

## THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The Word of God is plain and simple in its revelation as to the work of the Holy Spirit, but many erroneous views are current which greatly hinder believers. For instance they are urged to seek the baptism of the Spirit and sealing with the Spirit, and are taught that this will when attained, make them sinless in heart and ways. In former articles we have sought to show what the Word teaches concerning these things. It is the object of the present article to lay before the people of God what the Word says as to Sealing with the Holy Spirit and Grieving the Spirit.

Sealing with the Holy Spirit is spoken of in Eph. 1:13, "in whom, having also believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, which is an earnest of our inheritance, unto the redemption of God's own possession, unto the praise of His glory."

Eph. 4:30, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, in whom (with which) ye were sealed unto (for) the day of redemption." Revised Version. We also find sealing mentioned in 2 Cor. 1:22, "Who also sealed us, and gave us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts."

To seal anything is to attach to it a proof of ownership. A letter sealed with the King's ring was thus shown to be authorized by the King, to be in effect his decree. When God seals a believer it is a sign that the one sealed belongs to Him. Sealing is His work, man has no part in it, directly at least. But who

are sealed? Not the world, those who do not have faith in Christ, for the world "cannot receive" Him "because it seeth Him not neither knoweth Him." John 14:17. It is only born again ones, believers in Christ who receive the Spirit and are sealed. None others can receive Him according to the plain words of Christ. But if believers only are sealed, when are they sealed? Is it when they believe, or have they to wait for a longer or a shorter time? We go to Scripture alone for an answer, and there we find nothing about waiting to be sealed. Those who believe are saved, forgiven, justified, they become His by faith, and when they become His they are sealed. Unbelievers are not sealed any more than they are forgiven or justified.

Scripture plainly tells us that "If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His" Rom. 8:9. It is plain that if one belongs to Christ he has the Spirit of Christ. For "if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His," and if he has the Spirit of Christ, he is His; and so conversely, if he is His, he has the Spirit of Christ.

Now follows the query, Can a believer have the Spirit of Christ and not be sealed? If the Spirit dwells in any one, it is because he is Christ's and the presence of the Spirit is the seal, the sign of Christ's possession. How good it is to realize that He has given each one of His people such a token of His ownership. God is our Father, Christ our Saviour, the Holy Spirit dwells in us. How wonderful God's grace to sinners!