

THE BLESSING OF THE REVELATION THAT A CHRISTIAN IS 'SEALED' WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Rev. Smiley T. Papenfus

1. WHAT 3 NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES REFER TO BEING 'SEALED' BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

2 Cor 13:1 (NAU) This is the third time I am coming to you. EVERY FACT IS TO BE CONFIRMED BY THE TESTIMONY OF TWO OR THREE WITNESSES.

A. I see **4 things** in this verse happening to a Christian at salvation...

*2 Cor 1:21-22 (NAU) Now He who [i] **establishes** [stabilitate – make stable] us with you in Christ and [ii] **anointed us is God,***

*22 who also [iii] **sealed us** and [iv] gave {us} the Spirit in our hearts as a **pledge (earnest – KJV).***

Being sealed is separate from, yet simultaneous to receiving the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge of our eternal future inheritance.

B. *Eph 1:13-14 (NAU) In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise,*

*14 who is given as a **pledge (earnest – KJV) of our inheritance** [patrimony – property inherited from ones father – in this case from our Heavenly Father], with a view to the redemption [deliverance – liberation procured by the payment of a ransom – the precious blood of Jesus] of {God's own} (purchased – KJV) possession [us – an acquisition for preservation], to the praise of His glory.*

We were sealed immediately upon believing the message of the Gospel and receiving Jesus as our Savior.

*...you were **sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise...***

*Luke 24:49 (NAU) "And behold, I am sending forth **the promise** [Holy Spirit] of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city (of Jerusalem) until you are clothed [the sense of sinking into a garment – the anointing] with power [to do the miraculous] from on high."*

...our inheritance [patrimony – property inherited from ones father – in this case from our Heavenly Father]...

*John 14:2 (NKJ) "In My Father's house are **many mansions**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."*

Our heavenly inheritance also includes...

*Eph 1:3 (NAU) Blessed {be} the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who **has** [already] **blest us with EVERY spiritual blessing in the heavenly {places} in Christ,***

By faith we withdraw all spiritual blessings into this natural tangible realm.

C. *Eph 4:30 (NAU) Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption [a releasing; a liberation by the payment of a ransom – the precious blood of Jesus].*

2. WHAT ARE THE GREEK MEANINGS OF THE WORDS 'PLEDGE' AND 'SEALED'?

Let's first look at the word **pledge** or **earnest**...

Strong's – Earnest - 728 arrhabon (ar-hrab-ohn'); of Hebrew origin [6162]; a **pledge**, i.e. part of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest; KJV translated-- earnest.

Lexicon – Earnest - 728 arrhabon- an earnest money which in purchases is given as a **pledge or downpayment** that the full amount will subsequently be paid.

...the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge (earnest – KJV) of our inheritance...

Having been born of the Spirit (a well – *John 4:9-15*) & being filled with the Spirit (rivers of living water – *John 7:37-39*) is God's pledge, earnest or downpayment that there is an eternal heavenly home for His beloved children, whose inheritance is not just for the future, but also for the here & now – *Eph 1:3*.

Note: There is a huge difference in the volume of water in a well vs rivers of living water. The baptism of the Holy Spirit fills our well to overflow into rivers of living water. Also a well implies work to withdraw the water [*Rebecca watering the 10 camels of Abraham's servant – Gen 24:19*], whereas flooding rivers will carry you by their power and also water the crops on the banks [God's rains bring showers of blessing whereas the devils storms are designed for destruction – that's why Jesus rebuked satan's storm of destruction – *Mark 4:39*].

Strong's original – Sealed - 4972 sphragizo (sfrag-id'-zo); from **4973**; to stamp (with a signet or private mark) for security or preservation (literally or figuratively); by implication, to keep secret, to attest: KJV translated-- (set a, set to) seal up, stop.

Lexicon – Sealed - 4972 sphragizo- to set a seal upon, to mark with a seal, to seal

a) **for security: from satan**

b) since things sealed up are concealed (as the contents of a letter), **to hide**, keep in silence, keep secret

c) in order to mark a person or a thing

– i) to set a mark upon by the impress of a seal or a stamp

– ii) angels are said to be sealed by God

d) in order to prove, to confirm, or to attest a thing, to confirm, authenticate, to place beyond doubt

– i) used of a written document

– ii) to prove one's testimony to a person that he is what he professes to be

Strong's root #1 – 4973 sphragis (sfrag-ece'); probably strengthened from **5420**; a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication, the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness), literally or figuratively: **KJV translated-- seal.**

Lexicon root #1 – 4973 sphragis- **a seal:**

a) the seal placed upon books – (*Rev 5:9 (NAU) And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood {men} from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*)

b) a signet ring

c) the inscription or impression made by a seal; used of the name of God and Christ stamped upon their foreheads – (*Rev 9:4 (NAU) They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*)

d) that by which anything is confirmed, proved, authenticated, as by a seal (a token or proof)

Strong's root #2 – 5420 phrasso (fras'-so); apparently a strengthening form of the base of **5424**; **to fence or inclose**, i.e. (specifically) **to block up** (figuratively, to silence): **KJV translated-- stop.**

Lexicon root #2 – 5420 phrasso-

– i) to fence in, to block up, to stop up, **to close up**

– ii) to put to silence

Strong's root #3 – 5424 phren (frane); probably from an obsolete phrao (to rein in or curb; compare **5420** {root #2}; the **midriff** (as a partition of the body), i.e. (figuratively and by implication, of sympathy) the feelings (or sensitive nature; by extension [also in the plural] the mind or cognitive faculties): **KJV translated-- understanding.**

Lexicon root #3 – 5424 phren-

1) the **midriff or diaphragm, the parts of the heart**

2) the mind; the faculty of perceiving and judging

3. WHAT ARE THE BLESSINGS AND BENEFITS OF KNOWING YOU'RE 'SEALED' BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The **born again experience** is being created in His image & then sealing it all in...

2 Cor 5:17 (NAU) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, {he is} **a new creature** (a new being – TEV; he becomes a brand new person inside – TLB; **a new creation** – NKJ; a new miraculous & supernatural heavenly creation that didn't exist before; a brand new species of being); the old things passed away; behold, new things have come (all things have become new – NKJ).

1 Cor 6:17 (NAU) But the one who joins himself to the Lord is **ONE spirit {with Him}** – (translators added 'with Him').

Eph 4:23-24 (NAU) and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,

24 and put on [wear your 'new self' & anointing knowingly & proudly] the **new self**, which in {the likeness of} God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Rom 8:29 (NAU) For those whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined {to become} **conformed to the image of His Son**, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren; [...and you & I are the multi-millionth born]

Rom 8:29 (YLT) because whom He did foreknow, He also did fore-appoint, **conformed to the image of His Son**, that he might be first-born among many brethren;

Notice in YLT we are already conformed to the image of His Son, not 'to become' conformed as the translators added.

1Thes 5:23 (NAU) Now may the **God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely** [because as of now **only your spirit** is sanctified & preserved {sealed}]; and may your spirit and soul and body be **preserved complete** [one Greek word – to guard, to keep one in the state in which he is], without blame [faultless] at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Here **soul & body** are included in this 'still to be answered prayer' to also be fully redeemed & blameless at the time of the second coming of Jesus.

Titus 2:11-14 (NAU) For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men,

12 instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age,

13 looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus,

14 **who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people** (His own special people – NKJ) **for His own possession** [your spirit is a heavenly created perfectly pure temple for God's Shekinah glory to permanently & comfortably dwell], **zealous for good deeds**.

Heb 12:22-24 (NAU) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels,

23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of {the} righteous made perfect (the spirits of just men made perfect – NKJ) [to accomplish, to finish, to bring to an end – part of the church is in heaven & part on earth – all are identically **ONE spirit** with Him – the only difference is that their **soul & bodies** are also redeemed from the curse of Adam's fall],

24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than {the blood} of Abel.

1 Jn 3:9 (NKJ) Whoever has been born of God [your spirit] **does not sin, for His seed** [the incorruptible seed of the Word of God – 1Peter 1:23] remains in him; and **he** [your spirit] **cannot sin, because he has been born of God**.

1 Jn 4:16-17 (NAU) We have come to know and have believed the [perfect, unconditional] **love which God has for us**. **God is love**, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and **God abides in him**.

