**WOMEN OF WARFARE**

**“BOOK OF EPHESIANS”**

**CLASS 8**

Last week we talked in-depth about verse 10 and had a wonderful conversation about the dispensation of time and what that means. We also briefly touched on our Spiritual Blessing #9 which is:

Ephesians 1:11

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:”

Tonight, I would like to head over to Ephesians 1:13, which are our Heavenly blessings of: (Pages 37-40)

**#10: He has enabled us to trust Christ**

**#11: He has sealed us with His Holy Spirit**

*“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 that holy Spirit of promise”*

*Ephesians 1:13*

Let’s break it down:

***“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye hear the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation….***

In Romans 10:14, Paul asked the Romans a question, "How can they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?"

I’m putting this question before you tonight as there are steps that we take to build trust in Christ and His Word.

1. The hearing of the Word is the first step. When did you first hear?

The Apostle John wrote to us in his letter:

*“When the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore, I said that He will take what is mine and declare it to you.”*

*John 16:13–15*

After we hear, we decide if we are going to believe. When did you believe? Was it a long time after you heard the Truth?

After we believe, we get to know. How do we get to know someone or something? Do we need to know them to trust them?

1. The trusting in the Word, ***that it is truth*** is the second step. We can only truly trust something that we know intimately.
2. Trusting is the third step. Having heard the truth, you have now ***come to trust*** the truth.

What is the truth that we have come to trust?

What are truths that we have learned in Ephesians so far that we need to trust?

1. He has chosen us.

2. He has predestined us for adoption into His family.

3. He has accepted us.

4. He has redeemed us.

5. He has forgiven our sins.

6. His grace has abounded toward us.

7. He has made known to us the mystery of His will.

8. He has given us an inheritance.

9. This is all a part of this glorious gospel of salvation.

….***in whom also after you believed, you were SEALED with the Holy Spirit of Promise”***

This is true of everyone who has ever truly believed in Jesus Christ for their salvation, they have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise.

On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the church, when the people were convicted by the Word of the gospel of the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, they asked the apostles what they must do to be saved. Peter answered them boldly so let’s read the account in Acts 2:37-39:

*“Now when they* ***heard****this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brethren, what shall we do?”  Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  “For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”*

1. They heard the gospel of their salvation.
2. They trusted.
3. They repented.
4. They were baptized
5. They received their sealing.

Peter set the example and Paul held fervently to it as he had to not only remind the Romans but declared to them boldly that if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

In other words, if you have not gone through the above steps you are not included in the sealing of the Holy Spirit.

Let’s read Romans 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. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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.*

Let me make a distinction for just a moment: ***being sealed with the Holy Spirit is not the same as being baptized with the Holy Spirit which is the enduement of power to be witnesses of Him and for Him.***

I think too often the church of today forgets that Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for the purpose of sharing and spreading His GREAT NAME, His PERFECT TRUTH, His LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL and His MARVELOUS WONDERS. It is not for our personal glory or gain.

Is it a blessing to us? YES, but the pouring out of the Spirit on us today and on the day of Pentecost was for witnessing, proclaiming and promoting the Glory of God.

The Sealing of the Holy Spirit is a whole different ministry and office that the Holy Spirit carries.

There is a difference. All true believers have been sealed with the Holy Spirit, but not all believers have been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

We talk about the sign of being baptized as speaking in tongues and I believe that is true…. But I would rather see someone who is living a life of Holiness and a life of sharing the gospel faithfully and fervently than someone who speaks in tongues but has never made a disciple of Christ.

What do you think is meant when Paul says that we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise? What are some scriptures that come to your mind or examples.

Let me take you back to our first class when we learned that Ephesus was one of the world trade centers of that day, the goods from the East would come into Ephesus to be carried from there by sea to Rome and the other capitals of Europe. It was a city of bustling commerce, and always filled with merchants from Rome, and other major areas.

These merchants would buy their goods there, then ship them from Ephesus to the Western world. It was here that East met West.

When they would purchase the goods, they would pack them for shipment, they would then put their seal of ownership on the merchandise that was to be sent to the Roman port of Puteoli where the merchandise would be identified and claimed by the servants of the merchant.

What set the goods apart from other good purchased?

a. The seal was the sign of ownership.

b. These goods belong to the owner whose seal is affixed to them

The Holy Spirit is God's mark of ownership on you.

*What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. But he that is joined*

*unto the Lord is one spirit. Flee fornication.*

*Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.*

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

*For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

We who are Christ's have given up our rights to Him. Ladies, I am not my own to live as I please, or to do as I please, I have surrendered those rights to Him. I am now His and He can do as He pleases with me.

It is interesting how many times we find ourselves asserting our rights which we really no longer have."

That seal of the holy spirit is earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession.

When the merchandise was bought in Ephesus and sealed by the owner, it was then placed on the ship and carried to Rome. When it arrived in port and identified by the seal, it was then claimed by the owner, who redeemed that which was His.

We have been sealed by God's mark of ownership, and are presently on the journey to the home port, when we arrive He will claim us as His for He purchased us, it is then that our redemption will be complete.

The Holy Spirit is my proof that God is earnest or sincere in His intentions concerning me. So because of this, I choose not only to hear but to believe and to TRUST Him.

How certain am I that God is going to complete my redemption and give to me the inheritance? 100% because of the oath that my God has taken concerning me.

Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed [it] by an oath:

That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Hebrews 6:17-18

The seal of our ownership which is the Holy Spirit, it is He who is the earnest or down payment of our inheritance and the glory and joy of walking in the power of the Spirit is just a foretaste of the glory and joy of the full inheritance that awaits us when we arrive in the home port.

**“Now the glory of the God of Israel went up from above the cherubim, where it had been, and moved to the threshold of the temple. Then the LORD called to the man clothed in linen who had the writing kit at his side and said to him, “Go throughout the city of Jerusalem and put a mark on the foreheads of those who grieve and lament over all the detestable things that are done in it”**

**Ezekiel 9:3-4**

John 6:27

Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”

Isaiah 42:1

“Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold;

My chosen one in whom My soul delights.

I have put My Spirit upon Him;

He will bring forth justice to the nations.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,

Because the Lord has anointed me

To bring good news to the afflicted;

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to captives

And freedom to prisoners;

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.

Revelation 7:3-4

saying, “Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the bond-servants of our God on their foreheads.” And I heard the number of those who were sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel: