

THE SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

— God's Mark of Ownership, Covenant, and Promise —

- The Old Testament Foundation of God's Seal
- The Seal Revealed IN Christ and the Gospel
- The Seal as God's Earnest of Our Inheritance
- Living Worthy of the Seal

The Bible speaks of being "...sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise" ([Eph.1:13](#))
God willing, we will explore the subject of, "**The Seal of the Holy Spirit**".

If we are to understand the "**seal of the Holy Spirit**,"
we must gather all that God has revealed on the subject ([Psa.119:160](#) ASV; [Acts 20:27](#); [2Tim.3:16-17](#)).

Some have incorrectly described the seal as a feeling,
While others have suggested it is, an inward voice or mystical impression;
But Scripture defines it otherwise.

This morning, we will allow both the Old and New Testaments to explain:

- 1) What a seal meant under God's covenant dealings, 2) When and how believers are sealed.
- 3) What the seal guarantees, 4) And How the sealed life must be lived.

Let's begin where God first introduced the imagery.
Before Paul ever wrote about being "sealed with the Holy Spirit,"
God had already taught His people what a seal meant.

So, we'll consider,

I. The Old Testament Foundation of God's Seal

A. A Seal as Ownership and Authority

In ancient times, a seal was impressed by a king's ring.
It signified authority and ownership. The Persian king instructed Mordecai to,

- "...seal it with the king's ring: for the writing which is written in the king's name, and sealed with the king's ring, may no man reverse." ([Esther 8:8](#))

Explanation:

- "Sealed" means — authenticated under royal authority.
- The seal made the decree binding and irreversible.

Notice also, how a seal secured something, under the king's protection.

- Scripture says, "...the king sealed it, with his own signet... that the purpose might not be changed concerning Daniel." ([Daniel 6:17](#))

Explanation:

- The seal prevented tampering — It showed the king's control, over the situation.

A king's seal did not create authority — it declared it.
Likewise, God's seal declares who belongs to Him.
In Scripture, a seal signifies ownership, authority, and protection.

Not only did seals represent ownership and authority, it is...

B. A Mark Distinguishing the Faithful, Before Judgment

Before judgment fell upon Jerusalem, in a prophetic vision, God marked the righteous.

- He "...set a mark upon the foreheads of the men, that sigh and that cry, for all the abominations..." ([Ezekiel 9:4](#))

Explanation:

- "Mark" means — a distinguishing sign of separation.
Those marked were spared from destruction.
- In [Ezekiel 9](#) the "mark" occurred during a prophetic vision.
It represented God's recognition and protection of the faithful, not a visible, physical branding.

This same imagery of God marking His faithful people, appears again in the New Testament, showing continuity between the covenants.

- “Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed** the servants of our God in their **foreheads**.” ([Rev.7:3](#))

Explanation

- “Sealed” again identifies those who belong to God.
- The imagery parallels Ezekiel 9 — God marks the faithful before judgment.
- “Foreheads” symbolize the mind and allegiance of a person ([Deut.6:6-8](#)).
- A seal in “their foreheads” was not a literal tattoo, but God’s recognition of those who belong to Him — in contrast to the mark of the beast ([Rev.7:3](#); [13:16](#); [Rev.14:1](#)).

Just as the righteous in Ezekiel, were marked before destruction came upon Jerusalem, the faithful servants of God in Revelation, are pictured as sealed before God’s judgments unfold..

God’s law itself, was described as — sealed among His people.

- “Bind up the testimony, **seal the law** among my disciples.” ([Isaiah 8:16](#))

Explanation:

- “Seal the law” means — preserve, identify, and authenticate among true followers.

The Old Testament teaches that a seal:

- Marks ownership,
- Distinguishes the faithful,
- Protects before judgment,
- And Is tied to a covenant relationship

This foundation prepares us to understand the New Testament teaching, correctly.

Now that we understand the Old Testament background, let’s examine,

II. The Seal Revealed IN Christ and the Gospel

A. The Order of Hearing, Believing, and Being Sealed

Paul clearly describes the sequence.

- “...after that ye heard the word of truth... after that ye believed, ye were **sealed** with that holy Spirit of promise.” ([Eph.1:13](#))

Explanation:

- The sealing follows hearing and believing.
- It is not before faith, but after.

On Pentecost, Peter explained how men enter a covenant relationship.

- “Repent, and be baptized... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” ([Acts 2:38](#))

Explanation:

- Repentance and baptism precede receiving the promise.

God’s seal is covenantal — it follows obedient faith.

But the Scriptures go even further, by explaining,

B. The Seal Identifies, Those Who Belong to the Lord

Paul describes the seal in terms of belonging.

