

2 Corinthians 5:5 (NASB)

⁵Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Parallel scriptures:

2 Corinthians 1:22 (KJV)

²²Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:13 - 14 (KJV)

¹³In whom ye also *trusted*, after that 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,

¹⁴Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

- This explains why death holds no terrors for the Christian. Paul called his death a “departure” (2 Tim. 4:6). One meaning of this Greek word is “to take down one’s tent and move on.”
- Paul mentioned the sealing and the earnest of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwelling in the believer’s body is the “down payment” that guarantees the future inheritance, including a glorified body. In modern Greek, the word translated “earnest” means “engagement ring.” The church is engaged to Jesus Christ and is waiting for the Bridegroom to come to take her to the wedding.
- The Spirit was a *deposit*. The Greek word for “deposit” is *arrabon*, a business term meaning “guarantee” or down payment. In other words, the Spirit is God’s guarantee that he will one day pay up in full. Paul envisioned Christ, on one glorious day, coming to complete the process that had already begun.

It’s Already Begun

- The Holy Spirit is God’s “guarantee” of what will come. Each time the Holy Spirit reminds you of Scripture, convicts you of sin, restrains you from selfish behavior, or prompts you to love, you have evidence that he is present. You have the Spirit within you beginning the transformation process. Whether you deal with aches and pains or even disabling limitations, trust God that his total renovation of your body and soul is in process.

Romans 8:23 (NASB)

²³And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for *our* adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (KJV)

¹⁷Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

- The transformation wrought by the new birth is not only an instantaneous miracle but also a lifelong process of sanctification. For those so transformed, everything changes; **the old things** have **passed away**. Old values, ideas, plans, loves, desires, and beliefs vanish, replaced by the **new things** that accompany salvation. The perfect tense of the verb *ginomai* (**have come**) indicates a past act with continuing results in the present. God plants new desires, loves, inclinations, and truths in the redeemed, so that they live in the midst of the old creation with a new creation perspective (please read Gal. 6:14).
- That perspective, as it is nourished and developed, helps believers gain victory in the battle against sin and conforms them to the image of Jesus Christ.
- So Paul defended his integrity in order to preach with boldness, knowing that he was trusted. In addition, his reverence and gratitude to the Savior who had done so much for him, his deep concern for the church, passionate devotion to the truth, desire for righteousness, and longing to see the lost come to the Savior compelled him to maintain his integrity.
- Because he did so, he could confidently challenge the Corinthians, “Therefore do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s hearts; and then each man’s praise will come to him from God” (1 Cor. 4:5).

MONDAY MORNING MOMENT: ACTION STEP - “*We battle against sin and we conform to the image of Jesus Christ.*”

Philippians 1:6 (KJV)

⁶Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ: