

The Word and the Spirit

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 1:13-14.

B. It is fundamental that we find out what God is doing today and how we fit into that.

II. Before the world was made, we were in the mind and thinking of God. God has thought of you, called you, drawn you, and made you to be a part of His family.

III. The Son regularly liberates us from our death.

IV. In resurrection, God heals the divisions between us.

V. Believers are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.

A. The Word and the Spirit are always together in the Bible.

B. These two need to be emphasized in accord.

C. The Word brings stability, and the Spirit brings vitality--they must be held together for balance and sanity.

VI. Fundamentals to the Christian faith.

A. Hearing the Word of truth.

1. The gospel is the return to reality.

2. Only the gospel describes the true condition of man.

a. We are all murderers at heart.

b. We cannot save ourselves because this problem is so deep seated.

3. The gospel tells us why we are constantly experiencing frustration in our lives--it is because of the wrath of God.

B. Believing in Christ.

1. Belief results in change and adjustment to the facts.

2. One has to believe not simply in the plan but the person--the Lord Jesus. Faith in the Christian is always related to a person.

3. There is no way one can have blessing from God apart from a personal relationship with Christ.

C. Being sealed with the Holy Spirit.

1. This is a reference to the practice of sealing letters in the ancient day.
2. It marks ownership--when God sent the Holy Spirit into the life of the believer it was a mark that the believer belonged to God.
3. It also marks preservation. God guarantees our inheritance.
4. God is the one who requires possession, not us.
5. God promises that He will not split or disregard His work in a believer.
6. The promise of the Spirit is received by faith in the Lord Jesus.
7. The result is the praise of God's glory.
8. Identity in Christ makes one able to handle whatever comes his way.

Application questions:

1. What is the relationship of the Word and the Spirit for the life of the believer? Explain.

2. Which fundamental to the Christian faith stands out to you at this moment? Why?

3. How would you counsel someone who is struggling with the security of his or her salvation? Explain.
