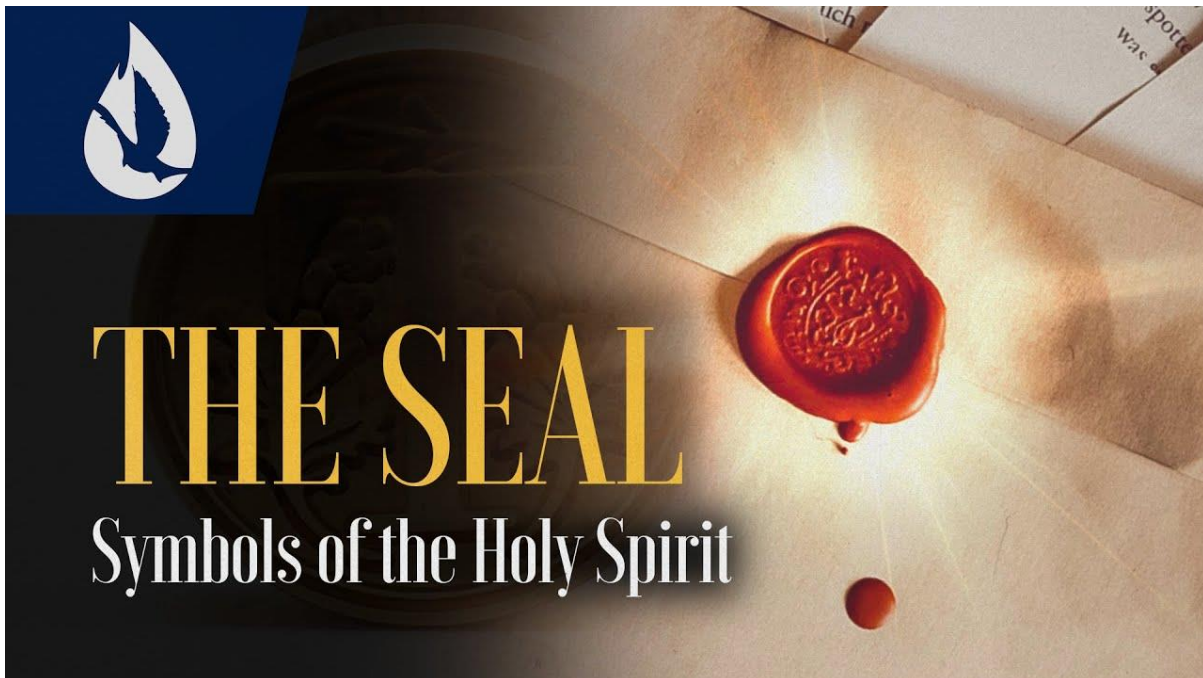


Symbols & Emblems of the Holy Spirit

Concord Community Church

November 3, 2024

The Holy Spirit as the symbol of Seal



Scripture Reading: Ephesians 1:13-14 (NIV)

"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, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."

Introduction:

Imagine receiving a royal letter sealed with a king's insignia. The moment you see that seal, you know two things: it carries the king's authority, and it is meant only for you. The seal ensures authenticity and confirms ownership. Today, we're going to explore a similar concept, but on a much grander, divine scale—the Holy Spirit as a seal placed on every believer.

In Ephesians 1, Paul introduces us to this powerful truth: the Holy Spirit seals us when we come to faith in Christ. But what does this mean? Why did God choose to seal us with His Spirit? And how should this divine reality shape our lives?

Today, we will examine three key truths about the Holy Spirit as our seal: **the seal of identity, the seal of security, and the seal of inheritance.**

1. The Holy Spirit Marks Our Identity in Christ

In ancient cultures, seals were used as symbols of ownership and identity. Kings would place seals on their decrees, and merchants marked goods with seals to indicate who they belonged to. When God seals us with His Holy Spirit, He marks us as His own. This is not just an external label; it is an internal transformation of our very identity.

Ephesians 1:13 tells us that the moment we believe, we are "marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit." This is a declaration: "You are mine!" You are no longer defined by the world, your past, or your failures. You are defined by your relationship with Christ.

This truth is life-changing. In a world where people struggle to find their identity in careers, achievements, relationships, or social status, God says, "Your identity is found in Me."

Application: When you wake up each day, remember who you belong to. The pressures and labels of this world no longer define you. God has called you His child, His beloved, and nothing can alter that. The Holy Spirit in you is a constant reminder that you are marked by God—loved, chosen, and set apart. Let this reality bring you freedom from striving to prove your worth, because your worth is already secured in Christ.

2. The Holy Spirit Provides Security in Our Salvation

A seal in the ancient world not only represented ownership but also security. It protected the contents within from being tampered with. Similarly, the Holy Spirit seals us in Christ, securing our salvation until the day of redemption.

Paul reinforces this in Ephesians 4:30, where he writes, *“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”* This verse emphasizes the permanence of the Holy Spirit’s seal. Just as a seal protected a royal document from being opened prematurely, the Holy Spirit guards our salvation. No power—spiritual or earthly—can break this divine seal.

For believers, this truth offers profound comfort. We often wonder, “Can I lose my salvation? What if I stumble or fail in my faith?” The seal of the Holy Spirit answers these fears with a resounding *No*. The security of your salvation is not dependent on your strength but on God’s. The Holy Spirit ensures that what God has begun in you, He will bring to completion (Philippians 1:6).

Application: Let this truth encourage you when doubts arise. You don’t need to live in fear of “losing” your salvation. You are sealed by the Holy Spirit, and nothing can separate you from the love of Christ. When you falter, remember that God holds you securely in His hand. Your future is safe, not because of your ability to hold on to God, but because He is holding on to you.

3. The Holy Spirit Guarantees Our Eternal Inheritance

Perhaps one of the most profound aspects of the Holy Spirit’s seal is that it is a *guarantee*—a deposit of the glory that is to come. Ephesians 1:14 calls the Holy Spirit “a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance.” In other words, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives is God’s down payment, a taste of the future inheritance we will receive in full.

Think about that for a moment: the Holy Spirit is not just a helper for this life; He is the promise that everything God has in store for us—eternal life, resurrected bodies, perfect joy, peace, and communion with God—is absolutely certain. Just as a deposit on a house signals that the buyer will come through with the full payment, the Holy Spirit is God’s way of assuring us that our future in Him is guaranteed.

Right now, we experience the Spirit’s presence in glimpses—His comfort, guidance, peace, and joy. But these experiences are only a foretaste of the fullness of eternity with God. The best is yet to come, and the Holy Spirit ensures that we will receive all that God has promised.

Application: How does this change the way we live? First, it gives us hope in the face of hardship. The struggles of this life are temporary, but the inheritance we have in Christ is eternal. Second, it encourages us to live with eternity in mind. We are heirs of a kingdom that will never end. When you face difficulties, remember that the Holy Spirit within you is a constant reminder of the glory that awaits. Live boldly, with hope and joy, because your future is secured by God Himself.

Conclusion:

The Holy Spirit as our seal is a truth that anchors our faith in three powerful ways. He marks us with a new identity in Christ, declaring that we belong to God. He secures our salvation, reminding us that we are safely held in His grace. And He guarantees our future inheritance, giving us hope and joy as we await the full redemption of God’s people.

As you leave here today, walk with confidence in the knowledge that you are sealed by the Holy Spirit. This is not a temporary or fragile seal; it is God’s permanent mark upon your life. Let this truth shape the way you live, the way you view yourself, and the way you face the future.

Let us pray:

Gracious Father, thank You for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for marking us as Your own, for securing our salvation, and for giving us a guarantee of our inheritance. Help us to live with the confidence, peace, and hope that comes from being sealed by Your Spirit. Strengthen us to walk in faith, knowing that our future is secure in You. In Jesus’ mighty name, Amen.