

Sealed by the Holy Spirit

The Promise of the Father and God's Eternal Guarantee

Daniel Deininger — May 23, 2026 — UCG Montana Pre-Pentecost Service in Helena

Opening: The Most Extraordinary Proposal

“The King of Kings is asking you to be His Bride”

Imagine the greatest engagement ever offered. The King of Kings — the Lord of Lords — has extended a proposal to His church. He is asking us to be the Bride of Christ. And to seal that promise, to certify His intention and guarantee the future He has planned for us, He has given us a gift:

His Holy Spirit.

This is not just any token. This is the engagement ring from God Himself — a pledge of who you are, whose you are, and what is coming. Pentecost is the day this gift was first given. And if you have been baptized, you are wearing that ring right now.

I. What Pentecost Is Really About

Pentecost is the celebration of the receiving of the Holy Spirit — the fulfillment of a specific, repeated promise made by Christ before His ascension. This is its central meaning.

The Promise — Acts 1 (Two Declarations)

Acts 1:4–5 NKJV —

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 1:8 NKJV —

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Christ made this promise twice in the opening verses of Acts. He did not leave it ambiguous. He told them: wait, it is coming, and when it comes you will receive **power**. This is what Pentecost is about.

The Fulfillment — Acts 2

Acts 2:1–4 NKJV —

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...

Consider the transformation: these were the same men who had hidden behind locked doors after the crucifixion. Peter had denied Christ three times. But the moment the Spirit came, Peter stood before thousands and preached with absolute boldness. The seal changed everything.

The Promise in John — Christ's Own Words

John 14:16–17 NKJV —

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

John 14:26 NKJV —

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

The Holy Spirit is not a distant concept. It is the Father's personal gift — a Helper, an Advocate, a Teacher — sent in Christ's name to dwell within us. The world cannot receive it. We can. That is the difference Pentecost marks.

II. The Seal: What It Means to Be Identified by God

Ephesians 1:13–14 NLT —

And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, he identified you as his own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom he promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people.

Ephesians 1:14 AMP —

It is He who has also put His seal on us [that is, He has appropriated us and certified us as His] and has given us the [Holy] Spirit in our hearts as a pledge...

2 Corinthians 1:21–22 NKJV —

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

To be sealed is to be **owned, certified, and protected** by God. It means you belong to His family, you are under His authority, and you have been set apart for His purpose. The seal is not merely symbolic — it is the living presence of God's Spirit dwelling in you.

III. The Spirit as a Guarantee: God's Down Payment

2 Corinthians 1:22 KJV —

Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 5:5 NKJV —

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

The Greek word behind “earnest” or “down payment” (*arrabōn*) referred in ancient commerce to a deposit paid as security — a legally binding pledge guaranteeing the full payment to follow. God is not simply making a promise. He is making a contractual commitment, and He has already paid the first installment.

Romans 8:23 NKJV —

Not only they, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

We have the firstfruits now — a real, present portion of what is coming. The full inheritance awaits the resurrection. But the ring is already on our finger.

IV. More Than a Ring: The Holy Spirit as Our Helper

The Nature of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the power of God at work within us. Scripture describes it as:

- **The Promise of the Father** — Acts 1:4
- **The Helper / Comforter / Advocate** — John 14:16
- **The Spirit of Truth** — John 14:17
- **The Power of God** — Acts 1:8; 2 Timothy 1:7
- **The Firstfruits of Eternal Life** — Romans 8:23

The engagement ring is not merely symbolic. It comes with something more: the active, living help of the Spirit of God to enable us to *live worthy of the One who gave it*. We are in a period of preparation. We are being shaped into the Bride of Christ. And we do not do that alone.

Romans 5:5 NKJV —

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

1 Corinthians 2:10 NKJV —

But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

This Spirit teaches us. It leads us into truth that the natural mind cannot access. It pours God's own love into our hearts, enabling us to reflect that love back to others. It is not passive. It is working in us — if we let it.

V. You Are Already Sealed

This Wednesday night in our Bible study, we will be turning to Revelation 7 — a scene where God seals 144,000 of His servants during the Great Tribulation, before the final Day of the Lord — which we understand as the last year of that three-and-a-half-year period. That is a future event, in a future moment of terrible crisis.

But look at who is in this room.

You did not have to wait for the Tribulation. You did not have to go through the darkest hour of human history to receive the seal of God. You received it at baptism, by the laying on of hands, in fulfillment of the very promise Christ made in Acts 1. The 144,000 will one day receive what you already carry.

Ephesians 4:30 NKJV —

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by which you were sealed for the day of redemption.

You are sealed **for the day of redemption**. That day is coming. The question is: what are you doing between now and then?

VI. The Seal Is Not Passive

An engagement is a two-way commitment. The ring signifies a promise from Him — and a response from us. The Holy Spirit is God's down payment; it is also His call to preparation.

