Introduction

God’s great plan is to bring everything in heaven and on earth into unity and harmony under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

How do we know it is real? We trust our Father.

How do we know we will share in that day?

That’s the work of the Holy Spirit.

I. The Holy Spirit is at work in our salvation. Verse 11

The first work of the Holy Spirit is to convict us of our sin and show us our need for Christ.

Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, “he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment.” John 16:8

Theologians make a distinction between:

- The Gospel Call – which is the preaching or sharing of the gospel.
- The Effectual Call – which is the work of the Holy Spirit opening our eyes to see and believe.

Both are necessary.

II. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ. Verses 12 & 14

Two times in this passage, Paul writes that our salvation is to the praise of his glory.

The second work of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Christ.

“When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.” John 15:26

And again, “He will glorify me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.” John 16:14

III. The Holy Spirit brings unity to the church. Verses 12-13
One of the great themes in Ephesians is God’s plan to bring together Jews and Gentiles in the church.

Before Jesus came, Jews and Gentiles were separated and there was hostility between them, but God has made us one in Christ.

God’s great plan is to one day bring together “a great multitude of people from every nation, tribe, people and language.” Revelation 7:9

If that is God’s plan for eternity, shouldn’t the church reflect that diversity here on earth?

IV. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand God’s Word. Verse 13

The Holy Spirit is the one who opens our eyes to see and understand the Scriptures.

“The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him and he cannot understand them because they are spiritually discerned.”

“But the spiritual man makes judgments about all things...we have the mind of Christ.” I Corinthians 2:14-16

The Holy Spirit never speaks contrary to God’s Word.

V. The Holy Spirit is God’s down payment on what is to come. Verses 13-14

This is the work of sealing.

Charles Hodge points out that there are three purposes for a seal. A seal is used:

- To confirm the genuineness of an object of document.
- To indicate ownership.
- To make something secure.

Along with his sealing, the Holy Spirit is also a down payment guaranteeing our inheritance.

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children.” Romans 8:16

Conclusion

It is the work of the Spirit that enables us to face life and death with confidence.