

Sealed With The Holy Spirit Of Promise

By George Kirkpatrick

Today in this fast moving, take no thought for tomorrow world we live in, we take so many things for granted. The Bible is put on the back burner of our lives, and we miss so many of God's wonderful revelations concerning our lives. Our time is often spent accumulating the things of this world, instead of enjoying the beauty God has placed before us. We cannot see, because we are looking at the world instead of the things that cannot be seen with the physical eye. In his second letter to the Corinthians, Paul explains these facts:

"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." II Corinthians 4:18

Too often our time, our money, and our energies are spent on the things that are seen, which are temporal. Yet we spend no time trying to bring understanding to light concerning the eternal things which are not seen. The Psalmist David informs us:

"I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." Psalm 139:14

Each person is fearfully and wonderfully made by God. The word **fearfully** means *"reverence, honor, respect, to stand in awe of."* When we begin to understand how wonderfully we are made, we truly stand in awe of the miracle of the body, and how we are made.

We are not only fearfully made, we are wonderfully made. The word *wonderfully* means *"distinct, distinguished, separated, set apart, different."* When we comprehend the full impact of this Scripture, we come to the realization that each of us is a special creation of God.

Many believe we only happen in the act of procreation. But no one can explain how all six + billion people on earth have different sets of finger prints. Today's modern technology can distinguish each, unique voice pattern. Now they can even recognize our ancestors by their own, unique DNA. Innocent men are set free from prison because their DNA does not match the DNA at the crime scene. This should not surprise us if we would only read the Bible. David continued his revelation about the creative miracle of the body:

"My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth." Psalm 139:15

God knew each of us in our mother's womb, when we were being formed in the lowest parts of the earth. The phrase **curiously wrought** means *"made perfect, or fashioned beautifully."* David continues:

"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them." Psalm 139:16

The word **imperfect** means "embryo." From the moment of conception, God oversees every step of the development in the birth process. All our members are written in His book (hence DNA). Our members were also fashioned in continuance. (God made a day-by-day chronicle of our growth in the womb). God has fashioned each of us by His hand. Our own unique character, nature, and personalities are all different because each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made in the sight of God, our Father.

No matter the nationality, color, or financial condition of the parents, the birth of each child is one of a kind in uniqueness. Who cannot stand in awe, amazement, and wonder at the birth of a newborn, with the tiny, perfect fingers, toes, arms, and legs! All these members were made perfect in the lowest parts of the earth (out of the sight of man), but daily wrought in the sight of God. In his letter to the Romans, Paul informs us:

"For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and God head; so that they are without excuse." Romans 1:20

All the invisible things of God are clearly seen in the things He created. It is hard to imagine how a medical doctor (who should understand how fearfully and wonderfully the human body is made even from conception) could perform an abortion.

Only the creative power of God could create a child. But as Paul related, when man looks upon God's creation and denies Him, they will have no excuse. Paul made some remarkable revelations in his letter to the Ephesians:

"Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself." Ephesians 1:9

God is desiring to make known the mysteries of His will which He has designed for each of our lives from the foundation of the world. The word purposed means "set forth and determined." God has a purpose in every person born upon the earth. It is up to each of us to search out God's purpose for our life, and fulfill it.

Paul spoke about the mystery of God's will He is going to make known to His people. But these mysteries remain hidden from the ungodly and unregenerate. Paul revealed these secrets to those who have Spiritual understanding:

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints," Ephesians 1:17-18

When we have the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge God has given us in His Word, then the eyes of our understanding will be enlightened. The

word **enlightened** means *"to make clear, to instruct, to inform, and give understanding to."* When our eyes have been enlightened, then we can know the hope of our calling, and understand what the inheritance of God's holy people is. To the Colossians Paul wrote:

"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints:" Colossians 1:26

These mysteries of God have been hid from mankind from the beginning of time, but now are being made known to those who will be partakers of these mysteries in the end of the age. This is the same revelation Paul make known to the Ephesians:

"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ." Ephesians 3:9

God has a special generation of people who will walk into these mysteries which God has hid from all his creation down through the ages. Peter, who was given the keys to the Kingdom, revealed this special generation which we are a part of:

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light:" I Peter 2:9

God is going to reveal His mysteries to His chosen generation. These are His royal (kingly) priesthood, His holy nation, His peculiar people who have been called out of darkness. The word peculiar means "a purchased possession." As Paul wrote to the Ephesians, their eyes have been enlightened to know the hope of their calling in God.

