

# I have been sealed



Acts 8:14–17 / Romans 8:17

*Just as the first Apostles dispensed the Holy Spirit to the faithful by the laying on of hands, so also do the Apostles of today. This act is called Holy Sealing or baptism with the Spirit, and by receiving the Holy Spirit, one becomes a child of God. Those who are sealed are promised eternal life with God and his Son.*

8

The children rejoice at being God's own.  
They learn to know the meaning of Holy Sealing and how it is administered.

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oday a friend has come to visit Martin. Renate and he are more or less the same age and they get on well together. They met at Sunday-school. Last Sunday Martin sat next to Renate in the first bench in church, so they could see very well what happened at David's baptism.

The two of them have been playing for some time. They have also promised to keep an eye on little David who is asleep in his crib. After a little while Martin goes to ask his mother for a glass of water which he takes with him. Mother wonders about it for a moment, but she has much to do and is thankful that the children are keeping busy. But now David starts crying and she quickly goes to see. "What's the matter with my little darling?" she asks lovingly, lifting him up out of his cot. When she sees Martin and Renate standing there looking ill at ease, she suspects something. There are a few drops of water on David's head and the glass of water is standing next to his crib.

1

Mother scolds the children. David is soon quiet again and Martin and Renate help Mother with the chores. Martin is glad that Mother seems to have forgotten.

That evening Martin is allowed to stay up a little longer as the Priest is coming to visit them. Father fetches the Bible. Martin is sitting at the table in his pyjamas and Mother is rocking David in her arms when the Priest arrives. After he has greeted them all, he also takes David's little hand. He says: "So, little fellow, Sunday is your great day. The whole congregation is already looking forward to your becoming a child of God. Holy Sealing is a very special day for a congregation." Martin is all ears.

2

The Priest is saying something about baptism with the Spirit. Martin only understands 'baptism' and blushes. When the Priest asks him what is wrong, the boy answers: "I played 'baptism' with David today, and he didn't like it at all." "I can put your mind at rest," the Priest says. "He only needs to be baptized once. I am now speaking of the Holy Sealing. That is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. For this the Apostle places his hand on your little brother's head and prays. In this way, David receives the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, through the Apostle. David then becomes a child of God, as we all are. Then the Lord is not only his friend, but also becomes his heavenly Father and David belongs to a great family, together with all other children of God. You and your family and the whole congregation already belong to this family. We may all call the dear Lord 'Father' because we are his children. The heavenly Father is pleased when his children obey him and accept his messengers, the Apostles and their helpers, at all times." After these explanations the Priest adds: "Only the

Apostles can perform the Holy Sealing. Only they have received the power and commission from God to do so. You understand this, don't you?" Despite the fact that he has spoken quite seriously, his eyes sparkle humorously. Martin nods. He has learnt much today.

3/4



*I am a child of God. I have been sealed.*

- 1 What could have happened? (Martin and Renate played 'baptism' and maybe used a little too much water. We summarize what takes place at a baptism.)
- 2 The children relate what they know about Holy Sealing.  
What does the word sealing mean? It means that something is given a seal: a special stamp (sign). The children of God have an invisible sign or stamp signifying that they belong to God.
- 3 We look at the photograph and let the children speak about it. Adults and children who wish to follow the Apostles and have received the forgiveness of sins, can become children of God. On the blank line on page 98 the children can fill in when, where and by which Apostle they were sealed.
- 4 It would be nice if the children had good seats from where to observe the next Holy Sealing. Perhaps they could make a joint gift for the new member of the congregation. (On the blank page, page 98, in the work book a photograph of this event could be pasted or the emblem of the New Apostolic Church drawn.)