

# Ephesians

## # 4

# The Blessing of the Spirit

## Ephesians 1 : 11 - 14

**11** In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will, **12** in order that we, who were the first to put our hope in Christ, might be for the praise of his glory. **13** And you also were **included in Christ** when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, **you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, 14** who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.  
Ephesians 1

### And you

Notice the transition in the voice of the text. Versus 11 - 12 is focused on universal election (we as in corporate) while from versus 13 onwards the voice of the passage shifts to the individual response (you as in individual) and how we came to be included in the eternal plan when we heard the message

### also were included in Christ when ...

#### (a) you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

Q : What, in your experience, helps people more easily “hear” the gospel message when it is being shared with them? Why do you think people often tune it out - is it them or is it spiritual forces?

Q : What did it take for you personally, in your journey to salvation, to come to a place where you not only heard the message but also understood it so you could receive it?

#### (b) When you believed,

Q : What do you think defines saving faith versus just a general belief in Christ?

Q : Have you ever observed a person who changed from a general belief in Christ to a radical, saving faith in Christ? What changed about them?

#### (c) you were marked in him with a seal,

Q : Do you struggle to feel confident that you are in Christ? How does the words *that you were marked [tattooed] with his seal* give you greater assurance that he will not let you go?

### ...the promised Holy Spirit,

Q : How does the analogy of the candle help us understand how we should walk and live with the Spirit in our daily lives? Can you think of scriptures that bring this out?

### ...who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession

*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. He did this so we would praise and glorify him. [NLT]*