17 By this [above cycle], [God's unconditional] love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment [we'll have no fear in the day of judgment because if there can be no judgment against Christ their can be no judgment against me – we've been created identical to Him – 2Cor 5:17]; **because as He** [Jesus] **is** [in heaven at the Father's right hand], **so also are we** [right now] **in this world**.

A SUMMARY & amplification of the Greek word 'sealed'...

a. **Divine protection & preservation**.

b. **Security from satan** – he's a toothless wonder whose only power is for us to fall for his deception.

- c. **Hidden in God** – covered by His wings (**pinions** – *Psa 91:4 NAU*) – the outer edge of a birds wing & flight feathers.
- d. **Fenced in** – encircled – the gate is closed & sealed by God – evil has no access.
- e. **Authenticated as the genuine product** – placed beyond all doubt – we are His redeemed family.
- f. **God's stamp on me** – angles & demons can see it in the spirit realm, but don't blow it by retreating and speaking negative words.
- g. **The accuser is silenced** – God's sees His divine perfection in your born again spirit – we're made in His exact image – however we must always agree with God & never with the enemy our soul.
- h. **The midriff** – the heart, spirit – our sensitive nature in tune with God – being led by the spirit – reigning from our renewed mind in unity with our born again spirit, dominating over the carnal flesh.

4. HOW DO WE RECONCILE THE FOLLOWING TWO SCRIPTURES WITH BEING 'SEALED' BY THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. Notice the following **conditional promises** (verses 16b-17) contrasting **the Christian** to **the sinner** in 5 different graphic pictures...

2 Cor 6:14-7:1 (NAU) Do not be **bound together** with unbelievers [if you partner with an unbeliever you'll have trouble with your father-in-law – the devil]; for what partnership have (i) **righteousness** and **lawlessness**, or what fellowship has (ii) **light** with **darkness**?

15 Or what harmony has (iii) **Christ** with **Belial**, or what has a (iv) **believer** in common with an **unbeliever**?

16 Or what agreement has the (v) **temple of God** with **idols**? For **we are the temple of the living God**; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

17 "Therefore, COME OUT FROM THEIR MIDST AND BE SEPARATE," says the Lord. "AND DO NOT TOUCH WHAT IS UNCLEAN; and I will welcome you."

18 "And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me," says the Lord Almighty.

1 Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

So is the spirit imperfect & needing for us to finish it or has Jesus done a complete work?

Let's expound **2Cor 7:1** from above...

1 **Therefore** [connecting to what's before], having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse [to free from defilement & guilt by **association**; to purify {by **separating**}] **ourselves from** [not **of**] **all defilement** [a stain; immorality] **of flesh** [the carnal nature of man prone to oppose God and choose to sin] **and spirit** [the defiled flesh & spirits of those reveling in the darkness of *2Cor 6:14-16 above*], **perfecting** [to execute, accomplish, complete] **holiness** [sacredness; moral purity] **in the fear of God.**

What is the difference between **from & **of**...**

* **From** – a place away – where have you come **from**? Clearly there is a *distance separation*. God's counsel is for us to keep a healthy *distance separation* **from** the ungodly, who otherwise would have the opportunity to dump their defiling influence to negatively affect our thoughts & actions. So we're not cleansing our perfectly sealed & undefiled spirit man, but separating ourselves **from** ungodly people and their evil influence.

Remember the **frog in heating water** – don't allow this world to cook your brain to their polluting stinking thinking and sinful lifestyle.

* **Of** – dictionary >> expressing the [existing] relationship between a part and a whole – the working relationship has already been established – e.g. the Christian has already connected himself to an unbeliever, thereby daily defiling himself by his ungodly lifestyle.

Spirit – 4151 – Pneuma – air, wind, breath; rational; the influence which **governs the soul**; the source of power, affection, emotion & desire by which man **feels, thinks & decides**; a **mental disposition** [or a **heart attitude**].

A **pneumatic jack-hammer** is one powered by high pressured air.

When a person dies he expires – **he breathes his last** as his eternal spirit leaves his body.

Firstly **we can't cleanse ourselves** from sin – only faith in finished work of Jesus has cleansed us from all sin.

So we're NOT cleansing ourselves **of** defilement of a half born again sin contaminated spirit – in & out of right standing with God.

Our interaction with the ungodly is to love them with the love of Jesus and to share the truth of the Gospel with them as **ambassadors** correctly representing our loving, gracious & merciful God – *2Cor 5:18-21*.

