

BIBLICAL STUDY

THE SEAL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE COMFORTER

Direct Foundations and Complementary Passages

Seal • Guarantee • Presence • Hope • Redemption

Personalized for

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Editorial Note

This concise book gathers the principal biblical passages that establish the sealing with the Holy Spirit. It organizes them into two groups: direct passages, where the New Testament expressly uses the language of the seal and the guarantee; and complementary passages, which explain the Spirit's identity, presence, ministry, fruit, hope, and promises.

READING STANDARD

Holy Scripture is the final authority. The doctrinal statements in this work are explanations and should be tested in the light of the biblical text. Short quotations are translated from the Spanish Reina-Valera 1960; lexical observations are supported by Francisco Lacueva's Greek-Spanish Interlinear New Testament.

The phrase “legal guarantee of ownership” is used as a teaching analogy. The biblical terms seal and guarantee communicate belonging, authenticity, and divine assurance; they should not be turned into a legal theory independent from Paul's argument.

Purpose and Scope

- Identify the time and Author of sealing.
- Distinguish sealing from indwelling, fullness, and the fruit of the Spirit.
- Relate the seal to the guarantee, inheritance, and day of redemption.
- Show that the Comforter's ministry centers on Jesus Christ.
- Draw a practical response: security without carelessness, gratitude without presumption, and holiness through the Spirit.

Thematic Contents

1. 1. The central thesis
2. 2. Essential Greek vocabulary
3. 3. Direct passages on sealing
4. 4. The Comforter promised by Christ

5. 5. Receiving the Spirit and the gospel
6. 6. Indwelling, adoption, and belonging
7. 7. Security, permanence, and redemption
8. 8. Grieving, quenching, and being filled
9. 9. Hope and glorification
10. 10. Doctrinal summary and study questions
11. Appendices: biblical catalog, infographic, and biographical note

1. The Central Thesis

THESIS

After hearing the word of truth and believing in Christ, the believer is sealed by God with the promised Holy Spirit. The Spirit Himself is the guarantee of the inheritance and remains as the divine presence directed toward the day of redemption.

“After hearing the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and having believed in Him, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” — Ephesians 1:13, translated from RV1960

Ephesians 1:13 presents a clear sequence: hearing the gospel, believing in Christ, and being sealed. God is the One who seals; the Holy Spirit is the seal; and the horizon is inheritance and redemption. The passage does not present sealing as a reward for later maturity or as an experience reserved for a superior class of Christians.

The seal must not be separated from the “guarantee” in Ephesians 1:14. The Spirit’s presence is a real participation in future salvation and the assurance that God will complete what He promised. Security rests on the faithfulness of the One who seals, not on the self-sufficiency of the person sealed.

A Necessary Distinction

Direct passages use the vocabulary of sealing or the guarantee to describe God’s action explicitly: Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5.

Complementary passages do not always describe the event with the word seal, but they reveal who the Spirit is, how He dwells, what testimony He gives, what fruit He produces, and what consummation He guarantees.

DOCTRINAL PRECISION

Repentance and faith are inseparable in the response to the gospel. Yet Ephesians 1:13 directly connects sealing with hearing and believing. We should not insert later requirements that the text does not place between faith and the seal.

2. Essential Greek Vocabulary

Term	Basic sense	Key passages
σφραγίζω — sphragizō	to seal, mark, authenticate	Eph 1:13; 4:30; 2 Cor 1:22
ἀρραβών — arrabōn	down payment, pledge, guarantee	Eph 1:14; 2 Cor 1:22; 5:5
παράκλητος — paraklētos	Helper, Comforter, Advocate	John 14:16,26; 15:26; 16:7
πνεῦμα — pneuma	spirit; in these passages, the Holy Spirit	John, Romans, Corinthians, Ephesians
πιστεύω / πίστις — pisteuō / pistis	to believe / faith, trust	Mark 1:15; Eph 1:13; Gal 3:2
μετάνοια / μετανοέω — metanoia / metanoieō	repentance / change of mind	Mark 1:15; Acts 2:38

Lacueva's interlinear format helps the reader observe the relationship between the Greek words and their Spanish rendering. Doctrinal meaning does not rest on an isolated etymology but on how each term functions in its sentence, paragraph, and biblical book.

