



SERIES: Ephesians
SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD
Thursday, January 7, 2021
Scripture: Ephesians 1:12-14
TITLE: God's Gift of the Spirit

Last year I made a big purchase at Scheels, our big sporting goods store. I picked out my item. I filled out the necessary paperwork, made the payment, received the receipt. Then I had to wait a few days to receive my item. From the moment I paid for it and received my receipt, it was mine. I owned it. Its possession was guaranteed.

Many people today ask me, "How do I know I'm saved?" This is one of the most common questions asked. Paul gives us that guaranteed answer in Ephesians 1:12-14:

God's purpose was that we Jews who were the first to trust in Christ would bring praise and glory to God.¹³ And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago.¹⁴ The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.¹

God's plan of Salvation was inclusive to all people at all times. But the reception of that Salvation is exclusive to those He chose and those that receive it. But whenever you heard the Gospel and received it, God gave you the Holy Spirit. You were sealed, or marked, as God's possession. Kind of like at Chuck-E-Cheese - my kids get a special code on their hand that matches the one on mine. It identifies them as my children. The difference is God's sealing of the Holy Spirit isn't temporary. It's permanent. No magic eraser can remove it. For that matter, no amount of sin can remove it either. What God has purchased, He will not return.

One of the marks of authentic Salvation is the presence of the Holy Spirit. We know God is with us and in us. It's not a burning of the bosom, as some cults teach. Instead, it's the reality of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. It's the peace of God that passes all human understanding. It's the resistance to temptation, and the remorse, when we do sin. The Spirit helps us understand the Bible. Because we are marked with the Spirit, He makes himself known in our lives.

The Spirit has an agenda in our lives: to glorify God by living a holy life. That's perseverance in the face of adversity. It's the commitment to God, no matter the hardship or the triumph. That's the power of the Spirit. That's the seal we have.

¹ Tyndale House Publishers. (2015). [Holy Bible: New Living Translation](#) (Eph 1:12-14). Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers.

My challenge for you today is to go out and share the reality of what Christ has done in your life. Heaven erupts with applause when someone comes to faith in Christ. Though God chooses the saints, God uses us to deliver the Gospel. So today, reach out to someone who is far from God. Share a story of God's presence in your life. Share the Gospel. That will bring glory to God and bring the Good News to the brokenhearted.