

What Does It Mean To Be SEALED ?

As we study the issue of being **sealed** let us begin by looking at the Greek words and their definitions.

The **verb <sphragizo>** (showing action or state of being) is in the KJV 5 times and translated seal-1x seal up-1x set a seal-1x set to seal-1x stop-1x. It means **to set or mark with a seal** as by an impression of a stamp

in order to confirm, or attest to authenticate to prove one's testimony to a person that he is what he professes to be.

The **noun <sphragis>** (a thing) is in the KJV 16 times and translated 'seal' every time. It means

a token by which anything is confirmed, proved, authenticated

an inscription or impression made by a seal or signet ring

a seal placed upon books the name of God and Christ written in the foreheads of 144,000 Jewish virgin men.

People who believed Jesus' witness validated, like a **seal**, the truth of God:

John 1:16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

John 3:33 He that hath received his testimony **hath set to his seal <sphragizo>** that **God is true.**

34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God:
for **God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.**

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

Jesus explained that God **sealed** those who believe on Him:

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth,
 but for that meat which **endureth unto everlasting life**,
 which the Son of man shall give unto you:
 for him **hath <sphragizo>** God the Father **sealed.<sphragizo>**
 28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do,
 that we might work the works of God?
 29 Jesus answered and said unto them, **This is the work of God,**
that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Just as we read in **John 3:33** that people who believed the testimony
 of Jesus had God's **seal** that **He was true** so also, Paul wrote of the
 same promise adding that God's Spirit is His **pledge** to us:

2 Cor 1:18-22 But as **God is true**, our word toward you
 was not yea and nay.
 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us,
 even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay,
 but in him was yea.
 20 For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen,
 unto the glory of God by us.
 21 Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ,
 and hath anointed us, is God;
 22 Who hath also **sealed <sphragizo>** us,
 and **given the earnest of the Spirit** in our hearts.

God gives believers His indwelling Spirit as a **deposit**

like a **down-payment** in advance as security for the rest:

2 Cor 5:4-5 For we that are **in this tabernacle** (our earthly house)
 do **groan**, being **burdened**:
 • not for that we would be **unclothed** (naked, as a soul not 'clothed'
 with a body; being dead, before the resurrection),
 • but **clothed upon** (with our building of God, our house not made
 with hands, which is from heaven),
 that mortality (**subject to death**) might be swallowed up of life.
 5 Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God,
 who also hath **given unto us the earnest of the Spirit**.

After Paul named many blessings of believers who **1st** trusted in Christ

he applied the **sealing and earnest** of the Holy Spirit

to the saints at Ephesus also:

Eph 1:13-14 In whom **ye also** trusted,
after that ye heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation:

in whom **also** after that ye believed,

ye were sealed with <sphragizo>

that holy Spirit of promise,

14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance

until <eis> the redemption of the purchased possession,

unto <eis> the praise of his glory.

We are "marked" with God's Spirit as our "seal" until we are glorified:

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God,
whereby **ye are sealed <sphragizo>**

unto <eis> the day of redemption.

What is the day of redemption? It is the day when the dead will be

raised (as we already read in **2 Cor 5:4-5**) that we earnestly expect:

Rom 8:19 For the **earnest expectation** of the creature
waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

That will be at the day of redemption when God's sons will be revealed:

Rom 8:22-25 For we know that the whole creation **groaneth** and
travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also,

which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, (that's our 'earnest')

even we ourselves **groan** within ourselves, (in this tabernacle)

waiting for the adoption,

to wit, (to know, to say, which is) **the redemption of our body.**

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope:

for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if **we hope for that we see not,**

then do we with patience wait for it.

Jesus gave signs to know when the day of redemption is near:

Luke 21:25-31 And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

26 Men's hearts failing them for fear, and **for looking after** those things which are coming on the earth: for **the powers of heaven shall be shaken**.

27 And **then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory**.

28 And **when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh**.

29 And he spake to them a parable; Behold the fig tree, and all the trees;
30 When they now shoot forth, ye see and know of your own selves that summer is **now nigh at hand**.

31 So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, **know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand**.

Until then, the Spirit of God encourages us to wait patiently

for our hope of eternal life:

Gal 5:5 For we through the Spirit **wait for the hope** of righteousness by faith.

Tit 1:2 **In hope of eternal life**, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Tit 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made **heirs** according to **the hope of eternal life**.

When Jesus comes and brings in God's kingdom, saints will be delivered:

1 Thess 1:10 And **to wait for his Son from heaven**, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

By the grace of God, the testimony of Christ was confirmed in the saints:

1 Cor 1:7-8 So that ye come behind in no gift; **waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: (He will come in 'His day')**:

8 Who shall also confirm (to make sure, establish, stablish) you unto the end, that ye may be blameless **in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ**.

We are **sealed** with God's Spirit that **dwells** in us, as our **earnest**:

Rom 8:9-11 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that **the Spirit of God dwell in you**. Now if any man have not **the Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his. **(The Spirit of God and of Christ is the same Spirit)**

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if **the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you**, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by **his Spirit that dwelleth in you**.

John, in his epistle, gave basically the same principal as Paul

about God dwelling in believers by His Spirit:

1 John 4:13-16 Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.

15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, **God dwelleth in him**, and he in God.

16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and **God in him**.

For Abraham and the Jewish nation, physical circumcision was **an outward token** in their flesh of the covenant between God and Abraham.

