

Week of July 16 - The Down Payment Small Group Lesson 2

Connect

Imagine an orphan finds out that a very rich and respectable man has *already* chosen him/her for adoption, arranged a large inheritance, and has been guiding and protecting his adopted child. How would this discovery affect the thoughts, feelings, and actions of the child while living in the orphanage? Please discuss.

Verses - Ephesians 1:11-14 (CSB)

11 In him we have also received an inheritance, because we were predestined according to the plan of the one who works out everything in agreement with the purpose of his will, 12 so that we who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory.

13 In him you also were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and when you believed. 14 The Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, until the redemption of the possession, to the praise of his glory.

Study

1. At the end of Verse 12, what does Paul mean when he writes, "…so that *we* who had already put our hope in Christ might bring praise to his glory?"
   a. What is the promise in v.11? Who is it for, and how does it relate?

2. Paul tells us that *you* also are sealed with the Holy Spirit (v.13).
   a. What does this mean? Why the use of "you" now instead of "we?"
   b. When are *we* sealed? (2 listed)
   c. Why is the timing important to understand? (Hints: Ask when… think assurance)

3. If the Holy Spirit is the down payment of our inheritance, what is the full and final payment? (Matthew 25:34; 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 John 2:25)

🏋️ **APPLY:** How do you benefit from the Holy Spirit dwelling within you? What results from His constant presence? (John 16:13; Romans 8:16, 26) What does He enable you to do? (Galatians 5:22-23)

☕ **DISCUSS:** Why is the Holy Spirit given to all believers and not just to *some*? What does this tell us about God's way of salvation, and God's intentions for all who believe? (Galatians 5:16)

Share

If you can share, in what ways are you witnessing the work of the Spirit in your life? How else would you like to see the working of the Spirit in your life?

Grow

Minister to one another through sharing praise and specific prayer requests.

- Praise and worship Father, Spirit, and Son. (Perhaps share why we worship all three of the Trinity.)