

## BLESSED ASSURANCE

### Hebrews 4:1

Many bible believing people struggle with the doctrine of 'eternal security'. Not many Christian denominations teach this doctrine today in Christian churches. Many people in churches that teach this doctrine struggle with it and don't 'rest' in it because of sin, doubt, emotions and skeletons in their lives.

### The Godhead And Our Salvation

**Ephesians 1:3-6** The Apostle Paul develops the role of the Trinity in the salvation of the believer. He talks of the work of the Father who “has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in heavenly places.” The Father “chose us in Him” and “predestined us.”

**Ephesians 1:7-12** Paul then talks about the working of the Son. Jesus Christ “redeemed us, forgave us all our sins, made known unto us the mystery of His will, let us know about the coming rapture of believers, and has given us an inheritance in heaven where we will be His praise and glory.”

**Ephesians 1:13-14** Then Paul talks of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believer. He tells us that the moment we believed we were “sealed” (made sure, secured) with the Holy Spirit and that He (the Holy Spirit) is the down payment (promise to pay in full) toward the inheritance that we were given.

### The Seal Of The Spirit

**Ephesians 1:13-14** Notice that the basis for our being “sealed” is the hearing of the truth. Paul reminds us that “after that ye *heard* the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation” **see Rom. 10:17**.

**Ephesians 1:13** Along with *hearing* Paul continues with “after that ye *believed*.” Paul is teaching a fundamental fact about salvation, *hearing* and *believing* the gospel always go together.

**Ephesians 1:14** The main point of the verse comes when after we heard and believed we then were *sealed* with the Holy Spirit. The phrase “were sealed” is in the tense meaning an accomplished fact. This meaning is that the *sealing* is something that was done to you, God sealed you, you did not seal yourself. As believers we were *sealed* by the Father and no one has the authority to seal or unseal us.

**The Meaning Of The Seal** – A seal signifies ownership and security. Our seal is God's guarantee of His ownership and His security over us. To question His eternal security or to question His seal is to question the character of the person who has sealed us.

### The Pledge Of The Spirit

**Ephesians 1:13** Here the Holy Spirit is referred to as the “Holy Spirit of Promise.” In **Acts 1:4-5** He is referred to as “the promise of the Father”, and during Christ's earthly ministry in **John 14:16-17** Jesus said that the Father would send the Holy Spirit as “the Comforter” and “the Spirit of truth.”

**Ephesians 1:14** The Holy Spirit was sealed in each believer as the 'earnest money, the guarantee' that God will fulfill, (will pay the full amount) of ALL the promises He has made to believers in His word.

**Ephesians 4:26-30** Paul is talking to believers here and exhorts us not to sin. He realizes that we are still sinners but wants us to be as clean as possible and not “grieve the Holy Spirit of God whereby *ye are sealed*.” If we could lose our salvation by sin we would not be “sealed” with God the Holy Spirit.

**Romans 8:22-23** We have within us “the first fruits” of the Spirit. This is referring to the redemption of the body, (our new body and our new position as sons of God (**Rom. 8:15**)).

**I Corinthians 15:20 Paul** says that Jesus was the “first fruits of the resurrection.” First fruits signifies a coming harvest. We have the “first fruits of the Spirit”, God's guarantee of His coming for us to fulfill His promise of our inheritance that is being “reserved in heaven” (**I Pt. 1:4**) for us.