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GUARANTEE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Got personal security? For your electronic identity or personal property? You've seen those ads that promise to protect you from bad news. The good news is, God has you covered, eternally. As a believer in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, your personal identity has become identified with Christ Himself. It's all through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, in His person, presence, purpose, and power. Guaranteed.

2 Corinthians 1:20-22 says "*all the promises of God find their Yes in Christ Jesus. That is why through Him we utter our Amen to God for His glory. And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.*" The Holy Spirit is God's personal guarantee that He will keep all His covenant to you, in Christ.

1- PROPERTY. God gives the Holy Spirit as His promise to you as His personal property and possession. Kings of old pressed a ring into hot wax, putting their "seal" on official documents, to signify authenticity and authority of the crown. Herod put his seal on Christ's tomb. The state seal on a gas pump certifies the accuracy of its metering system. The seal of a notary public credentials a legal document.

God's seal is the Holy Spirit, put on and in the believer. He anoints you not with oil but with His own Spirit, immersing you for His divine calling and empowerment. John 6:27 says God the Father has put his seal on God the Son. Ephesians 1:13 says God has put His seal on those who believe in God the Son. You receive His Spirit when you believe, and He applies all the blessings of Christ to you.

Matthew 28:18 says all divine authority has been given to Jesus. In Acts 1:8 Jesus says believers will be His witnesses by His power within them, by the Holy Spirit. 2 Corinthians 5:18 says believers are new creations in Christ who become His personal envoys, as God proclaims His message through them. And 1 Peter 1:9 says God marks believers as His own possession, so that they proclaim His excellencies. You belong to Him. The Holy Spirit identifies you as a disciple of Christ, with His power to witness for Him.

2- PREPAYMENT. The Holy Spirit is also your guarantee. It's a financial word for an earnest deposit. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit in the believer is a prepayment that promises the whole blessing will be fulfilled. Our salvation has begun, is progressing, and its completion is guaranteed. At the feast of Pentecost, the "firstfruits" of the harvest were offered, and that's when God chose to give His Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 1 says through Christ believers have obtained an eternal heavenly inheritance. The Holy Spirit is God's seal and guarantee that we will possess it all. We are guaranteed the riches of His glorious inheritance in the saints. Colossians 1:12 says Christ has qualified us to share in this inheritance in His kingdom. 2 Corinthians 5:5 says the Holy Spirit is the guarantee of our future heavenly dwelling.

Romans 8 says that through the Holy Spirit we will realize our eternal heavenly life, when we receive the inheritance of our adoption as God's children. That's the "redemption of our bodies," being resurrected to eternal life, conformed to the image of His Son. It's predetermined to happen, just as God says. And we already have the prepayment. The Holy Spirit is the firstfruits of what will come.

3- PROTECTION. The Holy Spirit is the pledge that all He represents is surely coming. And you are safe in Christ until all is completed. 1 Peter 1 reminds we are born again to the living hope of our imperishable inheritance, "*kept in heaven for you who by God's power are being kept through faith.*" You are guarded and protected by the Holy Spirit until salvation is complete. That's why you can rejoice through trials.

He echoes this in 2 Peter 4. Persecution for bearing the name of Christ shows that you are blessed, "*because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.*" You are protected and you will persevere. And in Revelation 7:3 the "seal of God" is placed on the foreheads of the servants of God, who are protected from the wrath of God being poured out on the earth. It's an echo of Romans 8. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. Whatever happens, we are "more than conquerors." It's God's promise!

Your new identity in Christ carries God's personal seal of security, the Holy Spirit. You are His personal possession. The Holy Spirit is the prepayment of your predestined eternal blessings. You are protected by Him, so that you will persevere to fulfill His purpose, and inherit all He promises. Guaranteed by God!