Paul and Barnabus addressed the Jewish congregation because they refused to hear the Word of God:

"Then Paul and Barnabus waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the Word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles." Acts 13:46

Paul informed the Jews they were not worthy of everlasting life. So Paul and Barnabus turned from the Jews, and ministered to the Gentiles:

"And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." Acts 13:48

Paul's words are overlooked by most of the church system. Let's look closely at what Paul stated, ". . . as many as were ordained to eternal life believed." The word **ordained** means *"to appoint, to assign, to determine."* Those who were appointed, assigned, and determined to receive eternal life, believed.

This is part of the mystery God has concealed from the foundation of the earth. Why will only those who are ordained to eternal life, believe? It is because they believe the Word of God and act upon it. Look again at the words Paul wrote to the Ephesians:

"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," Ephesians 1:13

Paul carried this same theme through to the church at Ephesus. Speaking of the time when he and Barnabas separated themselves from the Jews, Paul stated after they heard the Word of truth, the gospel of their salvation, those who believed were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. Those who have not been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise will not receive eternal life.

The word **sealed** means *"to set a mark to recognize one's property, to prove one's testimony that he is what he professes to be, to confirm and authenticate."* It also has the meaning of *"security from satan."* Those who are constantly dealing with satan hindering their lives have not been sealed by the Holy Spirit of promise.

In ancient days, the king had a signet. This signet was on his ring, or affixed to a stamp. When the king's signet was stamped on something, it meant the king approved whatever he sealed. The same is true today. When God's seal is upon any person, it means God has approved this life; and those who have His seal have eternal life.

"Nevertheless 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." II Timothy 2:19

God knows those who are His because He has sealed them. Those who are sealed need to heed Paul's exhortation to depart from iniquity. The word **iniquity** means *"unrighteousness."* Those who are sealed must distance themselves from all unrighteous acts of the heart and life.

God's Word speaks much about God sealing His saints. After Jesus had fed the five thousand, He perceived the multitude wanted to take Him by force, so He departed into the mountains. When the multitude came to Capernaum seeking Jesus, He told them they were only seeking Him because of the miracles He had performed. Then Jesus' words astounded them:

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for Him hath God the Father sealed." John 6:27

Jesus' words still astound His church today, because the church is still laboring for the meat that perisheth. They are not searching for the meat that endureth to everlasting life. By their words, we know many are still battling satan who has been defeated and put under our feet.

We need to hunger and thirst after the meat of God's Word. Just as the Father sealed Jesus, we need to desire to enter into that same sealing process. Paul understood this sealing process, and revealed to the Corinthians:

"Who hath also sealed us, and given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts." II Corinthians 1:22

Those whom God has sealed have received the earnest of the Spirit. The word **earnest** means "*down payment.*" The earnest of the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost as the cloven tongues of fire to cleanse us, so we can receive the fullness of the Spirit - - - the same anointing Jesus received. John gives us insight into the anointing Jesus received:

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." John 3:34

But many believe when they receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they have it all, and are not striving for more, nor have they departed from iniquity. Paul gave this same message to the Ephesians:

"Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory." Ephesians 1:14

When we receive the earnest of the Spirit, it is only the down payment of our inheritance. As we study these matters, we come to the conclusion, that although we have received the earnest of the Spirit, and the earnest of our inheritance, and have been sealed, we have yet to be redeemed. We are God's peculiar people (His purchased possession), but have we become the praise of His glory? Paul wrote to the church at Rome concerning this redemptive process:

"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." Romans 8:23

Those who have received the firstfruit of the Spirit are groaning inwardly because they know there is more of God than what they have. They realize the adoption process is yet to take place, when our mortal bodies will be redeemed. Paul spoke of this redeeming of the body in his letter to the Corinthians:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed," I Corinthians 15:51

Paul continues to relate how this change is going to take place in the twinkling of an eye, when corruption will put on incorruption, and this mortal body will put on immortality, etc. This is when the mortal body will be redeemed from the curse man has suffered since the Garden of Eden. Paul explained this redeeming process to Titus:

"Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:14

Only those who have come to the understanding that they must separate themselves from iniquity, purify themselves, and have a zeal for good works will be part of God's redemptive process. God's redemptive process is only for those who have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.

God is about to, or already has, begun pouring out His wrath upon this godless nation and the world. But we have God's assurance, that before His wrath comes in its fulness, He will seal His saints.

"And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads." Revelation 7:2-3

God gave instructions to His angels to hold back His judgment until He completed the sealing process of His elect. The servants of God who were sealed were the one hundred and forty-four thousand of all the Spiritual tribes of Israel. When this sealing process is complete, then God will pour out His fury on all those who do not have the seal of God in their foreheads. This is not a physical mark, but a Spiritual mark. The forehead is where the mind or soul of man resides.

