

## Safe! By The Power of the Holy Spirit – Eph 1:11-14

Last message in our series – Safe! Covering the Bases of Salvation

Based on Titus 3:4-7 – almost every single topic we covered re salvation, is alluded to

Safe! From a life of bondage; By God's grace; For good; From losing my salvation

Today – Safe! By the power of the HS

Tendency in some circles to affirm a trinity that consists of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Bible; Leaving the HS completely out of it

Unintentional though very real reaction to the exclusive obsession on the HS in other circles; Need not be the case

We don't have to throw the baby out with the bath water, just because some people muddy the water

We can and absolutely should preserve the HS's role in the godhead and our lives, and do so biblically

So this morning I want to give you an overview of the HS's role in your salvation, and along the way address some issues of confusion

The more we understand who the HS is, what he does, and how he works . . .

The more apt we will be to follow his leading and guidance in our lives

That said – **Eph 1:11-14**

Any discussion of salvation would be lacking if it didn't touch on election and predestination; That's where this paragraph begins

Once again, we find assurance that . . .

**In Christ, eternal life is yours (v11-12)**

*In Christ/him* – 164 x's in NT; 10x's in v3-14

In union with him; In a relationship with him

Within his realm of provision, protection, and power

*We have obtained an inheritance* – past tense; it's yours right now; it's in your possession

*An inheritance* – eternal life; a place in heaven

Doesn't matter if have a mansion or a shed waiting for me – it's in heaven; it's mine!

Like an 8 year old boy whose wealthy grandparents left him a lake home on his

21<sup>st</sup> birthday – it's his; He *has* obtained it; He's just not able to fully enjoy it yet

But he lives confidently, knowing that come his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday, he will

So too with your eternal life, it's yours, *now*; And you can be confident that when

Jesus takes you home, you will fully enjoy it then

This eternal life is yours . . .

• **By God's choosing**

Those who are in Christ have *been predestined* . . . *according to the counsel of his will*

Those in Christ have been chosen by God for salvation

Reiterates what he already said in v4-5 . . .

*He chose us in him* – God chose us for salvation, *before the foundation of the world*

*In love, he predestined us for adoption through Jesus Christ* – God determined

before we ever came on the scene, that we should be his children

Eternal life is yours by God's choosing; And God doesn't change his mind

Nu 23:19 – *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?* That's assurance

To the extent that you do some kind of interpretive gymnastics to get around the fact that God chose you for salvation, you lose the most significant truth of your eternal security in all the Bible

Eternal life is yours by God's choosing . . .

• **According to God's purpose**

We have been predestined, chosen for salvation, *according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will*

God chose you for salvation according to his own purposes/will – It was *his* decision

When you start to wonder *why* he chooses some for salvation, but not others, it's especially important to realize that his purposes and will aren't always plain to see or understand, because nobody knows the mind of God

Or when you wonder – how he can *desire all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth* (1 Tim 2:4), while only choosing some

And how we can be free and responsible for our choices if predestines us for salvation

Must realize that nobody knows the mind of God

That's why Paul ends a 3 chapter discussion on topic of election and predestination in Rom 9-11 by saying –

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable [mysterious/unknowable] his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor?*

We don't know how to fully reconcile these things, but . . .

We *do* know is that God is loving and compassionate, full of grace and truth

We *do* know that he has *chosen* those who put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ

For those who haven't, we don't know

So we preach and reach out to *all* for the sake of the elect, trusting God's purposes

Eternal life is yours by God's choosing, according to God's purpose . . .

• **For God's glory**

*In him we have obtained an inheritance . . . so that we who were the first to hope in Christ [the first believers] might be to the praise of his glory*

God has given us eternal life so that –

Our lives and lips would magnify and praise him

We will point to his work and majesty in our salvation, and give him the credit

In Christ, eternal life is yours, and your eternal life is safe

**In Christ, your eternal life is Safe! (v13-14)**

*In him you also* – once again, in relationship with Christ, in union with him; we too can have the same confidence that our salvation is safe, because . . .

