

Diving Deeper into Discipleship for May 8, 2022

Pastor Pete Fowler

The Gift and the Giver: The Spirit Seals and Adopts

Sermon Reflection Questions:

- Have you responded to the truth and grace of the gospel message with faith and belief? Give thanks for the "sealing" of the Spirit that secures you as a beloved member of God's family.
- Do you tend to limit the blessings of the glory and provision of God to the future reality of heaven? Are you enjoying the "foretaste" of the deposit of the Spirit today?
- Are you being held captive by any sort of fear today? Ask the Holy Spirit to release you from that fear as you put your trust in our *Abba*, Father.

Devotional Reading and Reflection

- **Exodus 19:3-6** | According to the message God gave Moses, for what purpose does God set apart His holy people, His treasured possession?
- **2 Corinthians 1:18-22** | Because of the seal, deposit, and guarantee of the Spirit, how does Paul invite all of us to stand (v. 21)?
- **1 John 3:1-3** | What does this passage teach us about both the present and future realities of being the children of God?

Weekly Spiritual Practice

May Practice: Essentials for Confession | Sorrow

(from *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, pg. 145, 152)

- Confession is a difficult discipline for us because we all too often view the believing community as a fellowship of saints before we see it as a fellowship of sinners. We feel that everyone else has advanced so far into holiness that we are isolated and alone in our sin. We cannot bear to reveal our failures to others. We imagine that we are the only ones who have not stepped onto the high road to heaven. Therefore, we hide ourselves.
- The next essential is sorrow. Sorrow is necessary to a good confession. Sorrow as it relates to confession is not primarily an emotion, though emotion may be involved. It is an abhorrence at having committed the sin, a deep regret at having offended the heart of God. Sorrow is an issue of the will before it is an issue of the emotions. In fact, being sorrowful in the emotions without a Godly sorrow in the will destroys the confession. Sorrow is a way of taking the confession seriously.