

The Promised Holy Spirit – Our Earnest

The Scripture

Ephesians 1:13–14 (KJV)

¹³ 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,

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

The Order of Events

God is a God of order. There is nothing in Scripture that is not orderly. We see the same in our current scripture of study. Christ, the subject of the word trust, was trusted as we see here, after we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. First we heard, then we trusted, and we believed. After believing, we were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. It is all done in an orderly fashion with no one part happening before the other.

What we see here are a series of events placed in a specific order. We see the word “after” appear twice in verse 13. Paul tells us we trusted in Jesus AFTER we heard the word of truth, the gospel of our salvation. Then, after believing, we were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. This all comes down to hearing the Gospel, believing on Jesus for our salvation, and after that being sealed with the Holy Spirit.

We see this in what Jesus told us in the gospel accounts.

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John 14:25–26 (KJV)

²⁵ These things have I spoken unto you, being *yet* present with you.

²⁶ But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

And again,

John 15:26 (KJV)

²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

And once again,

John 16:7 (KJV)

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

Once again, we see an order to God's plan. Jesus had to go back to the Father so that the Holy Spirit could come to us who have believed on Jesus for our salvation and we could be sealed in that holy Spirit that Jesus has promised to us. There is a definite order described here in Ephesians that is present in the Gospels, also. God's Word is ordered and that order does not change. God does not change. He keeps these things in order.

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We Are Sealed

These verses in John prove to us that the Holy Spirit was sent to us to seal us until that day of redemption. Scripture is clear about the fact that once we are saved, we are eternally saved. As we just read in our opening verse, "...ye are sealed with that holy Spirit of promise..." No one can break that seal of God. We are unable to break that seal, Satan is unable to break that seal, no other person or angel is able to break that seal. In fact, if it were possible to break that seal, God would be the only one to do so, but God will not go against His own word. He will not break that seal. Consider what Jesus said in John chapter 10.

John 10:27–30 (KJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

³⁰ I and *my* Father are one.

Now, who are these sheep? Since it is Jesus speaking here, one may assume it is only the Jews since he was originally sent to save the Jews, the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

Matthew 10:5 (KJV)

⁵ These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into *any* city of the Samaritans enter ye not:**

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And again he said in Matthew the following.

Matthew 15:22–28 (KJV)

²² And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, *thou* Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.

²³ But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us.

²⁴ But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.**

²⁵ Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

²⁶ But he answered and said, **It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs.**

²⁷ And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

²⁸ Then Jesus answered and said unto her, **O woman, great *is* thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.** And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

But, when we compare Scripture with Scripture, we find that Jesus came to the lost sheep of the house of Israel first, and then also to the whole world. Paul, a Jew, a Hebrew of Hebrews, reminds us of this fact that Jesus also said.

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Romans 1:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Where did Jesus speak of this principle? Let's read in John 17.

John 17:20 (KJV)

²⁰ Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

We have eternal life when we believe on Jesus.

John 3:16 (KJV)

¹⁶ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Once again then let us read John 10:27 – 30,

John 10:27–29 (KJV)

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

²⁸ And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any *man* pluck them out of my hand.

²⁹ My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no *man* is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

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We who believe on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as our only means of salvation are sealed in that holy Spirit of promise.

In olden times, one's property was sealed with a wax seal. This wax seal also had the imprint of the owner's ring on it, showing it was the property of that person. This is analogous to what we have here with us being sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. The Holy Spirit forms all the lines and markings on the soul of the one being sealed showing we belong to God. Being God's we are eternally sealed with Him and as Scripture so clearly states no man can take us from God's hand.

The Holy Spirit Promised To Us By Jesus

Jesus himself promised he would send us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is promised to us who have believed on Jesus for our salvation. This is another area where order is important. Jesus had to leave first and then the Holy Spirit could come. We read of this in John 16.

John 16:7 (KJV)

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

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We can be sure Jesus is speaking of the Holy Spirit here because of words he spoke earlier on in John 15.

John 15:26–27 (KJV)

²⁶ But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

²⁷ And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.

