

The Gospel of Your Salvation
Ephesians 1:13

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Ephesians 1:3-6 God the Father designed His Plan

Ephesians 1:7-12 the Son bestowed the fulfillment of His Plan

Ephesians 1:13-14 the Holy Spirit sealed every believer

God blessed us.

Jesus made abundant.

Holy Spirit sealed us in the gospel of salvation.

This is one of the most gracious phrases in the entire Bible.

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening to the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, having also believed you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise

Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also after listening to the word of truth ‘**you also,**’ includes all these, Jews and Gentiles, including Paul himself. What Paul is doing here is joining Jews and Gentiles into one group, and note they are combined in one group—*having come to hear and coming to believe.*

The wonder of the hearing is beyond our grasping. Hearing is one of the most delicate functions of the body. “After many centuries of study, the most brilliant minds still admit that they do not fully understand the intricate process by which we hear.” The wonders of God’s creation of our ears is based on the fact that we are born with two ears and each ear has three parts: outer ear, middle ear and inner ear. And out of the gift of hearing is the gift of hearing the gospel of our salvation

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The word of truth is the *logos*. The ‘word’ in the text of the New Testament is ‘truth’ itself. Therefore, it is called *the logos is truth* that is *the Word is truth* as in Ephesian 1:13,

Colossians 1:5 *the logos or the truth is the gospel*; or

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman, who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word (logos) of truth* or as in

Philippians 2:16 *holding fast the word of life*.

Primarily the idea in the New Testament of the ‘*logos*’ is in two things:

1. The gospel message; and
2. Christ Himself, as in

John 1:1 in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Listening, to the truth of the Word which brings to our hearts God’s reality and causes us to believe in the “truth.” Not to believe the gospel is to make what God says as a lie. And therefore, you follow your leader, Satan the liar. “It is the judgment of those who refuse to believe the truth that they should believe a lie.” So we must depend on the Word of Truth.

1 Thessalonians 2:13 For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe

The gospel of our salvation (Ephesians 1:13) “The gospel’ defines ‘The Word’ and “our salvation” describes ‘the truth.’ Or, we could use these as

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objectives: the Word deals with the truth, and the gospel as with our salvation. What beauty to our ears is the message of the gospel of our salvation, even if we do not really grasp sin, our ears at the hearing brings joy to the child.

When I first started teaching and using the pamphlet ‘The Gospel for Christians’ people were really taken aback by this title. Their thinking was that the gospel is for non-Christians, or on how to become Christians. The gospel is not for Christians. But a true and complete understanding of the truth of the gospel is very much in line for the Christian, as we are seeing here in Ephesians 1:13.

First, From the gospel we learn about God, what kind of God He is. For instance, He is Perfect Righteousness and there is nothing we can do for Him but receive by Faith all He has done for us that we are here studying in Ephesians 1-3.

From the gospel we learn how He loved the world:

John 3:16 for in this manner God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whoever believes in Him will have everlasting life.

Second, From the gospel we begin our learning about our Savior, that He of His own free will was Stricken, Smitten and Afflicted that we might be saved. We learn that He came to reveal God the Father to us, He came to bring us to the Father.

Third, The gospel guides us on how we are sealed by the Holy Spirit and how to be Filled with the Holy Spirit and How to walk in a manner pleasing to God.

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Note:

**Colossians 2:6 Therefore as you have received
Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.**

Now, if you understand that you received Jesus Christ by Faith alone, then the gospel reveals to you how you ought to live, how you will be Filled with the Holy Spirit and that is by Faith alone. You were not saved by repentance or confession or by anything you did or thought other than simple faith, so you are not filled with the Holy Spirit by repentance or confession or by anything you do or think other than simple faith.

Fourth, Next we learn from the gospel about eternity and eternal rewards. By the gospel we are not only saved **from something**, but we are also saved **to something**. We are given the eternal reward of eternal salvation and that eternal existence with our Lord includes the receiving of eternal rewards.

**Ephesians 1:13 In Him, you also, after listening
to the word of truth, the gospel of your
salvation having also believed**

Please know the importance of giving the gospel to others.