B. James 4:8 (NAU) *Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded* [yes God can, no God can't; yes God has, no God hasn't – which is it?]

Lexicon – heart - 2588 **kardia**- **also used of the soul** so far as it is affected and stirred in a good or bad way relating to **affections, emotions, desires, appetites, passions**, etc.

Kardia – from which we get our English word **cardio** – do your cardio exercises to strengthen your heart.

So Christians must be on guard not to allow our souls to be polluted with stinking thinking, thereby keeping the garbage of this world out, just as we meticulously keep pollution, filth & dirt out of our physical homes.

EXAMPLE: My GMC Envoy involuntarily switches off the button that blocks outside air from coming in. The pollution of **diesel emissions & fumes** from trucks & traffic drives me crazy – I'll hold my breath & immediately pull off on a side street & open the windows to get the harmful fumes out my car. Likewise we must eradicate the harmful wrong thinking of this world or it'll pollute our souls to our detriment.

5. WHAT 3 NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES REFER TO THE WORD 'SEAL' vs 'SEALED'?

Seal is Strongs #4973 & **sealed** is Strongs #4972...

Strongs root #1 – 4973 sphragis (sfrag-ece'); probably strengthened from **5420**; a signet (as fencing in or protecting from misappropriation); by implication, the stamp impressed (as a mark of privacy, or genuineness), literally or figuratively: **KJV translated-- seal**.

Lexicon root #1 – 4973 sphragis- **a seal**:

a) the seal placed upon books – (*Rev 5:9 (NAU)* *And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood {men} from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*)

b) a signet ring

c) the inscription or impression made by a seal; used of the name of God and Christ stamped upon their foreheads – (*Rev 9:4 (NAU)* *They were told not to hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads.*)

d) that by which anything is confirmed, proved, authenticated, as by a seal (a token or proof)

So **seal** refers more to having God's seal or stamp of authentication or proof of genuineness...

A. Rom 4:9-11 (NAU) *Is this blessing then on the circumcised, or on the uncircumcised also? For we say, "FAITH WAS CREDITED TO ABRAHAM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS."*

10 How then was it credited? While he was circumcised, or uncircumcised? Not while circumcised, but while uncircumcised;

11 and he [Abraham] received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which he had while uncircumcised, so that he might be the father of all who believe without being circumcised, that righteousness might be credited to them,

All born again Christians have **God's seal** of 'this one is righteous by faith' for the entire spirit world to clearly see – we must know it & live like its true, because it is.

B. 1 Cor 9:1-2 (NAU) *Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord?*

2 *If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the **seal of my apostleship** in the Lord.*
Here the fruit of the Corinthian Christians were the **seal or proof** of Paul's apostleship – his anointing & calling to this office of ministry.

C. 2 Tim 2:19 (NAU) *Nevertheless, the firm foundation of God stands, having this [2-fold] **seal**, [i] "The Lord knows those who are His," and, [ii] "Everyone who names the name of the Lord is to abstain from wickedness."
Here there is a **2-fold seal**...*

- i. The Lord knows those who are His by **His seal He's placed on us** that is clearly visible to the spirit world.
- ii. It's a **seal** whereby 'we know in our hearts' that we have been sealed, stamped, approved & accepted by God, called to live a separated life, abstaining from the wickedness of the ungodly in this world.

6. IN WHAT OTHER CONTEXTS ARE A 'SEAL' OR A 'MARK' USED IN THE WORD OF GOD?

A. A mark in a negative context...

Rev 13:16-18 (NAU) *And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, **to be given a mark** [an etching, a stamp {as a badge of servitude}] **on their right hand or on their forehead**,*

17 and {he provides} that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, {either} the name of the beast or the number of his name.

18 Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.

B. God's desire and design is for us to be marked by His Word for vision, direction, strength & power...

Deut 11:18 (NAU) *"You shall therefore **impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul** [to be singly re-programmed by them]; and you shall bind them as a sign [a flag, a distinguishing mark – saint from sinner] on your hand [reminding you that your strength & power come from God], and they shall be as frontals on your forehead (between your eyes – KJV) [your mental and spiritual faculties are to be totally dominated by the Word of God to give you vision, direction & purpose].*

[]