

AN IRON CLAD GUARANTEE

Ephesians 1:13-14 “In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.”

When you think of the word guarantee, what comes to your mind? In consulting with a dictionary, I found the following definitions: (noun) “a formal promise or assurance (usually in writing) that a product will be repaired or replaced if not of a specified quality or durability.” (In law) “a guarantee is a pledge to pay another person’s debt or to perform another person’s obligation in the case of default.”

What has been your experience with guarantees? They are, after-all, usually written by lawyers. Often, they have a lot of fine print and asterisks. If needing a company or individual to honor a guarantee, it is no better or worse than the company or person that offered it to you.

The text for this devotion mentions a guarantee. It is not for a product or service. It is far more serious than any earthly guarantee. It guarantees what will happen to you on the day you die or Judgement Day. The phrase used in the text is “your guaranteed inheritance.”

Frankly, when you prepare your estate plan, you state in those documents what assets you desire to distribute, to whom and under what conditions. You may desire to guarantee to the mentioned recipients what you will grant them upon your death, but you know there are many factors that could make it impossible to fulfill your stated plan of distribution. (illness, financial collapse, etc.) In the end, then, there is no guarantee your “heirs” will inherit anything.

The inheritance God promises you is ironclad. St. Paul states that you have a guaranteed inheritance sealed by the Holy Spirit. The official seal that is your guarantee is your baptism. “Whoever believes and is baptized shall be saved.” (Mark 16:16) This seal was applied by the Holy Spirit, upon your heart when your pastor made the sign of the cross upon your forehead, upon your heart and applied water upon your head in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit’s guarantee has no fine print. You don’t need a lawyer to decipher it.

It has God grace and mercy to back it up. God, whose word is truth, stands behind this guarantee.

Prayer: In a world, O LORD, when guarantees are often less than what we believe them to be, thank You for Your guarantee of eternal life in heaven through the faith You have given me in Christ Jesus. Thank you for this assurance. In Jesus' name. Amen.

All who believe and are baptized Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ, They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall stand
Among the glorious heav'nly band Of every tribe and nation

With one accord, O God, we pray: Grant us Your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That this sacrament we may Eternal life inherit.
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