Those who receive God's sealing will know when they are sealed, because their minds will have changed. Those who are sealed will only desire the things of God, because they have put on the mind of Christ.

When God's fury is poured out in judgment, we hear another commandment to assure God's people of His protection:

"And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree: but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads." Revelation 9:4

Those who have God's seal in their foreheads will be protected from all the things that will be coming upon the earth during God's wrath. But God gives a warning to those who are sealed:

"And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

Those who are sealed are warned not to grieve or bring sorrow to the Holy Spirit. How do we bring sorrow and grief to the Holy Spirit? We do this by not removing ourselves from iniquity, or by not purifying ourselves in mind, soul, and body. Anything that defiles our thinking and body grieves the Holy Spirit. It is the same with our soul. Our soul is our conscience. When what we do or think pricks our conscience, then the Holy Spirit is grieved.

Those who are sealed need to know the day in which we live. Jesus gives us insight into these days in Matthew 24 and Luke 21. We truly live in the day when fear is gripping the hearts of men. Even when we see men's hearts failing them for fear of what is coming upon the earth, Jesus gives us assurance, saying:

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28

Those who are looking up are those who have their eyes off the things of this life, and are looking only to the promises of God because they know the time of their redemption is truly drawing near. Let's look again at Ephesians 1:13

"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." Ephesians 1:13

Paul spoke about the Word of truth. Today it is hard to distinguish between the Word of truth and error, but the beloved John informed us:

"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." John 16:13

John stated, "... when the Spirit of truth is come...". So we know truth is a Spirit. When something is spoken or written, it is the Spirit that bears witness to it being true or false. If we listen to the Spirit, not only will it keep us from error, but it will guide us into all truth in God's Word concerning prophecies, because the Spirit will reveal to us the things that are coming. John further explains:

"He that saith, I know Him, and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him." I John 2:4

Those who are called by His name, but do not keep His commandments (the Word of God) are liars - - - and the Spirit of truth is not in them. They claim to be Christians, but their lives speak otherwise. They continue to proclaim how satan is affecting their lives. These are not sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. They are only looking for a crutch to lean on because they do not have the truth in their lives, and they do not believe God has defeated satan, and put him under their feet. The Spirit will reveal this truth to them if they will only believe God's Word and act upon it.

In Paul's letter to Timothy, he speaks of those who are destitute of the truth:

"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself." I Timothy 6:5

Those who teach gain is godliness are of corrupt minds. Yet the pulpits are full of men and women who teach prosperity where we are to demand from God all the things He has told us to remove from our lives. Paul informed Timothy we are to withdraw (get away) from such teachers. Yet some of these men with corrupt minds have built mega-ministries and even opened schools to teach their heresies. Again John informs us:

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." III John 1:2

Those who are devoid of the Spirit of truth are not prospering in the Spiritual things of God. Their whole focus is on the material things of this life and the world. Paul informed the Ephesians:

"But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, which is the head, even Christ." Ephesians 4:15

We should not concern ourselves with material increase and prosperity. Our total focus should be in growing up into the head, or the headstone which is Christ Jesus. When our focus is on Spiritual growth, then all the world and worldly things become very unimportant. Making Christ Jesus (the Holy Spirit) our head is our only hope of glory and eternal life. Again John informs us:

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." John 8:32

This Scripture has almost become nothing but a platitude. Many quote this Scripture without even considering the depth of the true meaning of its contents. First, and foremost, we are to know the truth. We must know truth is Spirit, and we must come to the realization that we cannot know truth by the carnal mind. We can only know truth by the Spirit.

When we come into Spiritual truth, then this truth will make us free. The word free means "set at liberty, free from the dominion of sin." When we come to this place in God we will be totally set free from worry, fear, and doubt. Praise the Lord!

When we know the truth and the truth is in control of our life, then there is no place found for worry, fear, and doubt. Our life becomes one of joy, peace, and love because we have truth (or the Spirit) as the Cornerstone and the Headstone in our life. John spoke of those who have been set free by the Spirit:

"But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God." John 3:21

When we allow truth to reign in our life, and when we come to the glorious gospel of truth, then everything in our life will be made manifest (made visible) to all who see what God has wrought (worked out) in our life.

