



Alaska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
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The Fifth Wind

Part 2: **What is the Seal?**

One of the most grace-oriented, blessed, inspirational verses in the Bible is found in Ephesians 1:

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding. ⁹ And he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ. **NIV**

¹¹ In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, ¹² in order that we, who were the first to hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. ¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory. **NIV**

Notice that the last part of verse 13 indicates what the seal of Revelation 7 is: "sealed with the Holy Spirit."

Revelation 6:11 reveals that this seal is the robe of Christ's righteousness, God's covering of protection for the saved sinner.

Referring to Genesis 2:25, the pen of inspiration states:

"The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in the holy Eden. They lived in perfect harmony with the will of God. All the strength of their affections was given to their heavenly Father. A beautiful soft light, the light of God enshrouded the holy pair. This robe was a symbol of their spiritual garments of heavenly innocence. Had they remained true to God it would have ever continued to enshroud them. But when sin entered, they severed their connection with God and the light that had encircled them departed. Naked and ashamed they tried to supply the place of the heavenly garments by sewing fig leaves for a covering." COL p 310,311

This statement indicates that this robe of righteousness was really a beautiful surrounding (aura if you like) of light, that not only covered them, but enveloped the mind. In voluntary loyalty and obedience by choice, they were freely given this beautiful robe of security.

That robe was impregnable* (note the word, it means invincible, impenetrable) to Satan's attacks. The first couple was protected as long as they remained loyal to God. The tree of knowledge had no magical powers within their reach. The next steps happened in the mind and

they immediately lost their innocence. As soon as they sinned, they were conscious of guilt. It was not their naked bodies they were trying to cover, it was their sense of shame for what they had done.

I would submit that this sense of shame is at the core of the carnal nature and it is the last visage of the legacy of evil that holds onto the human soul.

Now grasp these words: Ephesians 1: 13, 14

¹³ And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,** ¹⁴ **who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.**

Now listen closely to me, my friend for this is the essence of the plan of salvation. Here is the mystery of the seal of God upon the saints of God. This is the real reason for confidence and hope.

Next week:

Part 3: **How Are You Sealed?**

Blessings, Ken Crawford