

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS

by Doctor Walter L. Wilson

Copyright © 1939

by

edited for 3BMB by Baptist Bible Believer in the Spirit of the Colportage Ministry of a century ago

~ out-of-print and in the public domain ~

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN EPHESIANS

Our lesson is about the HOLY SPIRIT in the Book of Ephesians. Satan has made it so difficult to speak about the HOLY SPIRIT because he has surrounded the Spirit with so much suspicion and fear. We speak of the office work of the Spirit but it is the work of Spirit Himself that we want to consider.

Chapter 1. the Spirit is sealing. Verse 13. **"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise".**

Chapter 2. the Spirit is dwelling in the Church. Verse 22. **"In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."**

Chapter 3. the Spirit is revealing. Verse 5. **"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."**

Chapter 4. the Spirit is feeling with a tender heart. Verse 30. **"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption."**

Chapter 5. the Spirit is filling. Verse 18. **"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit."**

Chapter 6. the Spirit is working. Verses 17-18. **"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."**

Let us look at His sealing in Chapter 1, verse 13.

In my judgment, that sealing refers to outward manifestation and not to inward change. All the seals that we use for others and not for ourselves. I have seals on my diplomas at home. They are mine and do not belong to the person who put them on. There is a seal on each silver dollar. The dollar does not belong to the government, but to the person who has it. The seal is put on the money to show that it is genuine and comes from the proper place and has authority behind

it. Many of GOD's dear people do not bear the imprint of Heaven. They are carnal, worldly, lukewarm, and self-seeking Christians.

The sealing of the Spirit is that referred to in Romans 12:1; the giving of the body over absolutely to the LORD for Him to fill it with truth, guide it, and send it where He wants to send it. Then we begin to bear the imprint of Heaven upon our souls and lives and that imprint and impress is what is called the sealing of the Spirit. It is put on us by the Spirit of GOD to show that we are heavenly persons, citizens of Heaven, ambassadors of CHRIST, transformed, devoted, consecrated, and everyone knows that we have come out of GOD's mint because we bear the imprint and impress of Heaven on our souls.

The LORD JESUS saves us; the HOLY SPIRIT makes us like CHRIST. The LORD JESUS brings eternal life into the soul; the HOLY SPIRIT manifests that life in its loveliness, beauty, attractiveness and power, and only He can do it. Those who ignore the Spirit, pay no attention to Him, never lean on Him, never depend on Him, are the trouble-making Christians and they bear no fruit. They believe, but they live barren, empty lives. If we go to the HOLY SPIRIT and invite Him to come out of the guest chamber and sit on the throne, something will happen. He will do it. He will make each one of us a different person. People will say that something has happened to this Christian. He no longer wastes his time. He is a happy, victorious person. He loves the lost and is always seeking them for CHRIST. Only the Spirit can bring this about in our lives.

"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise"

In Chapter Two, verse 22, we find that the Spirit dwells. **"In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."**

Chapter One speaks of each one of us individually bearing the imprint of the SON of GOD in our life. The second chapter speaks of the Church collectively, believers gathered together, as a habitation of GOD.

the Spirit makes His home in the Church, operating it, handling the pastor, the choir and the members. The Church should be a place where the Spirit is at home. He is officially making CHRIST known through the Gospel. Where the Spirit is honored, CHRIST will have a proper place. When the Spirit is operating the Church, then the LORD JESUS will be LORD of all. Only the HOLY SPIRIT can make CHRIST known to the heart and exalt the LORD JESUS. We read here that the Spirit dwells as a habitation, feeling at home in the church where GOD's people are gathered together, making it a holy of holies, where GOD's dear people help and minister to one another. The unsaved who come into an assembly of this kind will feel that GOD is there, and it will be easy for the Spirit to convict them of their need of CHRIST.

In Chapter Three, verse five, the Spirit reveals. **"Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit."**

Let us remember that the teaching of the Word of GOD and the precious ministry of the Spirit of GOD is by the Spirit Himself. The believer who gives the Spirit His place will have no trouble understanding his Bible. We should treat the Spirit like a person should be treated, not like an influence, a power, a mist, or a ghost. the Spirit is a real person, a lovely, precious person. One of the sweetest things in the Christian life is to know Him and treat Him as you would treat the LORD JESUS if He were here. Give Him the place He deserves.

Ask the HOLY SPIRIT to teach you. He wrote the Bible and He is the One who is best able to explain it. Turn to Psalm 91 and ask Him to tell you what He wrote there. Turn to other passages and do the same. He will open the Word up to you in a wonderful way.

We rather ignore Him. That is the reason there is so little knowledge of the Word, so little exposition of the Word from many preachers. The HOLY SPIRIT teaches only as He is welcomed and recognized. He is GOD, a wonderful, precious, lovely person. Therefore, let us treat Him like He is, the person of the Godhead, living on the earth in place of CHRIST. Did not the LORD JESUS say when He went away, "**I will not leave you comfortless**"? He has sent the HOLY SPIRIT to be our COMFORTER and GUIDE.

Don't let Satan cheat you out of your heritage. Have all the communion you want with Him. Worship Him, talk with Him. You cannot spend too much time with Him. He is the precious LORD of the Harvest.

In Chapter Four, verse thirty, the HOLY SPIRIT feels. "**And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**" Don't hurt the HOLY SPIRIT, or make Him sorry. We do. I think perhaps that we grieve Him in ourselves and quench Him in other people.

Suppose that on our way to Winona Lake, we should have had a puncture. Suppose it was raining and we were on a dirt road. My daughter, Catherine, gets out and changes the tire while Mrs. Wilson and I sit in the car and read. How would Catherine feel, if when we arrived here, I should have said that we had a puncture and that we fixed it, but I never mentioned Catherine? We often say, "I was led to do so and so." Why not say, "He led me to do it"? If He opened up the Word to you and taught you a new passage of Scripture, say, "the Spirit taught me that." No wonder He gets grieved when we pay no attention to Him at all. Has He not come to teach us? Then we should ask Him what we want to know.

In Chapter Five, verse eighteen, the Spirit fills. "**Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.**" Let the HOLY SPIRIT fill the heart, the mind, the soul and the life. He has come from the Glory ready to live with us and to fill us seven days in the week.

In Chapter 6, verses seventeen and eighteen, the Spirit works. "And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."

Remember, beloved, that the Spirit always uses the Scriptures. He does not use personal opinions or feelings. Whenever you have a funny feeling and want to run and jump, the Spirit is

NOT doing it. You are just as near to GOD when you are feeling down in the dumps as when you feel happy. It is not your feelings that show whether you belong to the Spirit or not.

It is His Word by which He confirms and comforts us. It is by the Word that He leads us into the paths of ministry and service. He always teaches us by the Word. Our experiences must fit in with the Word of GOD, or they will not develop us. We do want you to know that the person of the Spirit must not be neglected. Do not be so occupied with the work of the Spirit that you neglect the PERSON of the Spirit. He wants your obedience and your trust. Give Him His place. Give Him a royal welcome into your heart and life.

~ end of chapter 3 ~

<http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com/>