3. Direct Passages on Sealing

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
Ephesians 1:13	Event	After hearing the word of truth and believing in Christ, believers are sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.
Ephesians 1:14	Guarantee	The Spirit is the down payment of the inheritance until the redemption of God’s purchased possession.
Ephesians 4:30	Permanence and ethics	Believers were sealed for the day of redemption; therefore, they must not grieve the Spirit.
2 Corinthians 1:21-22	Author and sign	God establishes believers in Christ, anoints and seals them, and gives the Spirit in their hearts as a guarantee.
2 Corinthians 5:5	Consummation	God prepares believers for immortal life and gives the Spirit as a guarantee.

Ephesians 1:13-14: The Governing Passage

The grammatical center is “you were sealed.” The participial ideas “having heard” and “having believed” place sealing at the believing reception of the gospel. “Of promise” identifies the Spirit promised by God and announced

by Christ. Verse 14 adds that He is the guarantee of our inheritance: a real foretaste and a pledge of completion.

Ephesians 4:30: Security That Produces Reverence

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” — Ephesians 4:30, translated from RV1960

The exhortation assumes both a secure reality and a serious responsibility. Paul does not say that the Spirit leaves the believer when grieved. He commands believers to put away falsehood, sinful anger, theft, corrupt speech, bitterness, and malice because they have already been marked for the day of redemption.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 and 5:5: God Begins and Guarantees

In both passages, God is the principal Actor. He establishes, anoints, seals, prepares, and gives the guarantee. Salvation is not sustained by the believer's emotional strength but by God's initiative and faithfulness. The guarantee is not the whole inheritance, but it is a present possession that secures the future promise.

4. The Comforter Promised by Christ

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
John 14:16-17	Abiding presence	The Father gives “another Helper” to remain with the disciples forever; He abides with them and will be in them.
John 14:26	Ministry	The Helper teaches and brings Christ’s words to remembrance.
John 15:26	Witness	He proceeds from the Father and bears witness about the Son.
John 16:7-11	Conviction	He convicts the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.
John 16:12-15	Christ glorified	He guides into truth and glorifies Christ by declaring what belongs to Him.

“Another Helper”

Jesus promises “another Helper,” One who will continue among the disciples the help and presence they had known in Christ. The term paraklētos carries the ideas of helper, advocate, and comforter. The Spirit does not place Himself at the center; He guides into truth, brings Christ’s words to remembrance, and glorifies the Son.

ONE TESTIMONY

The Father sends; the Son asks and sends; the Spirit indwells, teaches, and testifies. The doctrine of the seal is deeply Trinitarian and Christ-centered.

5. Receiving the Spirit and the Gospel

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
Mark 1:15	Call	Repent and believe the gospel in view of the nearness of God's kingdom.
1 Corinthians 15:1-4	Content of the gospel	Christ died for our sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.
Ephesians 2:8-9	Source and means	Salvation is by grace through faith; it does not arise from human works.
Acts 2:38	Apostolic response	Repentance, baptism in the name of Jesus Christ, and the gift of the Spirit in the Pentecost setting.
Acts 10:43-48	Gentile reception	The Spirit comes upon those who hear and believe the testimony about Christ, before water baptism.
Acts 15:7-11	Grace	God gives the Spirit to Gentiles who hear and believe, cleansing their hearts by faith.
Galatians 3:2,5,14	Faith and promise	The Spirit is received by hearing with faith, not by works of the law.
Titus 3:4-7	Regeneration	Salvation flows from

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
		divine mercy through regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

Repentance: Recognizing Ruin and Turning to God

Biblical repentance is not a meritorious work or an attempt to repair the flesh in order to become acceptable. It is a change of mind that abandons self-sufficiency, acknowledges sin before God, and turns toward Him. Isaiah 1:6 portrays Judah’s corruption through the image of wounds and a festering sore. The figure can illustrate moral inability, but it should remain within its prophetic context and must never deny the dignity of the person created by God.

Romans 7:24-25 expresses the cry of anguish over the body of death and directs thanksgiving to Jesus Christ. The flesh never becomes the ground of confidence. The believer’s hope rests in Christ and in future transformation while learning to walk by the Spirit.

Believing the Gospel: Resting in the Finished Work

According to 1 Corinthians 15:3-4, the gospel announces saving events: Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures. To believe is to abandon every claim to self-justification and trust the sufficiency of the Son of God.