**Romans 10:14 How then are they to call on Him
in whom they have not believed? How are they
to believe in Him whom they have not heard?
And how are they to hear without a preacher?**

So we have the teaching of the Pastor. But we also have the witnessing by each of the believers which is vital of every believer to every non-believer. When things happen in your life, please be in prayer and offer the gospel to others you come in contact with. Be ready to give them the gospel of their salvation. Often Gentile Christians are lost in giving the gospel to

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Jews. It is not always really effective to offer the gospel from the New Testament. But you should always be ready to speak to a Jewish person from the Old Testament.

1. The first Preaching of the Gospel Genesis 3:15.
2. Giving them Promises of Christ's Coming in the Old Testament and
3. Portraits of Christ's Person and Work in the Old Testament
 - A. The Story of Cain and Abel Genesis 4-4.
 - B. The Offering of Isaiah Genesis 22
 - C. The Passover Lamb Exodus 12
 - D. The Tabernacle Exodus 25-30
 - E. The Five Levitical Offerings Leviticus 1-7
 - F. The Day of Atonement Leviticus 16
 - G. The Feasts of Israel Leviticus 23.
 - H. Talk with them on verses like Isaiah 52:12-53:12; Isaiah 59:1-2; Daniel 12:2; Leviticus 17:10-11;

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This time it is important that we understand the Greek here. This Greek word, *believed* is the *Aorist Active Participle*. I point this out to you because the action of the *Aorist Participle* precedes the action of the main verb which is the action of *being sealed*.

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In fact, the verse says *hearing* before *having believed* and then the action of our being *sealed*. First there is the *hearing* of the gospel, then there is *believing*.

Having heard, having believed, you were sealed.

Hearing is the gift of God of hearing, and the grace of God that someone gives you the gospel. Here is the joy everyone of us should enjoy of telling others the gospel.

What is believing, or what is faith?

Faith is a non-meritorious system of thinking. We have the grace system of hearing and now the grace system of thinking. Faith Thinking always has a merit. The merit of thinking about salvation is Jesus Christ.

Romans 4:16 For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be in accordance with grace, so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the descendants, not only to those who are of the Law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all,

There is no merit in believing. So, “believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved” salvation is always accomplished by the object, (Jesus Christ). The subject (any member of the human race) merely puts his faith in the object and faith is *thinking*. The system of Faith Thinking is how we all began in life. Now, what is important here is that many people today like to stand up and boast. They like to reject being saved by faith because they boast that they think by rationalist or empiricism not by faith. But if you think clearly, you realize that rationalism and empiricism are based on faith! Everyone thinks on the basis of faith. The issue is in what you have faith in.

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There are two basic questions:

1. What is faith? It is that which we have just covered under what is the object of your faith; and
2. How much faith does it take to be saved? And the answer here is *a little more than none*. How much faith did it take for you to accept words in base language as in the English? How much faith did it take for you to say father or mother? So how much faith to believe in Jesus Christ? Just a little more than none. They may have a great deal of information or they may have very little information. In seminary we had an important exercise in class, how much do you have to know or understand about Jesus to be saved. I was amazed how many had a long list in their paper, while some of us had hardly one line on our paper. And what was really shocking to me was that several of them could not be changed to a nice list you had to know to be saved. Listen, it depends on the person to whom you are witnessing to as to how much you have talk about. Example, if they are a child, it would cover nothing more than John 3:16 or Ephesians 2:8-9, just a little brings faith in Jesus for salvation. But on the other hand, it may cause a lot of information to take care of the horrible information they have taken in over a period of time before they trigger their faith on Jesus Christ as Savior.

In other words, when you are witnessing, sometimes it will require just a little to believe in Jesus while in others it may require a lot. No two people are the same, one person hears just one verse and they believe while another person has to hear a great deal about the Bible before they believe. So people responding to faith by a little while another requires a great deal. But here is the point, a person may demand a great deal of the bible but all it takes is to finally hear and respond to the simple truth of the gospel. One simply hearing and believes while another argues and debates but at some point finally simply believes the simple gospel.

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So we have the speaking and listening on the truth of the gospel of your salvation, and believed the gospel, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit.

What does it mean by being *sealed*?

- I. In the ancient world a seal was a guarantee of transaction. In those days when people did not have to write in order to enter into an agreement, they would carry a ring by which they would sign or stamp their mark off a ring stamp. And this is what God did to everyone who believed in Jesus as their savior.

