

**We thank God for Mothers!
Happy Mother's Day!**

**Legislators and Staff
Prayer Breakfast**
Tuesday May 23rd 7:30-8:30am
Member's Dining Room
Legislative Cafeteria

of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit”

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Triune Godhead that makes connection. He allows the King of King's message [the Word of truth] to get through to people. [Please note that the Holy Spirit is a person, not a force. The Holy Spirit is God. Acts 5:3,4 uses Holy Spirit synonymous with God. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the third person of the Trinity/ Triune Godhead.]

Modern technology enables connections of video and audio chatting as never before. Previously, radio was the cutting edge technology.

On January 21, 1930 Associated Press gave a report of a 20 minute radio broadcast of Britain's King George who gave the opening address at a special disarmament conference. This was by far the largest audience ever to hear a live speech. Modern radio technology was making it possible. This report sounds a bit archaic but it is our history.

“His arms twitching with shocks from electric current, Harold Vivian, a young radio engineer, literally spliced with his own body a broken link in the vast hookup and made it possible to listeners on 59 North American radio stations to hear King George's speech today. Just a few minutes before the king began his address which opened the naval conference in London somebody in the control room of the Columbia Broadcasting Company tripped over the wires to the generator which energizes the entire network. Vivian, chief control operator, grasped the wires together in his hands to restore the circuit. Leakage of current through his body to the floor shook his arms with spasms, but he held on without a break for 20 minutes until new wires could be connected.¹

The King's message got through because Vivian, the chief control operator, made the connection.

1. The Holy Spirit Makes Connection

Ephesians 1:13 (NIV84) “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel

The enemy of God, works hard to keep people blinded to the gospel of Christ, 2 Corinthians 4:4. The Holy Spirit is greater than the enemy of God. (I John 4:4 “Greater is He that is in us, than he that is in the world.”)

Last week our look at Ephesians 2:1 -5 revealed the work of the enemy of God. He has worked against God so that the condition of each person born into this world is spiritually dead. People are not able to respond to the call of God. They have no connection! But God's Spirit works with the Word of Truth to open our eyes and see our position separated from God and dead in our sin. The Holy Spirit also helps us understand the gift of God, Christ's payment for our sin and His goodness that will be placed upon our account. At the moment a person chooses to receive this gift (the moment of belief). Verse 5 states that God “made us alive with Christ even when we were dead...” The person of the Triune God that does that work is the Holy Spirit.

The word “made us alive” is *συζωοποιέω (syzoopoieō)*. This means the Holy Spirit has the power to “raise to life together with”²

The Bible describes being raised together with Christ in Romans 6:3-4 “*Or, do you not know that as many as were placed into Christ Jesus (by the Holy Spirit), into His death were placed in order that just as there was raised up Christ out from amongst the dead ones through the glory of the Father, thus also as for us, in the newness of a life (imparted) we may order our behavior.*”

¹ “Body Spliced Broken Link”, Huntsville Daily Times, Page 10 Column 8, January 21, 1930 newspaperabstracts.com, accessed May 9, 2017.

² Swanson, J. (1997). *Dictionary of Biblical Languages with Semantic Domains: Greek (New Testament)* (electronic ed.). Oak Harbor: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

This newness of life is a new life imparted through our identification with Christ in His resurrection. Our identification with Christ in His death broke the power of indwelling sin. Our identification with Him in His resurrection resulted in the impartation of divine life. This is what Paul has reference to when he says, “We were made alive together with Him. Ephesians 2:5.”³

The Holy Spirit is the person of the Godhead making the connection! “For we were all baptized [spiritual baptism] by one Spirit into one body,” 1 Corinthians 12:13. This is referring to the body of Christ.

1. The Holy Spirit Seals at the Moment of Belief.

*Ephesians 1:13–14 (ESV) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, **and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,***

The participle ‘believed’ is best interpreted in this context as being coincident with the main verb ‘you were sealed’. The participle does not here express antecedent action, as though the Gentiles believed and then *subsequently* were sealed with the Holy Spirit. Rather, the believing and being sealed were two sides of the one event.⁴

What does “seal” mean? It means ownership.

In 2 Corinthians Paul explains; “...who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee, 1:22.” Language scholars Kittel and Friedrich are convinced that seal speaks of possession. ‘God has made them his inviolable possession; the pledge of this is the Spirit of God in the heart’.⁵

So how do you think God treats his possessions? He shields by His power to bring us to glory, I Peter 1:5. He is the true Shepherd of our souls, I Peter 2:25, John 10:11-15.

He is the one who cares, I Peter 5:7. He is for you, Romans 8:32.

How do lesser gods, which are really no gods at all, treat their possessions? John 10:10a, “The thief comes to steal kill and destroy.”

2. Heaven is Guaranteed by the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 1:14 “who, [Holy Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

When a person places their trust in Christ they are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. The phrase, “the guarantee of our inheritance”, means a deposit, a down payment. “This word signifies a ‘down payment’ or ‘pledge’, and which in the New Testament is used only in the Pauline writings and always with reference to the Spirit of God. Originally of Semitic origin, this word in Hellenistic Greek became the ordinary commercial term for a down payment or first installment.”⁶ The Holy Spirit is metaphorically the earnest money, the down payment of the owner, God who keeps His word.

You are the treasure of God. He loves you enough to give you His Word, to extend to you His gift. When His gift is received. He places within you His Spirit. The Spirit testifies, marks you as God’s possession and is the pledge that you will be with the Lord in heaven. God does not lie. Amen!

The Holy Spirit connects, seals and guarantees!

“There is nothing worth more, that could ever come close, no thing can compare, You’re our living hope, Your presence, Lord! Holy Spirit you are welcome here !”⁷

³ Wuest, K. S. (1997). *Wuest’s word studies from the Greek New Testament: for the English reader* (Eph 2:4). Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

⁴ O’Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians* (p. 119). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

⁵ G. Kittel and G. Friedrich (eds.), *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*⁵

⁶ O’Brien, P. T. (1999). *The letter to the Ephesians* (pp. 120–121). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

⁷ Francesca Battistelli, “Holy Spirit,” IF WE’RE HONEST, 2014.

Capitol Commission Bible Studies

Tuesday @ 7:30am – 8:00am, LOB 414
Monday @ 12:00pm – 1:00pm, LB 2nd Flr.
Monday @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, Chapel