- Death for our sins: substitution and the satisfaction of guilt.
- Burial: confirmation of Christ’s real death.
- Resurrection: God’s victory and the foundation of hope.
- According to the Scriptures: the cross and resurrection belong to God’s revealed plan.

PASTORAL ORDER

The sinner is not told to produce a perfect life before receiving the Spirit. Christ is proclaimed, and the sinner is called to repentance and faith. God justifies the one who believes and gives His Spirit as gift and guarantee.

6. Indwelling, Adoption, and Belonging

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
Romans 8:9-11	Belonging and life	Whoever has the Spirit of Christ belongs to Christ; the Spirit will give life to the mortal body.
Romans 8:14-16	Adoption	The Spirit leads, testifies to sonship, and enables the cry, “Abba, Father.”
Romans 8:23	Firstfruits	The firstfruits of the Spirit direct hope toward the redemption of the body.
Romans 8:26-27	Help	The Spirit helps in weakness and intercedes according to God’s will.
1 Corinthians 3:16	Corporate dwelling	The church is God’s temple and the Spirit dwells in it.
1 Corinthians 6:19-20	Personal dwelling	The body is a temple of the Spirit; the believer was bought at a price.
1 Corinthians 12:13	Unity	By one Spirit all believers were brought into one body and made to share in one Spirit.
Galatians 4:6	Sonship	God sends the Spirit of His Son into the hearts of His children.
Ephesians 2:18,22	Access and temple	Through Christ, Jews and Gentiles have

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
		access to the Father in one Spirit and are built as God’s dwelling.
1 John 3:24; 4:13	Assurance	The Spirit given by God confirms fellowship with Him.

Sealing and Indwelling: Related, Not Identical

Sealing emphasizes God’s action in marking and guaranteeing; indwelling emphasizes the Spirit’s continuing presence in the believer and in the church. Romans 8:9 states the test of belonging with force: anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Christ. The Spirit is therefore not an accessory to Christian life but the divine presence that characterizes every believer.

The Body as Temple and the Purchase Price

First Corinthians 6:19-20 joins indwelling, belonging, and ethics. “You are not your own” does not mean the loss of personhood. It means redeemed belonging: Christ purchased the believer and calls him or her to glorify God in the body. The ownership metaphor should lead to worship and obedience, never to dehumanizing language.

The Witness of Adoption

The Spirit does more than guarantee a future transaction; He brings the believer into a filial relationship. He testifies that we are children, moves us to cry “Abba, Father,” and produces obedience born from fellowship. Christian assurance is judicial in justification, relational in adoption, and transforming in sanctification.

7. Security, Permanence, and Redemption

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
John 10:27-30	The Son and Father keep	Christ’s sheep hear Him; no one can snatch them from His hand or the Father’s hand.
Romans 8:31-39	Inseparable love	Nothing in all creation can separate the believer from God’s love in Christ.
Philippians 1:6	Completed work	God will bring the good work He began to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
Hebrews 10:14	Effective sacrifice	By one offering Christ has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
1 Peter 1:3-5	Reserved inheritance	Believers are guarded by God’s power through faith for the salvation ready to be revealed.
Jude 24-25	Preserving power	God is able to keep His people from stumbling and present them with joy before His glory.

Does Scripture Teach That the Seal Remains?

Ephesians 4:30 gives the most direct evidence: the believer was sealed “for the day of redemption.” John 14:16 adds that the Helper will be with Christ’s disciples “forever.” Joined to the language of the guarantee and

divine keeping, these statements support confidence that God preserves those who truly belong to Christ.

LEVEL OF AFFIRMATION

Scripture directly states the destination of the seal: the day of redemption. The sentence “the seal is never removed” is a doctrinal conclusion drawn from that language, not a literal quotation. It should be confessed alongside the biblical calls to persevere, examine oneself, and live in holiness.

Eternal Security Is Not Permission to Sin

Romans 6:1-2 rejects the idea of continuing in sin so that grace may increase. Grace unites the believer with Christ and creates a new direction of life. Falls are real and the flesh continues to oppose the Spirit, but the Spirit disciplines, convicts, intercedes, and produces fruit. Genuine security does not numb the conscience; it makes the conscience grateful and sensitive.

