

Walking on Water, a Study in Ephesians

Part 10 Signed, Sealed & Delivered, Ephesians 1:13-14

Have you ever interacted with someone who has ADD, attention deficit disorder? Or maybe that is you and someone has the challenge to deal with you.

I have no doubt the teachers will be dealing with many kids who have ADD when school gets started. Some of those kids will be actually diagnosed with ADD and some, just because they have been off for the summer will have an adjustment to begin learning again.

Their minds have been on everything but the learning process and as they come back into school they will have to re-adjust.

ADD is something that is becoming more and more common due to all the electronics that kids and adults have access to. I was amazed when we had our grandkids here, when the television was on or when they were on their tablets, how glued they were to them and how hearing impaired they seemed to be. I had to get in between them and whatever it was they were doing in order to get their attention.

Well, if I haven't said this before I'll say it now. I think most Christians, myself included, have spiritual ADD. Their focus upon spiritual leaning is distracted by any number of things not just electronics. Life and the trials and temptations, the success and failures that are all part of life can sometimes override our ability to learn from God.

But the great thing about our relationship with God is we are not left to figure everything out on our own are we? Just like the students who are going back to school have teachers to guide them in learning, we have also have teachers who can give us some spiritual direction.

Who might those teachers be? The Bible as well as an advocate, a helper, someone who will give us direction when we ask.

This leads us into our passage in Ephesians this morning. Look with me.

Ephesians 1:13-14, “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession—to the praise of His glory.”

For the last couple of weeks we have looked at what it means to receive an inheritance. Two weeks ago I spoke about our eternal inheritance in heaven. How our inheritance is sealed and held onto by God. Last week I spoke about how we are God and Jesus’ inheritance. It has always been God’s desire and plan to have a people who He calls His own.

Even this passage makes reference to this. **Verse 14 , “those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory.”**

We are the points, the exhibition of His glory here on earth and for all eternity. His Son died so you could be restored into His image and show His glory throughout the earth during your stay here. And God gave you a deposit, a guarantee of what occurred now and what will occur in the future.

I think it bears doing this illustration once again. I don’t think we can be reminded of it enough.

Before God could give us the deposit, the guarantee of our salvation and our inheritance, there were are few things that had to occur.

In the first part of our passage it says, **“you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – (you believed)”**.

When you believed something inside of you happened. You were washed with the most powerful cleansing agent in the universe, the blood of Jesus Christ. You had been full of the old self, the old you with its sin nature that was bent towards sin but now, you have been inwardly washed clean, white as snow and as holy as God is Himself.

True your outer person still needs some work but your inner self, the place God cleanses with His Son's blood is as good as it gets. This cleansing had to occur so that God could place His Spirit, Jesus' Spirit, who is Holy inside of you.

This is you now. As **2 Corinthians 5:17**, **“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, (and Christ is in them) they are a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”**

This is who you are today. You are a new creation with the powerful force of the Holy Spirit living, moving and operating in you.

Paul reaffirms this truth later when he says in **Ephesians 4:30**, **“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”**

1. Your **holiness**, your **God-likeness** has been inwardly sealed by God's Spirit that now resides inside of you and when God seals a thing, it is sealed for eternity.

There is something that happens in all kinds of manufacturing. From canning food to watches and phones that are water proofed. It is called being hermetically sealed. A hermetically sealed container or space is so tightly closed that no air can leave or enter it.

I like this definition:

Hermetically Sealed: The interior of the container is separated and protected from very different conditions on the outside, in an unnatural way.

That's it! That is what happened to you when you accepted the finished work of Christ in your life. You were washed clean, you had the deposit of God and Christ's Spirit placed inside of you and then this work was sealed inside of you in a very unnatural way. It wasn't done in a natural way by man, it was done in a very spiritual way that only God Himself could do.

You may not believe it, you may not feel it, you may not hear others tell you about it. In fact, Satan and your old self probably tells you again and again that this is not you.