And again in John 16.

John 16:12–14 (KJV)

¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you.

Now we read the following in Acts.

Acts 1:4–5 (KJV)

⁴ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.

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⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Acts 1:8–9 (KJV)

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

Remember, all things are done in an orderly fashion with God. Jesus said he would have to leave before the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, could come. This is exactly the way it happened. Jesus, as we just read, departed, and he told the disciples to wait for the coming of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost did come as we read a bit later in Acts.

Acts 2:1–4 (KJV)

¹ And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

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⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now, what is interesting here is that Jesus has already returned to the Father as he said he would have to in John 16:7.

John 16:7 (KJV)

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

The Holy Ghost has already appeared on the scene as we read in Acts 2:1 – 4. Any believer after the appearance of the Holy Ghost here does not have to wait for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Jesus told his followers to wait there in Jerusalem for the coming of the Holy Ghost. Once again order comes into play, as we have stated. Jesus had to go to the Father and after going to the Father, He would send the Holy Ghost. We have an order also, first we must believe on Jesus, as his followers did, and then when we are saved, we receive the Holy Ghost. I mention one other thing here, that there is no requirement of speaking in tongues in order to be saved, or to prove to others you are saved. If you believe on Jesus as your only means of salvation and never speak in tongues, you are still saved! Jesus never mentioned speaking in tongues as a requirement for eternal life, the Father never spoke of tongues as a requirement for eternal life, and Paul never said one is only saved when one speaks in tongues. Paul states what it is that saves us in 1 Corinthians 15:1 – 4. What is interesting here, also, is that what is mentioned in Acts as speaking in other tongues, is explained there. These men were in Jerusalem for the feast of

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Pentecost, and they came from all over the area to Jerusalem as instructed to celebrate the feasts. These men all spoke different languages, but yet when men from Galilee spoke in different tongues, it was not in some unknown utterings, it was speech that those around them could hear and understand; understanding they were glorifying God. See Acts 2:6 – 11. There is more I could say here, but I just want folks to understand they are saved by believing on the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus only. No other works or outside actions can bring about salvation whether done alone or in unison with believing on the Gospel.

The Holy Ghost Is Our Earnest

So, what does this term, earnest, mean? Well, if we are not sure, then we need to look it up and determine its meaning and how it applies in the context of the Scripture we are reading. The word earnest here is a kind of first fruit, an advance payment on a future promise or contract. We who are saved, are sealed from the day of wrath to be poured out by God on an unbelieving world. Only we who are saved are sealed. As we saw before, this salvation comes before the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost only comes into those who have believed on Jesus for salvation. The sealing of the Holy Ghost is our advance, or earnest, or advance, on our inheritance promised by God to those who believe. Remember what we read earlier.

Ephesians 1:13 (KJV)

¹³ 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,

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Ephesians 1:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Now, if the Holy Ghost is the earnest of our inheritance, then it is clear from what we are reading here, the redemption of the purchased possession has yet to come. Jesus has not set up his kingdom, he is not sitting on his throne as King, and the Holy Ghost is still working in the lives of those who have been saved, or redeemed. Scripture does make it clear that we have been purchased with a price, and that we are heirs, joint-heirs, with Christ. We have been redeemed from the curse of the law.

Galatians 3:13 (KJV)

¹³ Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree:

Jesus purchased us to the utmost farthing. No greater price could have been paid for our redemption; our salvation. He has promised us that we who believe on him will be heirs with him. We as ones who were previously Gentiles even, will be heirs with him because of this price he paid for our salvation. To further prove not only his love for us, but also his willingness to keep his promise to us, he has given us the Holy Ghost as earnest on that future inheritance.

It is Jesus who paid it all, and it is the Holy Ghost who is the earnest of our inheritance, and it is the love of the Father that has made it all possible. Will you believe on Jesus? Will you be eligible to receive that earnest of our future inheritance? Will you respond favorably in God's



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eyes to the love of the Father and the free gift of salvation He has given us through His only begotten Son, Jesus? The choice is yours.