

Ephesians 1:13-14

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INTRODUCTION:

The opening of the book of Ephesians is an introduction to the three persons of the Trinity and their involvement in our salvation. The Father has blessed us with his predestined choosing, adopting us as sons. The Son has come to that we might be in him, and therefore brought into the love that he has as Son from the Father. And now we see the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation as well.

YOU ALSO:

Paul speaks as a Jew to Gentiles. But Jesus has broken down that barrier, and the “we” of verses 1-12 applies to the Gentiles as much as it does to the Jews. The proof of this is the fact that the Gentiles have received the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Spirit is always the final proof of God’s election.

THE PROMISED COMING OF THE SPIRIT:

In verse 13, Paul calls the Spirit the “promise,” because the Spirit had been promised by Jesus. In John 16:5-15, Jesus promised that when he went away, the Spirit would be sent as a Helper and a Guide. Jesus has ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us. But he has not left us alone, because he has left us the guide.

THE SPIRIT AS A PROMISE:

But the Spirit is not just something that has been promised. The Spirit is a promise. This is Jesus’ name for the Spirit (Acts 1:4). A promise is something given to you to make you sure, to make you confident. This is why Paul argues that the presence of the Spirit in the lives of the Ephesians is a proof of their election.

THE SPIRIT AS A GUARANTEE:

But the Spirit doesn’t just come to communicate the promise. His presence is the promise itself. The indwelling of the Spirit acts as a down payment on a purchase. God uses the inter-trinitarian bond between the Spirit and the other two persons of the Trinity as the collateral on this promise of where he is taking us (Gen. 15 and 2 Cor. 1:21-22).

THE SPIRIT AS SEAL:

The purpose of a seal on a document is to guarantee its authenticity. But the seal does so by imprinting an image on the document that points you back to the one making the promise. The Spirit seals us, not only by making a guarantee to us of our salvation, but by stamping an image of the triune confidence on us.



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