



The Word at Work

Sealed by the Spirit: Guaranteeing Our Inheritance

Reading the Word

Key Scriptures: Ephesians 1:13-14

Key Points:

The seal of the Holy Spirit is (2 Cor.1:21-22; 5:5):

1. a mark of ownership – we belong to God!
2. a sign of deposit/guarantee of our full inheritance that is to come

Life in the Spirit is a foretaste of the eternal purpose of God which is fulfilled in the new heaven and the new earth - God dwelling among men (Rev.21:3)

- God dwells in his church by the Holy Spirit (Eph.2:22)

Everything that Jesus went through – incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension - was towards the fulfilment of this purpose – the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on all people.

- This is why enjoying life in the Spirit is so central to what it is to be a Christian.
- Life in the Spirit and living by faith are the two key ways of describing the Christian life and the means of laying hold of our inheritance
 - i. The Spirit is God's provision
 - ii. Faith is man's response

Life in the Spirit is not some kind of freaky Christian version of the paranormal, or some twilight zone of spooky experiences.

- There is a glorious normality about life in the Spirit, characterised by honesty, humility and humour as we learn how to move with the Spirit
- Someone who has the Spirit of sonship is at home in the supernatural life of the Holy Spirit

- But life in the Spirit is about much more than just the dramatic manifestation of the Spirit like visions, dreams, words of knowledge etc.

Three characteristics of life in the Spirit

1. Refreshing

- As well as power to enable and equip us, there is life and power in the Spirit to keep us refreshed throughout the stresses and strains, the challenges and crises of life.
- We have a continual supply of living water to refresh us (Ps.110:7; Jer.17:7-8; John 7:37-38)

2. Freedom

- Because we are sons, we are free (Gal.4:30-5:1)
- Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom and only the free can fully display his glory (2 Cor.3:17-18)
- We can live free from sin, guilt, inhibition, anxiety, condemnation, stress, fear etc.

3. Fruitfulness

- Those who live by the Spirit will bear the fruit of the Spirit (Gal.5:16-26)
- We are supplied with the water of life and set free to grow, so we can come to maturity in Christ; and so to bear fruit to the glory of God (John 15:8)
- Don't just grow old – ripen with age! Become more like Jesus.

Doing the Word

To Discuss:

1. Why is living in the Spirit so central to the Christian life?
2. How can we be sure that we are living by the Spirit?

To Do:

1. Determine over the next few days to train yourself to live by the Spirit. Get into the habit.

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