As we look for further truths concerning those who are sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise, we look again to the mystery Paul revealed to the church at Ephesus:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all Spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will," Ephesians 1:3-5

Paul continues to reveal the secret of God's creation. We discover God has blessed those He has chosen from the foundation of the world with all Spiritual blessings in Christ. Those God chose from the foundation of the world have also been predestined to be adopted, and all this according to His will. The word **predestined** means "pre-determined beforehand, foreordained, and decreed from eternity." Many draw back when they hear the word 'predestination', but the prophet Isaiah gave us insight into predestination when he declared:

"Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure:" Isaiah 46:10

God knew the end of all things from the beginning, and all things are for His pleasure- -as Paul stated, ". . . according to the pleasure of His will." In his letter to the Romans, Paul also relates God's plan in predestination:

"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

Those God foreknew, He did predestinate. Why? It is because these are to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus Christ. In the beginning, God made man in His image and likeness. But man lost His image and likeness when he sinned. So man no longer had any image and likeness to conform to, until Jesus came to reveal to us God's creative place. Once we begin to understand God's mysteries, then we will know God is raising up a people He can again walk and talk to in the cool of the day, as He did with Adam and Eve in the Garden. Paul wrote to the Colossians:

"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:" Colossians 1:15

Jesus came in the image of the invisible God to be our example of what we are to become. Jesus was the first born of God's new creation man. Paul wrote of this new creation:

"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." II Corinthians 5:17

Those in Christ are a new creation. How will we recognize this new Christ man? We will recognize God's new creation man because all the old things will have passed away, and everything in their life will have become new.

Those who are still holding on to their old way of life have not become that new creation. They may have been predestined to walk in the ways of God, but they refused to give up the old ways of this life, and are missing the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

In his letter to the Hebrews, Paul speaks again of Jesus coming as our example of the image of the invisible God:

"Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" Hebrews 1:3

Jesus came as our example of the express image of what God created in the Garden. When man sinned, he entered into a death state because of sin. But by the blood of Jesus, our sins have been purged. Now man must overcome the sin nature to become part of God's new creation. Paul continued his revelation to the church at Rome:

"Moreover whom He did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified." Romans 8:30

Those God predestined, He called. Those He called, He justified. Those He justified, He glorified. God has a continuing process we all must walk into if we are going to receive all He has for us. God has a calling in each of our lives. Speaking of this calling in his letter to the Thessalonians, Paul declares:

"Wherefore also we pray always for you, that our God would count you worthy of this calling, and fulfil all the good pleasure of His goodness, and the work of faith with power:" II Thessalonians 1:11

It is God's desire we become worthy of His calling, and fulfill all his good pleasure in our lives. But to do this, we must continue pressing forward by exercising our faith with power. Peter revealed to the early church how they were to worship God:

"And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom My name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things." Acts 15:15-17

Peter asked, "Do you agree with the words of the prophets?" Peter was explaining that God was going to once again raise the tabernacle of David which had fallen down. This is the tabernacle of praise. Not only are God's people going to praise the Lord with all their hearts, they are going to once again seek the Lord with all their hearts. This will be a special generation, a people known of God. These will be His peculiar people (His purchased possession) who have been called, sealed, and predestined.

"Known unto God are all His works from the beginning of the world." Acts 15:18

All God's works in us were finished before the foundation of the world. He knew us while we were being formed in the womb. From conception, He has followed our growth - - - first in the natural - - - then in the Spiritual. Paul continues His revelation to the church at Ephesus:

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will:" Ephesians 1:11

Those God has called and sealed from the foundation of the world have been predestined to obtain an inheritance. What is their inheritance? Only God's called and sealed will receive an inheritance. We are informed the meek will inherit the earth. God's called and sealed are also promised they will inherit eternal life. But God has made us another revelation:

"That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him:" Ephesians 1:10

This is the same revelation Jesus gave His disciples:

"And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matthew 24:31

God is going to gather His elect. The word **elect** means *"those who are chosen by God, the choice, the select, the excellent, the preeminent."* God's elect are those whom God knew from the beginning of the world. These are those God has

predestined to be gathered at the last trump, and who will be protected through His coming wrath. The weak, the uncommitted, the unbelieving will not be gathered. These will have to endure until the end to be saved. But God has a people whom He has sealed and predestined to be His elect. There are those Paul revealed to Timothy:

"Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," II Timothy 1:9

God's predestined were given a calling in their lives before the world began. These were created for His purpose and according to His will. When God sealed His chosen generation with the Holy Spirit of Promise, He predestined their eternal inheritance. These fill their whole life with the truth, and have overcome the old man nature. And as Jesus revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos:

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son." Revelation 21:7

Only the overcomers have an inheritance in God. And it is only the overcomers who will enter into sonship.

We truly are fearfully and wonderfully made in the sight of God. As Paul related to Timothy:

"Nevertheless 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." II Timothy 2:19

Let God be praised in all His glory! And let those who are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise depart from iniquity, and become that praise and glory unto their God.