

MAIN POINT

Because Christians are sealed by the Holy Spirit, our relationship with God and our eternity are secure in Him no matter what.

INTRODUCTION

Have you ever bought a house? What was the most exciting part of that process for you? What was the most frustrating part of it for you?

When you were purchasing the home, did you have to put down earnest money? What's the purpose of that earnest money?

If you've ever bought a home, the concept of earnest money should be familiar to you. It's an amount of money you put down as a pledge to secure your offer on the house. If, after your offer is accepted, you withdraw from the contract, you forfeit that money as a penalty. This is the imagery Paul uses to teach us about how secure we are in Christ. The Holy Spirit is God's earnest money for us; He is proof of God's ownership and the guarantee that He's not going to withdraw from a covenant relationship with us in Christ. No matter what else happens in our lives, we know that because we are sealed by the Holy Spirit, we belong to God both now and forever.

DISCUSSION

> READ EPHESIANS 1:13-14.

According to these verses, when are we sealed with the Holy Spirit? Why is that timing significant?

How would our understanding of our security in a relationship with God be different if God did not seal us with the Holy Spirit until sometime later in our journey?

What, then, does He demonstrate about His intentions for His children when He seals us with the Holy Spirit?

Why should understanding this fact give you a sense of security about your identity as a child of God?

Why would God want us to have that kind of security?

Have you ever doubted whether God is at work in you and in your life? What kinds of situations might make you do so?

How does knowing that you are eternally secure because you are sealed with the Holy Spirit give you freedom in your relationships with others?

APPLICATION

What change is God calling you to make now in light of your security in Him? How will you respond?