• **The power of the Holy Spirit ensures it**

*In him you also were sealed with the promised HS* (13)

Seals were used in the ancient world much like they are today – to guarantee the validity of the contents, convey ownership and importance

In Christ, your status as a child of God is permanently established (sealed)

You are protected for all time; Your authenticity is forever proven

Your future is set; Your salvation is ensured . . .

By the power of the HS

Only *God* could do such a thing – which is who the HS is

Fully God; Co-equal with the Father and Son as part of the trinity

Paul alludes to the fact that he was *promised* to show that all this is of God

He's not making it up

The HS moved prophets like Ezekiel and Joel to foretell it, and the HS is carrying it out

Important to understand that this *sealing* that HS accomplishes took place when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him

When you heard the truth and believed in Jesus, you were sealed

When you were saved, you were sealed – it was simultaneous

Conversion and HS's securing of your status as a child of God happen at the same time

Which means you don't have to worry or wonder or fret about whether you're going to be snatched away by Satan, or something

I see so much fear of that in some people

1 Jn 5:18 – evil one does not touch the person born of God

In Christ, your eternal life is safe because the power of the HS ensures it when you heard and believed, and . . .

• **The presence of the Holy Spirit guarantees it**

You were sealed with the HS as a *guarantee* of your eternal life

Not only has a place in heaven been reserved in your name, but the HS is a down payment, a deposit, that you *will* receive it

Right now, it's yours by *promise*

Like the lake home for the 8-year old

Later, it will be yours by *experience*

When you *acquire possession of it* (13)

This sealing/guarantee of the HS comes via his *presence* within us

It's not some nebulous thing he does from afar

**2 Cor 1:21-22** – *It is God . . . who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*

Paul is obviously talking about the same thing as in Eph 1

When you put them together, you see that the sealing and guaranteeing of the HS is a result of the his power and presence *within* you, starting from the moment you were saved (when you heard and believed)

Rom 8:9 confirms it – *Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ* [another expression for the HS] *does not belong to him* [Christ]

No HS, no salvation; Apart from the HS, you don't belong to Christ

The HS *indwells* us *at conversion* – sealing us as part of God's family, and guaranteeing our salvation until we acquire possession of it

\*Some might refer to this as being *baptized in the Spirit*

Referring to the HS's power and presence in us to cleanse us of our sin, give us new life

While Scriptures like Titus 3:5 imply this – *God saved us . . . by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the HS*

More often, the phrase “baptized with the HS” was used by NT writers to speak of what happened when the HS began to act on the people of God with new covenant power  
More than anything else, the phrase *baptized in the Spirit* refers to his new covenant work in believers

The confusion comes when people advocate that a *second* baptism or a *post-conversion* baptism of the HS should be experienced by believers

The thinking goes something like this –

Because the first followers of Christ at Pentecost were baptized in the Spirit long after their conversion and spoke in tongues – true

And because there is 1 other instance in Acts 8 where the Samaritan believers experienced a post-conversion baptism of the Spirit – true

Therefore, believers today should seek and experience a second baptism of the HS, preferably manifested by speaking in tongues

2 problems with this conclusion

1. After Acts, the experience of the church in its infant stages, there are no other NT texts that even refer to a 2<sup>nd</sup> baptism of the HS, let alone advocate that we should seek one  
That should make us think that something unique was going on in Acts that was not intended to be the norm, then or now

2. This creates a two-class Christianity – those who are Spirit-baptized or Spirit-filled, and those who aren't; Those who have it, and those who don't  
That kind of thinking harms body of Christ, because it breeds jealousy, pride, division  
Apart from that, once again there's is *nothing* in Scripture that indicates a two-class or two-stage Christianity

\*But if there's no such thing as a second/post-conversion baptism of the Spirit, what do we make of Pentecost and the Samaritan experiences?

The explanation that best fits the biblical record is that those first believers were living in a time of *transition* between the HS's OC work, and NC work

Whereas the OC believers experienced a less powerful, less personal, and less extensive work of the Spirit . . .

NC believers experienced just the opposite – a very powerful, very personal, very extensive work of the HS

But there was a delay in that NC work because (it seems), God wanted to emphasize the awesome power he was bringing to bear in the lives of his people

So for the *believers at Pentecost* (still living under the OC work of the HS), experienced a post-conversion baptism of the Spirit, because they right in the middle of the *transition* between his OC and NC work

Not only that but I believe it was God's way of giving the gospel message a huge push into all the world

That experience is not normative for us, because we're not living in that transition

We don't first become believers with a weaker OC work of the HS in us, and then wait for his NC work to kick in

We come to him 2000 years later, well into his NC work

For the *Samaritan believers in Acts 8*, it seems that God waited to give the NC empowering of the HS through the hands of the *apostles*

Because that would be obvious proof, even to the highest leadership in Jerusalem, that salvation was for *all* people, even half-breeds like the Samaritans

There were to be no second-class Christians

The NC blessings of salvation were for *all* people, Jews and Gentiles alike

The delay in the HS's work in their lives was the perfect way to emphasize it  
But such a delay is not the norm for us today because we well know that salvation *is* for everyone (Acts 10:34-35) . . .

And post-conversion baptisms in the Spirit didn't *continue* in the early church

There's no such thing as a post-conversion baptism of the HS for believers *today*  
The NT doesn't show it by precedent; Nor does it teach or advocate the 2-class Christianity it creates

The few examples we do see in Scripture, were unique to the initial spread of the gospel and the transition between the HS's OC and NC work

\*One more point of confusion – while post-conversion Spirit-baptisms are not the norm for us, being continually filled with the HS is; We're not saved to coast  
There's one baptism in the Spirit at conversion, but many fillings  
In fact, our lives should be one great big fill-fest

**Eph 5:18** – *Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery* [unrestrained sin], *but be filled with the Spirit*

*Be filled* does not mean filling up like a tank that needs fuel

That would imply that we don't have all of the HS within us, and need more of him  
That's not the meaning of the metaphor here; Nor the implication of rest of Scripture  
There's no mention of receiving some of the HS now and some later  
We have *all* of him within us at *conversion*

To be filled with the Spirit means to be completely controlled, completely led by him  
Just like the drunk gives up control of his life to wine, and is controlled by it in all he says or does . . .

We too are to relinquish control of our lives to the Holy Spirit, and be completely controlled and led by him in all we say and do

That's not a one-time event

The tense or form of the verb *be filled* means – be in a state of being continually filled  
That's why your life should be one great big fill-fest

Nor is there a *single* experience or requirement like speaking in tongues or anything else that goes along with being filled with the HS

This continual filling shows itself in a variety of ways in NT  
Sometimes it resulted in powerful preaching, bold witness, expressing a blessing, prophecy (applying truth to someone's life), strengthened faith, more maturity, greater wisdom, miracles, healings, casting out of demons

Being in a state of being continually filled will look different in each person, at different times of their life

Sometimes it's a long process, sometimes an abrupt event

Sometimes the effect is subtle and internal; Sometimes it's extreme and external

One size does not fit all when it comes to the filling of the HS

Whatever does happen, you know it's real if it results in . . .

Greater power to serve; Greater control of your actions

More purity in your life; More understanding of God's truth

Greater unity in our church; More blessing from God

If you want to be in a state of being continually filled with the HS –

Surrender to his leading; Listen when he prompts; Do what he says

*All to the praise of his glory*

The presence of the HS guarantees that your eternal life, your inheritance, is safe!

The only thing left to do is to praise him

**Pray** – no amen; Spirit of the Living God

**Close**