

The Holy Spirit of Promise

The notes and references below pertain to Ephesians 1:13-14 which mentions being “**sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.**”

The Prophet Joseph Smith discusses this as recorded in *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*, 149, and it pertains specifically to Ephesian saints:

“The Doctrine of Election. St. Paul exhorts us to make our calling and election sure. This is the **sealing power** spoken of by Paul in other places.

Vs.13 - In whom ye also trusted, that after ye heard the word of truth, the Gospel of your salvation; in whom also after that ye believed, ye were **sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise,**

vs. 14 - Which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory, that we may be sealed up unto the day of redemption.”

Elder Bruce R. McConkie says, “That is, the calling and election of Ephesian Saints had been made sure because they were sealed by the **Holy Spirit of Promise.**”

Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, Vol. III, 336

In the Second Epistle of Peter this subject is again discussed by Bruce R. McConkie in *Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, Vol. III, 325-353:*

“When the **Holy Spirit of Promise** places his ratifying seal upon a baptism, or a marriage, or any covenant, except that of having one’s calling and election made sure, the seal is a conditional approval or ratification; it is binding in eternity only in the event of subsequent obedience to the terms and conditions of whatever covenant is involved... But when the ratifying seal of approval is placed upon someone whose calling and election is thereby made sure - because there are no more conditions to be met by the obedient person - this act of being **sealed up unto eternal life** is of such transcendent import that of itself it is called being **sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise**, which means that in this crowning sense, being so sealed is the same as having one’s calling and election made sure. Thus to be sealed by the **Holy Spirit of Promise** is to be sealed up unto eternal life; and to be sealed up unto eternal life is to be sealed by the **Holy Spirit of Promise.**”

Further on, Elder McConkie says, “It is the privilege of those who have their calling and election made sure, meaning those who are sealed up unto eternal life, meaning those who are “sealed with that holy Spirit of promise (Eph1:13), to receive the Second Comforter.”, 337

“The Prophet Joseph Smith asks the question, “Now what is this other Comforter?” He answers, “It is no more nor less than the Lord Jesus Christ himself; and this is the sum and substance of the whole matter; that when any man obtains this last Comforter, he will have the personage of Jesus Christ to attend him, or appear unto him from time to time, and even he will manifest the Father unto him... and the Lord will teach him face to face...”, 341

The *Encyclopedia of Mormonism*, Vol 2, HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE

“The ultimate manifestation of the Holy Spirit of Promise is in connection with having one’s calling and election made sure - that is, receiving “the more sure word of prophecy” testifying that an individual is sealed up to eternal life (D&C 131:5). The **Holy Spirit of Prophecy** validates this blessing or seals it upon the person.”

There are many scriptural references to this subject, including

Doctrine and Covenants 84:33-41

Doctrine and Covenants 131:5

Doctrine and Covenants 88:1-7

Doctrine and Covenants 132:19

Eternal life refers to the life that God lives. So if we are ‘sealed up unto eternal life’ this means that our calling and election has been made sure.

Some terms used in connection with the blessing of one’s calling and election made sure:

Holy Spirit of Promise

Sealed up unto eternal life

Calling and Election made sure

The sure promise...of eternal life

The more sure word of prophecy

Partakers of the divine nature

Exaltation

Eternal Life

Many are called but few are *chosen*

Second Anointing

“The more sure word of prophecy means a man’s knowing that he is sealed up unto eternal life, by revelation and the spirit of prophecy, through the power of the Holy Priesthood.” D&C 131:5

“The anointing and sealing is to be called, elected and made sure.”

Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, 323

There are many important references if you wish to pursue this topic (well, it *is* why we are on this earth!). There is a great web site which contains many of these references in one place:

www.byui.edu/Ricks/employee/MarrottR/CallElectSurJSBRMc.htm

Another one is www.byui.edu/Ricks/employee/SatterfieldB/Talks/default.htm

Some of the major writers on this subject are the prophets and apostles who wrote the scriptures, also Joseph Smith, Marion G. Romney, and especially Bruce R. McConkie.

We are told that we should seek in this life to have our calling and election made sure. We can have the day of judgment advanced, so that an inheritance of all the glory and honor of the Father’s kingdom is assured prior to the day when the faithful actually enter into the divine presence to sit with Christ in his throne, even as he is “set down” with his “Father in his throne.” Revelation 3:21

To go where God is we must be like him; and to be like him we must possess the character, perfections, and attributes which he possesses. “And faith, hope, charity and love, with an eye single to the glory of God, qualify him for the work. Remember faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, brotherly kindness, godliness, charity, humility, diligence.”

Doctrine and Covenants 4:5-6