

Eph 1.13 - Being Sealed With the Holy Spirit is Not Regeneration

- A. "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," (**Eph 1:13**)
- B. Does this verse teach that people are *regenerated* or *given eternal life* by the Holy Spirit after they believe the gospel?
- No, it doesn't *teach* that because it doesn't *say* that.
 - It says that believers were *sealed with* the Holy Spirit after they believed.
- C. Believers don't *get* eternal life *after* they believe.
- Believers *have* everlasting life.
 - Joh 6:47** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.
 - A person who believes that Jesus is the Christ *is born* of God, not *gets born* of God.
 - 1Jn 5:1** - Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.
 - A person who believes the gospel *passed* from death unto life *before* they believed (Joh 5:24), which is the reason they *could* believe (1Co 1:18).
 - Joh 5:24** - Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.
 - 1Co 1:18** - For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
 - So it was with the Ephesians to whom Paul was writing: they believed *after* they heard the gospel (good news) of *their salvation* (**Eph 1:13**).
 - One doesn't *get saved* by hearing about how God *already saved him* by His sovereign grace; one merely *knows about it*.
 - Eph 1:4** - According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:
 - Eph 1:5** - Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,
 - Eph 1:6** - To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.
 - Eph 1:7** - In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;
 - Eph 1:8** - Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence;
 - Eph 1:9** - Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself:
 - Eph 1:10** - That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:
 - Eph 1:11** - In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:
 - Therefore the sealing with the Holy Spirit is not regeneration or eternal life.
- D. Sealed ppl. - 1. a. Bearing the impression of a signet in wax (or other material), as evidence or guarantee of authenticity.

- i. A seal on something shows *evidence* that it is authentic; the seal doesn't make it authentic.
 - a. **Joh 3:33** - He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true.
 - b. **1Co 9:2** - If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you: for the seal of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.
- ii. The Holy Spirit is the seal that shows that a believer is an authentic child of God.
- iii. A child of God is sealed with the Holy Spirit at baptism (**Act 2:38**) which comes *after* belief (**Act 8:12,36-38**).
- iv. This is the giving of the Spirit that Jesus said believers would experience *after* He was glorified (**Joh 7:37-39**).
 - a. **Joh 7:37** - In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.
 - b. **Joh 7:38** - He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
 - c. **Joh 7:39** - (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)
 - d. This giving of the Holy Spirit is *not* the indwelling of the Spirit in regeneration (being born of the Spirit) because that had been happening for thousands of years prior to Christ's glorification (**Gal 4:28-29**).
 - e. Prior to His resurrection, Jesus said that people were being born of the Spirit (**Joh 3:8**).
 - f. Therefore the giving of the Holy Spirit is something in addition to regeneration.
- v. Jesus was the pattern of being sealed with the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Immediately after He was baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon Him like a dove and the Father declared Christ's authenticity as His Son.
 - 1. **Mat 3:16** - And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
 - 2. **Mat 3:17** - And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.
 - b. This was when God *sealed* Jesus Christ.
 - 1. **Joh 6:27** - Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.
- vi. Circumcision was a seal (evidence) of righteousness for Abraham, which righteousness he had *before* he was circumcised.
 - a. **Rom 4:11** - And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being uncircumcised: that he might be the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:
 - b. Abraham's circumcision was the evidence that he was righteous; it didn't make him righteous since it happened after he was already righteous.
- vii. In like manner, the gift of the Holy Spirit received at baptism (**Act 2:38**) is a seal (evidence) of a believer's eternal salvation which he had *before* he was baptized and *before* he believed (**Eph 1:13 c/w Joh 5:24**).