Discipline, Confession, and Restoration

When believers sin, they must not hide behind a doctrinal formula. First John 1:9 calls for confession; 2:1-2 presents Jesus Christ as Advocate and propitiation. Hebrews 12:5-11 teaches the Father’s discipline. None of these texts turns obedience into saving merit; they display the Father’s real dealings with His children.

8. Grieving, Quenching, and Being Filled

Referencia	Función	Aporte doctrinal
Galatians 5:16-25	Walk and fruit	The Spirit opposes the desires of the flesh and produces character consistent with new life.
Ephesians 5:18	Fullness	The command to be filled describes life under the Spirit's influence, not a repetition of sealing.
1 Thessalonians 5:19	Sensitivity	Do not quench the Spirit's activity.
2 Timothy 1:14	Guarding the deposit	Guard the good deposit through the Spirit who dwells in us.
1 John 2:20,27	Anointing and truth	The received anointing abides and protects against deception under apostolic teaching.

Four Realities That Must Not Be Confused

Reality	Description	Governing text
Sealing	God's action connected with believing the gospel; it marks the believer for the day of redemption.	Eph 1:13; 4:30
Indwelling	The Spirit's presence in the believer and in the church.	Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 3:16; 6:19

Fullness	The continuing command to live under the Spirit's influence.	Eph 5:18
Fruit	Character produced by the Spirit in contrast with the works of the flesh.	Gal 5:22-23

To grieve describes relational sorrow caused by sin; to quench means to resist or suppress the Spirit's activity; to be filled describes dependence and governing influence; to walk by the Spirit describes the habitual direction of conduct. None of these expressions should automatically be confused with losing and regaining the seal.

Fruit as Evidence, Not Price

Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control are the Spirit's fruit. They do not purchase salvation; they evidence His work. Sanctification is a divine work that actively engages the believer: walk by the Spirit, refuse the flesh, sow to the Spirit, and present the members of the body to God.

9. Hope, Firstfruits, and Glorification

“We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.” — Romans 8:23, translated from RV1960

The guarantee and the firstfruits express a fruitful tension: we already have the Spirit, yet we still await the redemption of the body. Present salvation does not remove groaning or mortality; it assures us that they will not have the last word. The Spirit directs life toward resurrection and complete conformity to Christ.

From Corruption to Incorruption

First Corinthians 15:50-54 announces the transformation of the living and the resurrection of the dead. The corruptible will put on incorruption and the mortal will put on immortality. The seal points toward that day: God does not abandon His work halfway but fully redeems His people.

The Spirit and the Hope of the Church

Ephesians 1 joins election, redemption, revelation, and sealing within one blessing “in Christ.” Christian hope does not rest on human calculations but on God’s promise, the Son’s resurrection, and the Spirit’s presence. The Church waits for the Lord from a position of belonging and divine guarantee.

COMFORT

The Comforter does not promise the absence of weakness; He promises presence within it. He intercedes when words fail, produces perseverance, directs believers to Christ, and keeps alive the hope of complete redemption.

10. Doctrinal Summary

THE AUTHOR

God is the One who establishes, anoints, and seals.

THE TIME

Ephesians 1:13 relates sealing to hearing and believing the gospel.

THE SEAL

The seal is the Holy Spirit Himself, not a material sign.

THE MEANING

Divine belonging, authenticity, and guarantee.

THE GUARANTEE

A real foretaste of the inheritance and assurance of completion.

THE HORIZON

The day of redemption and the transformation of the body.

PERMANENCE

The Comforter remains with His people forever; the seal points to the final day.

RESPONSIBILITY

Do not grieve or quench the Spirit; walk by Him and be filled.

EVIDENCE

Confession of Christ, filial belonging, fruit, and perseverance.

THE CENTER

The Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ and applies His redeeming work.

Pastoral Conclusion

The seal of the Holy Spirit is truth for both rest and daily walking. We rest because God has acted in Christ and has given His Spirit as the guarantee. We walk because the same Spirit dwells in us, joins us to the body, bears witness to our adoption, opposes the desires of the flesh, and directs our eyes toward the day of redemption.

The proper response is not presumption but gratitude: hear the word of truth, believe the gospel, depend on the Comforter, and glorify God through a consistent life. The security of the seal and the seriousness of holiness do not compete; both flow from the same grace.

