

John 4:13).

The person who has been sealed by the Holy Spirit manifests in his daily life the attributes and characteristics of the Holy Spirit, some of which are spoken of in Galatians 5:22-23. *"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control"*.

The true believer experiences a changed life. He is indwelt by God's Holy Spirit and is able to do things that do not come naturally. He loves God and Jesus. He loves fellow Christians. He delights in reading God's Word. He talks to God in prayer. He lives a better lifestyle toward family and friends.

### 3. A PROHIBITION FROM GOD

*"Grieve not the Holy Spirit"* – (Ephesians 4:30a).

God says we must not grieve the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is a person, he has the capacity of being grieved and hurt. He can be offended, or slighted. A believer can by sinful actions cause the Holy Spirit great sadness. The word "grieve" signifies deep emotion. You can only grieve a close friend or a loved one. You can irritate a stranger and you can offend a casual acquaintance, but you can only grieve someone very close to you. God is saying to us, *"Be careful in all you do and make sure you live in step with the Holy Spirit"*.

Many Christians are not happy because they are doing the opposite to what God's Holy Spirit is telling them. Note that before and after Ephesians 4:30, there is a list of vices and virtues to be found in the behaviour and conduct of believers. When we disobey God's word we hurt and grieve the Holy Spirit in us. Every child has grieved his parents. Every child of God has at times grieved his heavenly father. But to grieve him as a singular event is not the same as grieve him as a habit of life. So we must conform to God's way by the Holy Spirit or live miserable unhappy lives. Our conduct is to be such that it will bring joy to our heavenly family.

### 4. A PROMISE OF GOD

*"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for [until] the day of redemption"* (Ephesians 4:30b).

God has given us a promise that the Holy Spirit will be with us until the day of redemption, which means the day when we go home to heaven. It will take place at the rapture, when our body is redeemed – that is finally delivered and changed from bondage to sin and death and corruption - to that of incorruption, immortality and freedom from sin and death. The Holy Spirit is our absolute guarantee. God has given us a deposit in our lives to assure us of our eternal destination.

### Practical Applications:

1. **Never doubt your Salvation** and eternal security. You have God with you in the person of his Holy Spirit. He will be with you forever.

2. **Rest on the power of the Holy Spirit.** Don't try to overcome sin and be a Christian in your own strength. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how to trust and obey and let him help you live for Jesus.

3. **Prove to yourself and others** that the Holy Spirit lives in you by being obedient to God's Word. The Christian life is not lived by how you feel or what you think. The Christian life is lived by doing what God says in His Word. One of the ministries of the Holy Spirit is to get you to obey God's Word. He takes God's word and brings it to our minds and as we obey it we have victory, joy and peace in our lives (Romans 15:13).

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- John 8:36 ASSOCIATION

## The Seal of God

Ephesians 4:30



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# The Seal of God

Ephesians 4:30

Words are vehicles. They carry their cargoes of wealth. Words are coined treasures. They provide a medium of exchange for the riches of God. In Ephesians 4:30, the Holy Spirit is stated as being **God's seal** in us and we need to understand what that means. The symbol of the Holy Spirit as a 'seal' comes to us loaded and saturated with the wealth of God for the soul. The Seal reveals the authority and power behind God's appointed ministry of his Holy Spirit. It is encouraging and spiritually enriching to understand the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In Ephesians we have two very important passages that speak of the sealing work of the Holy Spirit.

**The first** is Ephesians 1:13 & 14 *"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, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory"*.

**The second** is Ephesians 4:30, *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."*

## What is the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the process of Salvation?

The Bible clearly teaches that a person must be born again of the Spirit of God in order to be saved. *Jesus said "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again"* (John 3:3; Titus 3:5; 2Thessalonians 2:13-14).

This is a process that includes someone sharing with us the 'good news' of Salvation in Christ and our response in faith. Ephesians 1:12-13 teaches us that **'after a person responds and believes'**, he is sealed with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit comes to live in the believer, as a guarantee that he will safely arrive at his home in heaven (2Corinthians 1:22; 5:5).

## What is the meaning of a Seal as mentioned in Ephesians 4:30?

In the ancient world and even in our day, when a sack, or a crate, or a package, or a document was despatched, it was sealed with a seal, in order to indicate from where it had come and to whom it belonged. The possession of the Holy Spirit is the seal which shows that a man belongs to God. The presence of the Holy Spirit shows us God's will and empowers us and enables us to do it. We cannot live the Christian life without the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus was talking to his disciples about his going back to heaven, he said *"I will send a Helper, a Comforter, the Holy Spirit who will live with you forever"* (John 14:16). The Greek word for 'Comforter' is "paraclete" and can be translated as Comforter, or Helper, or Advocate. The Holy Spirit is one who indwells the believer and stands with us to help and defend us (Romans 8:23-26).

A close look at Ephesians 4:30, reveals some wonderful truths and spiritual implications. As believers indwelt by the Holy Spirit our verse informs us of ...

## 1. A PERFORMANCE BY GOD

*"The Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed"*  
(Ephesians 1:1-14).

A seal is always a silent testimony of an important transaction. Something happens before the sealing and something is anticipated afterward. God has done something to and for his children. Look at what God has done... [Listed in Ephesians 1]

1. He has blessed us – v 3
2. He has chosen us – v 4
3. He has predestined us – v 5a
4. He has adopted us – v 5b
5. He has accepted us – v 6
6. He has redeemed us – v 7a
7. He has forgiven us – v 7b
8. He has made known his will to us – v 9
9. He has remembered us in his will – v 10
10. He has set his seal upon us – v 13

Where there is evidence of the seal of the Holy Spirit, it indicates that God has been at work in the redemption or salvation of the sinner.

*"The Holy Spirit, by whom you were sealed"*  
(Ephesians 4:30).

We need to understand the uniqueness of the word "seal". We read, *"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for [until] the day of redemption."*

Seals were used regularly in the ancient world, just as they are today.

**The seal meant Sovereignty.** Sometimes precious documents or other parcels were enclosed securely and hot wax dripped on the seams. While the wax was still warm, the king would take his ring and stamp his royal insignia into the warm wax, leaving the seal of sovereignty when the wax hardened. Only a person with authority could affix his seal.

The Holy Spirit within the Christian is God's sovereign mark. Just as an Incorporated organisation has its own sovereign seal, with the exclusive right to use it in light of its commission and covenant.

So the divine seal of the Holy Spirit speaks of the sovereign right and covenant relationship of God with his own. God never takes his seal lightly nor uses him carelessly.

**The seal meant Signature.** As suggested before, the seal was a form of **official signature**. When we are spiritually born again, we are born of the Spirit. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved. The Holy Spirit is the **Divine Signature** of God upon the believer – his new creation.

The artist completes a beautiful painting and then places his or her signature upon it. We write a bank cheque and put our signature upon it. A writer reveals his heartbeat on paper and puts his signature below what he has written. It is the same with God. He has authenticated that we belong to him – we are his unique creation.

The question can be asked, *"How can we tell if a person is a genuine Christian?"* The Bible says, *"Hereby we know that we dwell in him and he in us, because he has given to us his Holy Spirit."* (1