Luke 21:34–36 NKJV —

But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day come on you unexpectedly... Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.

To be counted worthy is not automatic. Christ warned the servant who buried his talent rather than use it — not because he stole it, but because he did nothing with it. The Spirit of God is not meant to be tucked away. It is meant to produce fruit, growth, and witness in your life.

Tomorrow's message: We will go deeper into what it looks like to actively use the Holy Spirit — how to stir it up, how to walk in it, and how not to take it for granted.

A Call to Response**For those not yet baptized:**

The first step is to repent, accept the sacrifice of Jesus the Messiah, surrender your life to Him, and be baptized. The seal — the gift of the Holy Spirit — is the Promise of the Father, and it is available to you.

For those already baptized:

You are wearing the ring. You carry the seal. Make a renewed commitment this Pentecost to allow the Holy Spirit to work through you more powerfully. Do not grieve it. Do not quench it. Live as someone who is engaged to the King of Kings — because you are.

Additional Resources for Further Study

The following UCG resources were consulted in preparing this study and are recommended for deeper exploration of the Holy Spirit and the seal:

1. [The Holy Spirit — God's Empowering Force \(Booklet\)](https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-holy-spirit-gods-empowering-force)

<https://www.ucg.org/bible-study-tools/booklets/the-holy-spirit-gods-empowering-force>

A comprehensive UCG booklet examining the nature, purpose, and role of the Holy Spirit. Ideal for anyone wanting a thorough biblical foundation on the subject.

2. [A Biblical Worldview: The Bible Says You Can Lose Your Salvation!](https://www.ucg.org/watch/beyond-today/daily/biblical-worldview-bible-says-you-can-lose-your-salvation)

<https://www.ucg.org/watch/beyond-today/daily/biblical-worldview-bible-says-you-can-lose-your-salvation>

Presenter Rick Shabi examines Ephesians 1:13–14 and the concept of the seal as “earnest money.” Key insight: the seal is God’s power placed within us to help us overcome — but it requires our continued faithfulness and cooperation.

3. [Who Are the 144,000 of Revelation?](https://www.ucg.org/watch/beyond-today/daily/who-are-144000-revelation)

<https://www.ucg.org/watch/beyond-today/daily/who-are-144000-revelation>

Darris McNeely connects the prophetic sealing of Revelation 7 to the spiritual sealing of believers today. Being “sealed” means being set apart and made holy by God — a receptacle of His holiness. Directly ties to our Wednesday night Bible study on Revelation 7.

4. [Power to Change: Part 1 — The Work of the Holy Spirit](https://www.ucg.org/course/power-change-transforming-power-gods-holy-spirit/power-change-part-1-work-holy-spirit)

<https://www.ucg.org/course/power-change-transforming-power-gods-holy-spirit/power-change-part-1-work-holy-spirit>

Gary Petty explores what the Holy Spirit actually is: the power, love, and mind of God (2 Timothy 1:7). Critical point: the Spirit gives us the capacity to change, but does not override our free will. We must actively choose to submit to it daily.

5. [Ephesians Part 43 — Summary and Conclusion](https://www.ucg.org/members/young-adults/know-your-sword-epistles/ephesians-part-43-summary-and-conclusion-ephesians)

<https://www.ucg.org/members/young-adults/know-your-sword-epistles/ephesians-part-43-summary-and-conclusion-ephesians>

The United Young Adults team anchors on Ephesians 4:30 — “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by which you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Our new life in the Spirit must be visible in character: humility, patience, and putting away bitterness and malice.

6. Isaac and the Plan of Salvation <https://www.ucg.org/sermons/isaac-and-plan-salvation>

Lonnie Johnson uses the account of Isaac to illustrate the broader plan of salvation and the role of the Holy Spirit in sealing believers as God’s own. A warm complement to the themes of inheritance and promise explored in this message.

Discussion Questions

Reflect on the meaning of the Holy Spirit as God’s seal and guarantee:

- **The Engagement Ring** — The Holy Spirit is described as God’s pledge — like an engagement ring from the King of Kings. What does it mean to you personally to already be wearing that ring? How does that identity shape how you carry yourself each day?
- **The Down Payment** — If the Holy Spirit is the “earnest” or first installment of eternal life, what evidence of that deposit have you seen working in your life? What fruits or changes give you confidence in God’s promise?
- **The Helper at Work** — Jesus said the world cannot receive the Spirit of Truth. In what specific ways has the Spirit helped you understand spiritual things — repentance, God’s grace, the plan of salvation — that once seemed hidden or confusing?
- **The Seal vs. Passivity** — Christ warned against burying the talent rather than using it. In what ways might a baptized person be “carrying the ring” without truly living as the engaged Bride? What would it look like to engage more actively with the Spirit?
- **Looking to Revelation 7** — The 144,000 will be sealed in a future moment of crisis before the Tribulation. We are already sealed. How does knowing that change your perspective on what God expects of us in the time before His return?