Questions for Study and Reflection

1. Who seals the believer, and what is the seal according to 2 Corinthians 1:21-22?
2. What relationship does Ephesians 1:13 establish among hearing, believing, and being sealed?
3. What does the word guarantee add to the doctrine of the seal?
4. Why does Ephesians 4:30 combine security and ethical exhortation?

5. How does John 14-16 describe the Comforter's ministry?
6. What is the difference among sealing, indwelling, fullness, and fruit?
7. How does Romans 6 prevent grace from becoming permission to sin?
8. How does Romans 8:23 connect the Spirit with the redemption of the body?
9. Which complementary passages support divine keeping?
10. How can this doctrine comfort believers without fostering spiritual carelessness?

Appendix I. Expanded Catalog of Complementary Passages

Theme	References for complete reading
Promise and coming	Isa 44:3; Ezek 36:26-27; Joel 2:28-29; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-4,16-18,33
Regeneration and life	John 3:5-8; 6:63; Rom 8:2,10-11; 2 Cor 3:6; Titus 3:5
Revelation and truth	John 14:26; 16:13-15; 1 Cor 2:10-16; Eph 1:17; 1 John 2:20,27
Prayer and access	Rom 8:26-27; Eph 2:18; 6:18; Jude 20
Unity and gifts	1 Cor 12:4-13; Eph 4:3-6; 1 Pet 4:10-11
Holiness and fruit	Rom 8:12-14; Gal 5:16-25; 6:8; Eph 5:9,18; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Pet 1:2
Adoption and inheritance	Rom 8:14-17,23; Gal 4:4-7; Eph 1:5,11,14,18
Keeping and assurance	John 10:27-30; Rom 8:31-39; Phil 1:6; 1 Pet 1:3-5; 1 John 3:24; 4:13; Jude 24
Resurrection and completion	Rom 8:11,23; 1 Cor 15:42-54; 2 Cor 4:14; 5:1-5; Eph 4:30; Phil 3:20-21

This catalog is a study guide, not a claim that every reference describes the act of sealing. For sound interpretation, read every passage in its immediate context and within the full argument of its biblical book.

Appendix II. Teaching Infographic

CENTRAL IDEA

HEAR THE GOSPEL → BELIEVE IN CHRIST → BE SEALED WITH THE SPIRIT → LIVE TOWARD THE DAY OF REDEMPTION

1 HEAR

The word of truth: the gospel of salvation

Eph 1:13

2 BELIEVE

Trust Christ and His finished work

1 Cor 15:3-4

3 BE SEALED

God gives the promised Holy Spirit

Eph 1:13; 2 Cor 1:22

4 RECEIVE THE GUARANTEE

A foretaste and pledge of the inheritance

Eph 1:14; 2 Cor 5:5

5 WALK BY THE SPIRIT

Indwelling, adoption, help, unity, and fruit

Rom 8; Gal 5:16-25

6 AWAIT REDEMPTION

Transformation of the body and complete inheritance

Eph 4:30; Rom 8:23

DIRECT PASSAGES

Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30 • 2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 5:5

THE COMFORTER

Abides • teaches • reminds • testifies • convicts • guides • glorifies
Christ. John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-15

KEY DISTINCTION

SEALING = God's action | INDWELLING = presence | FULLNESS =
governing influence | FRUIT = evidence

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Biographical Note on the Compiler



RUPERTO BRAVO BENAVENTE (R.B.B.)

Senior project developer and process-engineering expert with more than 40 years of experience in the technical and financial structuring of industrial, agrifood, and critical-infrastructure complexes.

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Compiler and editorial coordinator of biblical and educational materials for study and free distribution. Resident in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

In this work he serves as initiator, compiler, and coordinator of the editorial presentation. The doctrinal content is based on the cited biblical references and should be examined in the light of Holy Scripture.

PRIVACY NOTE

Only professional background relevant to a public publication is included. Identity documents, addresses, and other sensitive personal data are omitted.

Sources and Bibliographic Standard

- Holy Bible, Reina-Valera 1960. United Bible Societies.
- Francisco Lacueva, Greek-Spanish Interlinear New Testament.
- Biblical quotations are brief; complete passages should be read in an authorized edition for thorough study.
- Greek transliterations are provided as teaching aids and do not replace contextual analysis.

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