

God Sealed You!

Ephesians 1:11-14

An overview of what we've studied so far:

- Ephesians 1:1-6 God chose you
- Ephesians 1:7-10 Jesus redeemed you
- Ephesians 1:11-14 The Holy Spirit sealed you

DAY 1: You have an inheritance

Ephesians 1:11 In Him we were also chosen as His inheritance having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will...

1. When you think of an inheritance, what kinds of things come to your mind?

2. In Christ we have a wonderful inheritance. There is a future promised to His kids. We usually think of heaven, which is true. But it's what occurs in heaven that is most wonderful—a new and rich life, blessed with rich relationship with God and people.

Colossians 1:12 we are partakers of His inheritance ...

Ephesians 1:11 In Him we were also chosen as His inheritance having been predestined...

3. Here though, Paul says something else. In Christ we are an inheritance. We are valuable to Him. God shed His blood to redeem you, and now you've become His inheritance!

He will inherit us one day!

4. In the theological sense, to inherit means to "**receive an irrevocable gift.**" The emphasis is on the special relationship between the benefactor and the recipients.

5. Believers are promised ...

1 Peter 1:4 ...an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you...

6. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 2: You have hope in Him

Ephesians 1:11 In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory.

1. We put our hope for real life not in the things the world provides.

2. Our hope is not in our:

- Comfort and ease,
- Convenience,
- Income,
- Status,
- Glory
- Popularity,
- Being esteemed,
- Being liked,
- Being admired, or how people relate to us and treat us, etc.

3. Instead, we put our hope in Christ...

- What He can give us,
- What He will give us,
- For the new nature He is building in us,
- Taking on the character of Christ,
- Taking on His values,
- Taking on His purposes,
- Seeking to serve Him and people as we have opportunities,
- Seeking to glorify and honor Him
- The hope of heaven—seeing Jesus Christ face-to-face, realizing God has redeemed every ounce of pain and suffering we endured on earth,

4. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 3: You have a sealed deal

Ephesians 1:13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit...

1. This verse highlights the process of salvation: someone hears the gospel, believes the gospel, and are “sealed” (received the Spirit right then).

2. What does it mean that we are sealed? And what is significant about being sealed?

A seal represents ...

- ...A finished product or transaction.

3. Official legal documents are stamped signifying the completion of an agreement.

4. Jeremiah did the same thing centuries ago.

Jer. 32:9, 10 ...so I bought the field ... and weighed out seventeen shekels of silver. I signed and sealed the deed, had it witnessed ...

5. Our marriage license is sealed. It represent something completed.

- **B. Security and protection.**

6. After Christ was crucified, his body was lowered and carried to a nearby tomb. A huge boulder was rolled across the entrance and the authorities demanded that an armed guard make sure no one tampered with the body. That tomb was sealed. Roman guards guarded the tomb providing security and protection of the body. (*Matt. 27:62-66*)

- **C. Mark of authenticity.**

7. The signature on a letter attests to the letter’s authenticity.

8. There are times in Christian’s lives where you wonder, “Did I really give my heart to Christ?” This is especially true when you have messed up again and again. Satan swoops in blast you with things like, “And you think you’re a Christian?”

Significance: I do not validate my own authenticity as one of His kids. He does!

Rom. 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.

9. What strikes you from today’s devotional?

DAY 4: You have a guarantee of what's to come

*Ephesians 1:14 ...who is **a deposit** guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of His glory.*

1. “Deposit” (arabon)— can mean earnest money (the promise of full payment) or a **down payment**. Down payment guaranteeing a final purchase of a commodity or property.
2. In real estate, you often have to put down “earnest” money when you bid on a house. It tells the owner you are dead serious about purchasing the house.
3. “Earnest” – **engagement ring**. This takes the idea a step deeper. It's not just that God has a contractual relationship in which we can go to the bank. He also has an intensely personal one, a promise of the deepest kind of love we know. He calls us the Bride, and Himself the Bridegroom. One day, the Bridegroom will come for His bride.
4. The Holy Spirit in our lives and the life we experience because of Him being in our life is a down payment of what we'll experience in heaven. The hors d'oeuvres now, the full banquet to come.
5. All of the promises of God will eventually come to fulfillment in our lives, some here, all in heaven. The Holy Spirit living in us is guarantee to promises fulfilled.

*Ephesians 1:14 ...who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of **those who are God's possession**—to the praise of His glory.*

6. **God's purchased possession** – preserving, acquiring, gaining for one's self.
7. It's very easy to read a passage like this, with it's list of the finest things God can give us and just soak it in, like a child does on Christmas ... and miss the giver! The point of the deluge of toys on Christmas isn't the toys. The point isn't just the child. The point is that the child might feel the strength and wonder of his parents' love and devotion. Most children don't understand that until ... they become parents! Your desire is to see the joy on their face, to see their eyes light up, and to *reciprocate that very joy!!*
8. As Christians, we can read the list of blessings and can live our lives as if we're the point, in the process becoming quite self-absorbed. We can become a kid who is spoiled rotten. When he doesn't get what he wants he throws, as we used to say in the south, a “hissy fit.” We can throw hissy fits over big things we don't get, but we're really adept at throwing little hissy fits in even the minutest of ways.
9. What strikes you from today's devotional?

DAY 5: Life with the Holy Spirit

1. People have told me stories, and I've witnessed one of them, of well-educated and very well off folks who get quite perturbed when someone parks a car in front of *their* house. I was at a very good friend's home when a neighbor knocked on my friend's door and wanted to know if there was any of their guests who parked in front of her house. I was absolutely flabbergasted!
2. Lance told me of another incident where Dave and Shaune's car was left in front of someone's house. The people called the police and had the car towed. It cost Lance \$160 to get the car back.
3. About the best spin that can be had is "petty." Self-absorbed or "mean" would be better words in my opinion. This is what we are reduced to when we live as if "it's about me." We become petty, self-absorbed and just plain ugly. It's sometimes seen in our words, sometimes in our actions, and many times in ugly attitudes.
4. Even with the plethora of blessings listed in these first fourteen verse, notice the focus isn't you and me!

Ephesians 1:14 ...to the praise of His glory.

*Ephesians 1:12 ...in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, **might be for the praise of His glory**.*

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to God ...

*Ephesians 1:5 He predestined us to be **adopted as His sons** ...*

Ephesians 1:6 ...to the praise of His glorious grace that He lavished on us ...

5. When you are a teen, it's impossible to see how much your parents really love you, how much they sacrifice for you, and the heartache they sometimes endure all for you. You really don't "see" it or understand it until you experience the same thing. When you are a parent and you sacrifice or experience heartache, then your appreciation for your parents multiplies. When that happens, greater connection with your own folks can happen.
6. That's what God is like, and that's what He's after with you!
7. What strikes you from today's devotional?