But if you will position yourself close to God and His word.

2. God's Spirit **testifies** to you, you are a child of God.

Romans 8:15-16, "For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons (and daughters) by which we cry out, Abba! Father! The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God."

You don't need to wonder if your salvation has took. You don't need to wonder if you have the presence of the Holy Spirit sealed within you. Just get next to God, get into His word, in prayer, in fellowship with Him and His family and His Spirit will well up within in you, shouting out the truth that you are indeed a child, a son or daughter of the most high God.

In our passage in Ephesians, Paul writes that **"you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance..."**

One of the great things about our final inheritance in heaven will be, inwardly and outwardly we will be as righteous as Jesus. What has occurred inside of us will also occur in and through our flesh.

We will no longer struggle with sin, with doubts, with the world or any other thing that is not purely righteous. We will be pure, holy and blameless in our every thought and every deed.

That is something to look forward to isn't it? But before that occurs we have life to live here on earth and like I said before, we are not left to figure everything out on our own are we?

3. Not only will the Spirit give you the assurance of His presence inside of you, the Spirit will give you direction and power in your life.

First, let look at the direction the Holy Spirit will give you.

When Jesus began to tell His disciples about what was going to occur when He was crucified upon the cross He said the following.

John 16:13, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all truth...”

That is what we need isn't it? A guide who will guide us into places of truth, in a life where what has occurred to us will have the opportunity to shine out from within us.

That is what our teachers in school are doing isn't it? They are guiding young minds in the right way to read, spell, do math, speak, interact with other children, learn discipline and many other things. That is what the Spirit of God inside of you is all about too. He is our teacher in ways of righteousness, the way God wants us to live out our lives now that we are new creations, created in Jesus' image.

That is the direction the Holy Spirit will take us but what does that look like? How do we allow the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of God work in and through our lives?

Let's look at the

4. The **power** of what God's presence inside of you can do.

First of all we need to understand **2 Corinthians 10:3-4**,
“For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. 4 For the weapons of our warfare are (unconventional) not carnal (produced by the flesh) but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds...”

Is there a war is the first thing you might be asking. Well, is there warfare in your life? Is there are war to do the right thing sometimes? Is there a battle to treat others with love and respect even though, really they don't deserve it? Is there a war to extend forgiveness when they have done nothing to deserve your forgiveness. Is there a battle, receiving unfair criticism, is there a battle within you not to respond.

5. Is there a **war** within you?

Paul said this in Romans 7, maybe you can identify with him.

Romans 7:21-24, **“ I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22 For I joyfully concur with the law of God (the leading of the Holy Spirit) in the inner person, 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?”**

Paul dealt with this inner battle between doing what was right and doing what was wrong but as he goes on in chapter 8 of Romans he says that when Christians are led by the Holy Spirit they find true life and peace. Our warfare is unconventional. It is involves releasing the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit inside of us. Look at the weapons of our warfare, the power of the Holy Spirit as defined in Galatians.

6. Weapons of our warfare, power of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control...”

When we allow the Holy Spirit inside of us to direct our thoughts, emotions, words and actions, when we reach out and love when love is the last thing we want to do. When we show patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control. When the Holy Spirit prompts us to be and do these things, and we are obedient to Him then something wonderful happens.

The power of God is released and as it said in 2 Corinthians, strongholds are pulled down.

It is not easy to love the unlovable, to forgive those who don't deserve it, to be patient with those who try your patience, to be gentle when that person is a bit rough or to have self-control when you want to vent on Facebook, in the person's face or vent to someone else.

This life is not easy, it is a battle at times but as we are obedient to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, His power is released and Romans 14:17 becomes our reality.

Romans 14:17, “For the kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.”

Righteousness, right living for God; exuding and experiencing peace and joy. Who doesn't want these things in this life.

As we follow the Holy Spirit that has been deposited in us this is the life we can expect.

Amen?