

**Parson to Person**  
**2 Corinthians 1 – Part 7**  
**(Sealed by the Holy Spirit)**

*“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” (2 Corinthians 1:21–22).*

**The Anointing**

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is and should be the most sought after “gift” following the once-and-for-all born again experience. We understand that the anointing is a gift because it is unmerited—and to be sought after—for without the anointing of the Holy Spirit, all of our work is simply that: *our* work!

The anointing of the Holy Spirit empowers men and women of God to accomplish tasks and serve the Lord in ways no human could accomplish in and of the flesh. Men and women may do great things, but the work of God through the believer (the “*gold, silver, and precious stones*”) is not of the flesh. The “treasured works” are the works of God manifested in and through the believer—not the believers work for Him.

**The Anointing—Potential, Permanent and Transient**

Throughout the Old and New Testaments men and women were anointed by the Holy Spirit. However, the anointing may come and go—for a time, task, or mission. Moreover, the special anointing of the Holy Spirit may be forfeited by grieving the Holy Spirit. Willful and intentional “sinning” may be cause to disqualify the saint for service. Therefore, the anointing must be valued, and the believer must be mindful of the unique and special way God works in and through us.

**Not the Person of the Holy Spirit—The Anointing**

Please don't confuse this with the *person and presence* of the Holy Spirit. He will never leave you—nor forsake you. The anointing is a “work” of the Spirit—His person and presence faithfully abides.

### **Sealing—as Distinct from the Anointing**

Believers are “*sealed*” and thus guaranteed salvation—not by *our* works or lack thereof, but by the person of the Holy Spirit through the finished work of God in Jesus.

### **Sealing—Potential and Permanent**

The sealing of the Holy Spirit is a permanent act, granted by God, to all believers in and of the Church Age. The sealing of believers is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. Moreover, by the Spirit we are sanctified and kept secure for the purposes God intends in and for each of us.

Consider the following:

*“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”* (2 Corinthians 1:21–22).

*“In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory”* (Ephesians 1:13–14).

*“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption”* (Ephesians 4:30).

### **Sealing—An Apparent Dispensational Change**

While we know that specific believers during the Old Covenant dispensation received “*a seal of the righteousness of the faith*”

(Romans 4:11), we don't see a Holy Spirit "sealing" as described for believers in the Church Age.

For example, Saul (pre-Christian Paul the apostle) was a believer before coming to Jesus (see Philippians 3). However, he was not guaranteed salvation apart from saving faith in Jesus as Messiah. Before the Church Age Saul was not sealed by the Holy Spirit! Moreover, if he had rejected Jesus, he would have forfeited salvation, failed to inherit the promises found only in Him, and been rejected from the Kingdom.

Prior to Jesus' first incarnational earthly ministry, the saints were justified by faith in the promises of God. However, once Christ came, trust in Him was required. The "sealing" of the believer came later—in the Church Age!

### **Regeneration and Sealing—Unique to the Church Age**

During the Old Covenant the Holy Spirit was present—but acted in a different capacity than He does now in the Church Age.

Jesus taught His disciples that the Holy Spirit had been with them—but would soon be in them.

Consider the following:

*"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 14:16–17).*

*"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,*

*whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified” (John 7:37–39).*

The Holy Spirit was present, but His work was different after Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection.

### **Born Again? Something New!**

The Holy Spirit’s new work was a “mystery” during earlier dispensations. His work was veiled to the degree that even a teaching Rabbi missed what was predicted. Therefore, in introduction, Jesus explained to Nicodemus what was coming and why he himself (an Old Covenant believer) needed to be “*born again.*” He said, “*unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God*” (John 3:3, 7).

### **More Help!**

In the Old Covenant dispensation David prayed, “*Do not cast me away from Your presence, and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me*” (Psalm 51:11). Thus, he prayed—because he had seen what occurred with King Saul.

In 1 Samuel 16 we read, “*the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a distressing spirit from the LORD troubled him*” (vs. 14). Therefore, David concerned himself with the departure of the Holy Spirit—indicating that the permanently dwelling presence of the Spirit was not a norm. He had seen that the anointing of the Spirit had been removed from King Saul, and, furthermore, a distressing spirit came upon him.

It is no wonder that David prayed that the Spirit remain upon Him...

My friends, we are born again, sealed by the Holy Spirit, guaranteed all promised in Jesus, and look forward with great

expectation to the work of God—in and through us, by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Rest in Jesus! Trust Him. Serve with gladness!

*“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” (2 Corinthians 1:21–22).*

I love you all,  
Pastor Paul