- II. When a person believed in Jesus Christ as Savior, they were saved eternally, and the mark that they are saved and belong to God, Holy Spirit would stamp every believer to mark them as belonging eternally with God. That stamp, that seal guaranteed eternal security. God the Holy Spirit puts His stamp on every believer and that seal can never be broken. It is amazing how many think that others can lose their salvation. They think you can lose your salvation by sin or some teach you can lose your salvation by denying Jesus. But people get this into your understanding, once you are stamped by the Holy Spirit, you cannot lose your salvation. Sometimes when a person is dying, they become fearful of loss of salvation maybe because they have not lived a life of Jesus. In my some 47 years in the ministry, I have many times been asked by one who is dying, about losing salvation. Oh, people, please, please have peace in your soul that if you have believed in Jesus as your salvation, you are sealed in eternal security by the Holy Spirit. If one is saved at any point in their life,

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do not believe being told by someone you can lose your salvation. These people believe that the Holy Spirit can take away His sealing at salvation. People have in their minds that the primary ways of loss of salvation is by failing to constantly have faith in Jesus Christ; or by failing in good works or condemning under certain sins, like denying Jesus. I assure you that Peter did not lose his salvation when he denied Jesus. You cannot lose your salvation. God the Holy Spirit stamped you.

- III. The Sealing of the Holy Spirit refers to identification of ownership by God. Seals were put on things or even people to identify who owned them. People, if you ever believed in Jesus, you belong to God for all eternity. There will never be a time when God does not keep holding on to you.
- IV. The seal in the Bible, means to set a seal by God on people. The marking of this seal on people by the Holy Spirit is a declaration on God, Himself. The mark or seal marks God's affirm on the truth that one is eternally His. If a person can lose his salvation, as some say, then this means God does not keep His own word, He is not authentic in His what He acknowledges, that God is true.

**John 3:33 He who has received His testimony
has set His seal to this, that God is true.**

- v. The seal by God of our ownership is the promised installment of the Holy Spirit.

**2 Corinthians 1:22 who also sealed us and gave
us the Holy Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.**

The third member of the Godhead also guarantees of our seal.

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Rom. 8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God.

By our being sealed by the Holy Spirit He, testifies that we are children of God.

VI. Most important is the understanding of being ‘sealed’ as a jurisdictional action or a legal action toward everyone who believes.

Ephesians 1:13...you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise

Here is a promise expressed by God before the Church Age, the promise of the indwelling on the Holy Spirit. This was a promise by God the Father right at the end of the period of the Age of Israel, just before the beginning of the Church Age.

Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Jesus Christ instructed the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until He departed into heaven and He would send the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit would be clothing them with the power of the Holy Spirit. God the Father promised the sending of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the Church Age. The study of the Holy Spirit empowering various believers throughout the Old Testament is an interesting and a changing empowering of the Holy Spirit. I recommend the study by Kit Sheehan in his study of Judges on the multitude of titles for the coming of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit throughout the Old Testament.

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But the Holy Spirit was promised to every person who believes in Jesus Christ. This is what is being promised in Luke 24:49. Right after Luke 24:49-53 this is repeated in

Acts 1:4 Gathering them together, (the disciples) He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me;

The promise by God is then fulfilled in

Acts 2:33 Therefore, having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth out this which you both you see and hear.

God the Father has promised in the Church Age the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”—

Galatians 3:14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through or by faith.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit is vital through every plan of God. In Genesis 1:2 the ministry of the Holy Spirit is given at the beginning of

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human history. In Genesis 1:1 *God created the heavens and the earth*. But it is every important that it was not created in Gen. 1:2 and following. This is most clear from

Isaiah 45:18 For this is what the Lord says, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited): I am the Lord, and there is none else.

Note carefully: *did not create it a waste tohu*. This is the same Hebrew in Genesis 1:2 *the earth was formless* that is tohu. The earth was not created *tohu* or the earth was not created *a waste place*. I want to quote exactly what is said in the Hebrew Lexicon ‘the Complete WordStudy Dictionary of the Old Testament in defining this Hebrew word. “It is used to describe primeval earth before the seven creative days.” Then the fundamental Hebrew Lexicon ‘Hebrew and English Lexicon of the OT’ by Brown Driver and Briggs defines *tohu* as formlessness, confusion, emptiness. Then under its first definition of this Hebrew word: *formlessness, of primaeval earth...Gen. 1:2*. Primeval is defined as an adjective *of or resembling the earliest ages in the history of the world*

So God has promised every believer in Church Age the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit.