



In Christ, I Am ... Safe and Secure!

Main Truth

The presence of the Holy Spirit in every believer guarantees that we are safe and secure in Christ, our Salvation. His Spirit seals us in Christ and serves as “earnest money” or a down payment promising our future and final redemption.

Introduction

When my kids were active toddlers and we had to cross busy streets I would ask them to hold my hand. In reality however, while they thought they were holding my hand, I had their little forearms locked in the vise-grip of my hand. I would not trust their security and safety to their grip but rather, I ensured their safety by firmly holding onto them. They were just not strong enough to wriggle free.

In our spiritual lives it's much the same. Our safety and security is not based on how well we hold onto God, or by what we do or do not do. In reality God “holds” onto us. Paul, in Ephesians teaches believers that we are sealed with His Holy Spirit. He's got us. He will never leave us or forsake us. In other words He will never let us go—no matter what we do or do not do. We're just not strong enough to wriggle free, either. Believers are wonderfully sealed for the coming day of God's full redemption—new bodies, new heaven, and new earth.

Scripture

Ephesians 1:9–14 (NIV)

⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times

will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. ¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having 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.

The Message paraphrase words verses 13 and 14 this way:

¹³ It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free - signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. ¹⁴ This signet from God is the first installment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

The NASB phrases these verses in this way:

¹³ In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation—having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, ¹⁴ who is a down payment as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

For Discussion

In Ephesians 1:3 Paul writes, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

Among the myriad of “every spiritual blessing[s]” that we receive by becoming one of God’s beloved children, safety and security are twin realities that exist as God chooses us for Himself.

- ⌘ What does it mean that we were chosen by God before the foundation of the world (v. 11)?
- ⌘ How does this truth undergird the truths of our safety and security?
- ⌘ Why are safety and security important in our relationship with God?

Children grow well and healthy when security and safety are present in their families.

- ⌘ How could the lack of security affect our ability to grow in our spiritual journeys?

John 10: 28–29 (MSG)

I give them real and eternal life. They are protected from the Destroyer for good. No one can steal them from out of my hand. The Father who put them under my care is so much greater than the Destroyer and Thief. No one could ever get them away from him.

How many sets of hands are mentioned in these two verses? Whose hands are they?

How does Jesus' teaching in the Gospel of John support what Paul writes in Ephesians about our "sealing" in Christ?

In these verses, who are also holding onto us?

Application

Think about being chosen for a team or an honor. How do you feel about that?

Share with the group about your response to the truth that you are chosen by God.

How do these truths help us if and/or when we are concerned about losing our salvation?

In what other ways does knowing that God and Jesus hold onto our hands and that we are sealed with His Spirit, affect our peace and joy?

Going Deeper

If you struggle with resting in your relationship with God, take a picture of yourself, write your name on the back, and place it in an envelope. Seal the envelope, put tape on the seal, and address the envelope, "Chosen by God." Let this remind you that God chose you, hold you in His hand as well as Jesus' hand, has sealed you with His Holy Spirit, and will return for you. Nothing can separate you from Him.

Sketch a picture of John 10:28–29.

List the spiritual blessings that you find in verses in Ephesians 1:3–14. For example:

Verse 4 Chosen by Him before the foundation of the world (before I was born!)

Verse 4 Chosen to be holy and blameless before Him

Verse 5 In love He...