgiveness of Sins (verses 6,7)

The Holy Spirit – Seals the Believer (verse 13)

THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT OF GOD

- The Holy Spirit and His work in the Believer (having met the righteous requirements of God):

God has ordained preachers to proclaim the Word of Truth, and the Gospel of Salvation to the world. As individuals hear, they are required to believe and to trust. Having believed and trusted, they obtain salvation and are sealed by the Holy Spirit.

Before one hears and places their faith in Christ THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT DWELL WITHIN THAT PERSON

Romans 8:9. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

After a person hears, believes and places their faith in Christ THE HOLY SPIRIT INDWELLS THAT PERSON (THE BELIEVER)

Romans 8:11. But if the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

- Why does the Holy Spirit indwell the Believer at this time?
Because God's holy requirements have been met by Jesus Christ the Lord, and by the Believer.

Compare: Matthew 3:13 – 17 and John 7:37 – 39

Matthew 3:13 – 17. Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. But, John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer (permit) it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And, lo a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

John 7:37 – 39. In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Attributes and functions of the Holy Spirit as given in Ephesians 1:13, 14:

- He comes to the person only after the other requirement have been met.
- He is associated with the word "promise" and indeed is, The Promise.
- He seals – happens at the moment of regeneration; by the Spirits 's indwelling. (It is immediate and without pause or any other conditions to be met. The seal confirms and makes sure, protects and signifies ownership. The seal guarantees and assures us before God.)
- He is the earnest.
- He indwells the Believer until the day of redemption. (Ephesians 4:30)
- His work brings forth praise to God.

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