

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

Ephesians 1:13-14 – The Sealing of the Spirit

Remember to begin your study early in the week so that you have time to really think (and keep thinking) about the passage without being rushed.

❖ Day 1

For these lessons, the sermon text is provided in a format that visually helps display the structure of the paragraph or section of text. The main verbs are underlined. Commands are double-underlined. Generally, the main indicative clauses remain to the left, and the other clauses are either directly underneath when they have equal priority to what comes before, or are tabbed to the right when the clause supports, develops, or draws a conclusion from a neighboring clause.

13 In him you also,
 when you heard the word of truth,
 the gospel of your salvation,
 and believed in him,
 were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,
14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance
 until we acquire possession of it,
 to the praise of his glory.

1. Have you ever heard of the “sealing of the Holy Spirit”? What are some ways you have heard the sealing of the Holy Spirit described before? What ideas about this topic do you have? Where have you gotten those ideas from?
2. Read Ephesians 1:3-14. What is the main idea of Ephesians 1:3-14?
3. How does the sealing of the Spirit fit into this section?

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4. What are some of the other spiritual blessings of salvation that Paul describes in this section?

5. What is the response to all of these riches that Paul is calling us to?

❖ Day 2

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 again.

6. Who is the “in him” referring to at the beginning of this verse? What is the significance of this phrase in this passage, section, and in the Bible as a whole?

7. When does the sealing of the Holy Spirit take place according to this passage? Why is this significant?

Summit Woods Baptist Church
First Corinthians Sermon Study Equipping Class

8. What are the 2 descriptions of the gospel that they heard in this passage? What are the implications of these?
9. How does this passage describe the Ephesians' response to the gospel? Why are both of these components essential to a saving response to the gospel?
10. What does it mean to be sealed with the Holy Spirit? (cf. Eph 4:30) What is it that we're sealed with?
11. Are believers admonished, here or anywhere else to seek the sealing of the Holy Spirit?
12. What are some of the practical implications for the life of the believer of this doctrine?

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❖ Day 3

Read Ephesians 1:13-14 again.

13. How does Paul describe the Holy Spirit at the end of v. 13? Where is the Holy Spirit promised? Why is this significant for the point Paul is making in these verses?

14. How does Paul further describe the Holy Spirit in v. 14? What does this mean? How is this connected with the sealing described in v. 13? (cf. 2 Cor 1:21-22)

15. What is the inheritance of the believer? (cf. 1:11, 18, 1 Pet 1:4)

16. What is the purpose of the work of the Spirit described in this passage? How does this fit into the larger work of the Spirit?

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17. Summarize, in one sentence, the work of the Spirit in Ephesians 1:13-14.

18. How has your understanding of the Holy Spirit been shaped by our study this year? In what ways have you been corrected? In what ways have you been informed of the truths of God's Word? In what ways have you been encouraged?

19. How has your life been impacted by our study of the Holy Spirit this year? How have you applied the truth we have learned?

In preparation for Sunday, pray that the body of Christ would be encouraged and assured by understanding the sealing work of the Spirit. Pray that unbelievers would long to have the assurance we have – that we are God's children and have been marked as such – and that that longing would soften their hearts to the gospel.