- He said, “the foundation of God standeth sure, having this **seal**, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” ([2Tim.2:19](#))

Explanation:

- The seal affirms divine ownership.

Paul also explains that belonging to Christ is directly connected to having His Spirit.

- “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is **none of His**.” ([Rom.8:9](#))

Explanation

- “None of his” means — not belonging to Christ.
- The Spirit identifies those who belong to Him.

...Those who respond to the gospel and enter into Christ.

- “For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ**, have put on Christ.” ([Gal.3:27](#))

Explanation:

- To be “in Christ” is to be in a covenant relationship.

The seal is given to those who:

- Hear the gospel, Believe it, and Enter into Christ through obedience.

It is not emotional — it is a covenant relationship.

But what does this seal guarantee?

III. The Seal as God’s Earnest of Our Inheritance

In addition to describing the Spirit as a seal,

Paul also describes the Spirit as something else, that helps us understand the assurance, God gives His people.

A. The Earnest of Redemption

Paul uses another word alongside “seal.”

- “Which is the **earnest** of our inheritance until the redemption...” ([Eph.1:14](#))

Explanation:

- “Earnest” means — a pledge, down payment guaranteeing fulfillment.

God both seals, and gives the earnest.

- He, “Who hath also **sealed** us, and given the **earnest** of the Spirit in our hearts.” ([2Cor.1:22](#))

Explanation:

- “The Spirit’s” work, assures future redemption.

Paul repeats this same promise in another passage, when discussing the future resurrection.

- He said, “Now He that hath wrought us, for the selfsame thing, is God, Who also hath given unto us, the **earnest** of the Spirit.” ([2Cor.5:5](#))

Explanation

- “Earnest” again, means — a pledge or down payment.
- The Spirit’s work assures the believer, that God will complete the redemption He has promised.

Just as a down payment guarantees that a purchase will be completed, God’s earnest guarantees the future resurrection and final redemption, while the seal identifies those who belong to Him.

However, the seal of the Spirit is not only a promise concerning the future, It also affects how the believer lives in the present.

B. The Seal Produces Transformation

The presence of God produces visible fruit.

- The Bible says, “But the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness...” ([Gal.5:22-23](#))

Explanation:

- “Fruit” means — evidence of influence.

The sealed life reflects God’s holiness.

- “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” ([1Pet.1:16](#))

Explanation:

- Holiness — reflects divine likeness.

The seal is:

- A guarantee of future redemption, A present transformation, and A call to holiness.

If we are sealed, how must we live?

IV. Living Worthy of the Seal

If God has placed His seal upon His people, then those who bear that seal, must live in a way that honors, the One who owns them.

A. Do Not Grieve the Holy Spirit

Sealing does not remove responsibility. The Bible warns...

- “**grieve NOT** the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are **sealed** unto the day of redemption.” ([Eph.4:30](#))

Explanation:

- “Grieve” means — to cause sorrow.
- Sin contradicts, covenant loyalty.

Paul repeatedly reminds Christians, that the assurance of salvation is connected to how we **choose** to live.

- “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die...” ([Rom.8:13](#))

Explanation:

- Security is conditional, upon walking after the Spirit.

A man or woman wearing the king’s seal, must honor the king.

Because the Christian life is a continual walk with God, the Scriptures also emphasize,

B. Perseverance, Until The Final Day of Redemption

The sealed life is active, not passive.

- Paul said, “I press toward the mark, for the prize of the high calling of God IN Christ Jesus.” ([Phil.3:14](#))

Explanation:

- The Christian life is continual striving.

The hope of future redemption, produces a powerful motivation for holy living.

- “every man that hath this hope in him, purifieth himself, even as He is pure.” ([1Jn.3:3](#))

Explanation:

- Hope motivates holiness.

The seal is not a license to sin. It is a covenant mark, calling for perseverance and purity.

V. Closing Thoughts

From Genesis to Revelation, a Seal means:

- Ownership
- Authority
- Distinction
- Protection
- Covenant relationship
- And Future assurance

The Seal of the Holy Spirit is:

- God marking the obedient believer as His own, before judgment ([Ezek.9:4](#); [Rev.7:3](#))
- Granting the promise of redemption,
- and Calling ([2Thess.2:14](#)) that believer to holy living.

If you desire to bear God's mark:

- You'll need to Hear His Word ([Rom.10:17](#))
- Believe IN Christ ([Jn.8:24](#); [Heb.11:6](#))
- Repent of your sins ([Acts 17:30](#); [Lk.13:3](#))
- Confess Christ before men ([Rom.10:9-10](#); [Acts 8:36-37](#))
- Be baptized INTO Christ ([Gal.3:27](#); [Acts 22:16](#))
- Then walk faithfully, until the final day of redemption, in judgment.

...Won't you come, while we stand and while we sing.