

Friday, May 15

Scripture

- *Ephesians 1:13-14*

In Christ you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- *2 Corinthians 1:21-22*

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Who is God?

The Holy Spirit seals and guarantees our salvation.

Spiritual Encouragement

The Spirit-empowered salvation that we read about yesterday means that none of us should live in pride. However, whereas pride and cockiness should never characterize a Christian, we can have *confidence* of salvation. Not confidence in ourselves, but confidence because we are sealed with the Holy Spirit and have the Spirit as a guarantee of coming, eternal salvation.

At this point, it's helpful to remember a key tip for understanding the New Testament: "Already / Not Yet." (Or, some people say: "Now / Not Yet.")

We experience God's Salvation in Christ within a world that is still characterized by sin, pain, and death. Christ's victory is certain and our salvation is secure, but we still struggle and we still find ourselves surrounded by darkness and death. Yet, we have confidence because of the Holy Spirit's work within us.

On the outside (and all around us), things may not look like God's victory is secure. But, because the Holy Spirit has been given in our hearts and is at work in our lives, we can have confidence.

Father, I know that many people doubt their salvation or doubt how so much trouble could exist in the world. I never want to live in pride, but I do thank You for the confidence and hope that comes from Your Holy Spirit. Thank You that the Holy Spirit is a seal and a guarantee that what I see now is not the end of the story. May I continue to trust You, rest in Christ, and walk by the Spirit.