Ephesians 1:19-23

I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God's power made available to you through faith. Then your life will be an advertisement of this immense power as it works through you! This is the mighty power that was released when God raised Christ from the dead and exalted Him to the place of highest honor and supreme authority in the heavenly realm! And now He is exalted as first above every ruler, authority, government, and realm of power in existence! He is gloriously enthroned over every name that is ever praised, not only in this age but in the age that is coming! And he alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and *has given him the highest rank above all others*. And now we, his church, are his body on the earth and that which fills him who is being filled by it. ~Ephesians 1:19-23

The day of Pentecost ushered the Holy Spirit into the world. The Holy Spirit's presence was promised by Jesus before He ascended. We marvel at the Holy Spirit's coming and presence and, as significant as it was, the exaltation of Jesus. The ascension of Jesus was the catalyst that made possible the coming of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit could not come until Jesus had ascended. The glorification of Jesus brought the Holy Spirit. "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him

because he lives with you now and later will be in you." The Holy Spirit is given to the Child of God only. The Holy Spirit was given for a specific purpose.

The Holy Spirit was given as a guarantee of our redemption and salvation. Ephesians 1:13-14 says, "[13] And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having 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. The seal was the personal sign of the owner of the sender of that, which was important in that it was authentic and not suspicious. What is equally important is that it was a guarantee that the thing seal was carried intact. So, the Christian has the seal of the Holy Spirit, which serves as a guarantee of his or her salvation. There is more.

The Holy Spirit was sent so that Christians would be able to do the work of Jesus Christ in the world. The text in Ephesians lays out clearly that the purpose of the Holy Spirit is to empower the church to minister to the world. The Passion Bible version of Ephesians 1:22 says this "[22] And he alone is the leader and source of everything needed in the church. God has put everything beneath the authority of Jesus Christ and *has given him the highest rank above all others*. Verse 19 "[19] I pray that you will continually experience the immeasurable greatness of God's power made available to you through faith." This verse addresses the power that is available to us to do ministry in the name of Jesus and thereby become an advertisement of Jesus working through us. All of this became possible upon the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus Christ.

Before I close, I want to be clear: It is the Holy Spirit that is the seal. The Holy Spirit Himself is the seal. The Holy Spirit is not doing the sealing. The Holy Spirit is the indwelling presence of God's redemption purpose in the individual. The seal indicates security, safety, ownership, and authority. The seal says this is a finished transaction. The purpose of the Holy Spirit is for the world to have every opportunity to receive the salvation that Jesus offers. We all can be thankful we have such a loving Father.

Blessings,
Pastor Gool