It was **a private, but visible seal** of God (**Gen 17:7-14**):

Rom 4:11 And he received the sign of circumcision, **a seal <sphragis>** of the righteousness of the faith which he had yet being **uncircumcised**: that he might be **the father of all them that believe, though they be not circumcised**; that righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

12 And the father of circumcision to them who are not of the circumcision only, but who also walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham, which he had being yet uncircumcised.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. **(also Rom 4:16, Gal 3:29)**

14 For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect:

Now, rather than Israel in the flesh being counted as the circumcision, Paul wrote to the saints, with the bishops and deacons, at Philippi, saying, we are now the circumcision the token, mark, or seal of God's children:

Phil 3:3 For **we are the circumcision**, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Paul clearly taught the saints at Rome that circumcision is now of the heart:

Rom 2:28-29 For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:
29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and **circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit**, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Now, God's children experience spiritual, rather than physical, circumcision:

Col 2:11 In whom also ye are circumcised with **the circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

Even when we look back at Israel under their old testament, we see

God warning them to circumcise their heart, because He is **not partial**:

Deut 10:12-18 And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul,

13 To keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?

14 Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the LORD'S thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is.

15 Only the LORD had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and he chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.

16 **Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked.**

17 For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, **which regardeth not persons**, nor taketh reward:

18 He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment.

In the new testament, Peter repeated it first, that God is **not biased**:

Acts 10:34-35 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that **God is no respecter of persons**:

35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

At the counsel in Jerusalem, Peter referred back to the time in Acts 10:

Acts 15:7-11 And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.

8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, **giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us**;

9 And **put no difference between us and them**, purifying their hearts by faith.

10 Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?

11 But **we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they**.

In the context of **the day of judgment**, both of unbelievers and believers,

.... Paul confirmed that God is **not a partisan judge**:

Rom 2:11 For **there is no respect of persons with God**.

Col 3:24-25 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall **receive the reward of the inheritance**: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and **there is no respect of persons**.

James also said it:

James 2:1,9 My brethren, **have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons**.

9 But **if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin**, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

The principle of impartiality flows through the entire Bible:

Prov 24:23 These things also belong to the wise.

It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

Peter also wrote it in his epistle. God is a **fair judge**:

1 Pet 1:15-19 But as he which hath called you is holy,
 so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
 16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
 17 And if ye call on **the Father, who without respect of persons
 judgeth according to every man's work,**
 pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:
 18 Forasmuch as ye know that
 ye were not **redeemed** with corruptible things, as silver and gold,
 from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;
 19 But with **the precious blood of Christ,** as of a lamb
without blemish and without spot:

Does this not apply to us? Sure, it applies to us! Paul described how
 Christ loved and gave Himself for the church, to sanctify and cleanse it:

Eph 5:27 That he might **present it to himself a glorious church,**
not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing;
 but that it should be **holy and without blemish.**

Those saved by faith in Christ's blood, ought to cleanse themselves to live holy:

Heb 9:14 How much more shall **the blood of Christ,** who through the
 eternal Spirit offered himself **without spot** to God, **purge your con-
 science from dead works to serve the living God?**

The household of God is built upon Jesus Christ (**Eph 2:20**), the Rock of
 the church (**Matt 16:15-18**), the only foundation (**1 Cor 3:11, 1 Pet 2:6-
 7**). God knows His saints. Their gratitude should cause them to honor Him:

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having
 this **seal, <sphragis>** The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let
 every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.
 20 But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but
 also of wood and of earth; and some to **honour,** and some to **dishonour.**
 21 If a man therefore **purge himself** from these, he shall be a vessel
 unto honour, sanctified, and **meet for the master's use,** and pre-
 pared unto every good work.

In the context of God's wrath being poured out on the earth on the unbelievers God knows those that believe:

Nahum 1:7 The LORD is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and **he knoweth them that trust in him.**

Jesus confirmed that He knew His sheep:

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and **I know them,**
and they follow me:
28 And **I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,**
neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Saints were the mark the seal that confirmed Paul's apostleship:

1 Cor 9:1-2 Am I not an apostle? am I not free? have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord? **are not ye my work in the Lord?**
2 If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you:
for **the seal <sphragis>** of mine apostleship are ye in the Lord.

During the last half of Daniel's 70th week God will **seal** 144,000

Jewish men, who are His servants, by marking His name in their foreheads.

Rev 7:1-4 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east,
having **the seal <sphragis>** of the living God:
and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels,
to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees,
till **we have sealed <sphragizo> <sphragizo>**
the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number **of them which were sealed: <sphragizo>**
and there were sealed <sphragizo> an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

Rev 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, **having his Father's name written in their foreheads.**

In **Rev 3:7-12**, John wrote to the angel of the church in Philadelphia, that God will write His name on them that overcome:

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and **I will write upon him the name of my God**, and the name of the city of my God, *which is* new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and ***I will write upon him my new name.***

The holy city new Jerusalem is prophesied in **Revelation chapters 21 and 22** where God's servants are also described:

Rev 22:1-5 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.
 2 In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
 3 And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and **his servants shall serve him:**
 4 And they shall see his face; and **his name shall be in their foreheads.**
 5 And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

When Jesus was preparing His disciples for His absence, He promised them:

John 14:16-17 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for **he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.**

Paul confirmed the same principle that God's Spirit dwells in believers:

2 Tim 1:13-14 Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by **the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.**

In conclusion, we are **marked**, we are **sealed** with God's Spirit that He gives to us who believe, who trust Him by faith. Get 3 passages:

Rom 5:1-5 Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

2 By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope:

5 And **hope maketh not ashamed**; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by **the Holy Ghost which is given unto us**.

1 Thess 4:7-8 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

8 He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but **God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit**.

Titus 3:4-8 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of **the Holy Ghost**;

6 **Which he shed on us abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace, **we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life**.

8 This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou **affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works**. These things are good and profitable unto men.

Clearly, we saints have the Spirit of God but I wonder about verses like:

1 Sam 16:14 But the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the LORD troubled him.

Psa 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and **take not thy holy spirit from me**.

I, David Dowell, am making no assertion, nor statement
just thinking about it!