

The Anointing of God
GFC - August 19, 2018 - Pastor Deborah Oakley

Martin Luther, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, Smith Wigglesworth, Mother Theresa, Billy Graham. What did all these men and women have in common? They were all great men and women of God. They were all used mightily by God. They all impacted Church history. But why?

The Great Awakening, The Welsh Revival, The Azusa Street Revival and The Pentecostal Revival. What did all these events have in common? They were all great moves of God that impacted Church history. But why?

Here's why - these men and women and these events accomplished what they did because they had the anointing of God. Without the anointing of God and all these men and women were just ordinary men and women and all these meetings were just another meeting.

And... without the anointing of God we are just ordinary people going to another church meeting. It's the anointing that makes all the difference.

So today I want to talk to you about the anointing of God. By definition- anointing means to pour oil on an individual.

The oil has no special power but is symbolic of the Holy Spirit. It isn't a thing or a force... it's a person. The anointing is not a feeling, a formula or a magic potion. The anointing is the person of the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit. Acts 10:38 says:

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.

The name Christ means anointed one. In Luke 4:18-19 Jesus said:

The Spirit of the Lord is on Me, because He has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit. So, if Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to anoint Him... how much more do we need the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Without the Holy Spirit anointing we are ineffective and powerless. But with the Holy Spirit anointing we are effective and powerful.

I will never forget the time I preached the worst message of my entire ministry. I mean I had zero anointing. It felt like the longest message I've ever preached. My content was great, but the words seemed lifeless, and ineffective.

It was the first time I had been invited to speak at a pastor's conference of mainly men pastors. I was so afraid and self-conscious. And if I'm honest, I really cared more about what these pastors thought than I did what God thought... which helps explain the no anointing part. That day I learned that I never wanted to preach a message again without the anointing.

So, today we are going to look at three things:

1. Reasons For The Anointing
2. Recognizing The Anointing
3. Releasing The Anointing

So, let's begin by looking at the:

I. REASONS FOR THE ANOINTING

We are anointed for ministry to God, to others and to ourselves. In the Old Testament, priests, kings, and prophets were anointed for ministry. Oil was poured on the head of the person being anointed. But Exodus 40:15 says that...

Their anointing will be to a priesthood that will continue for all generations to come.

THAT'S US! We're the generations to come...we are anointed priests. And 1 Peter 2:9 tells us why were anointed priests.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.

We are anointed priests who are called to worship God. Do you realize that when we come together on Sunday each of us is a priest anointed to worship God? Often, we come to church to receive (and there is a place for that) but how often do we come to give to God.

I remember before I understood priesthood, I came to church thinking it was the worship leader's job to bring me into worship and there is some truth to that. So, I just sat there and expected him to do all the work.

Then I learned that I was a priest unto God. I learned that I could make the worship leader's job so much easier if I came to church ready to give as well as receive.

We are also anointed for ministry to others. Just like Jesus was anointed to preach good news, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom, to release the prisoners from darkness, to comfort all who mourn. SO ARE WE.

Then we are anointed for ministry to ourselves.

Any success you have had in life, any breakthroughs you've experienced, any healings, any supernatural experiences and any truth you've realized are ALL because of the Holy Spirit's anointing.

Here' a few ways the anointing affects us:

The anointing gives us power. When Samuel anointed David, the Holy Spirit came on him with power.

The anointing gives us joy. Psalm 45:7 calls the anointing oil the oil of joy.

The anointing causes us to stand firm. 2 Cor. 1:21 says:

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us...

The anointing reveals truth to us. 1 John 2:20 says:

You have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

Charles Spurgeon said "Without the Spirit of God we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind or chariots without steeds. Like branches without sap, we are withered. Like coals without fire we are useless."

Next, we must:

II. RECOGNIZE THE ANOINTING

One way to understand the anointing is by looking at the actual ingredients used in the Old Testament anointing oil. Each ingredient is symbolic of how the anointing impacts our lives. We read about these ingredients in portions of Ex 30:22-25 & 31.

God spoke to Moses: Take the best spices: twelve and a half pounds of liquid myrrh; half that much, six and a quarter pounds, of fragrant cinnamon; six and a quarter pounds of fragrant cane; twelve and a half pounds of cassia — using the standard Sanctuary weight for all of them — and a gallon of olive oil. Make these into a holy anointing oil, a perfumer's skillful blend. Tell the Israelites, 'This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come.

So, let's look at:

FIVE INGREDIENTS OF THE ANOINTING OIL:

1. MYRRH (represents DYING TO SELF)

Myrrh is a transparent substance, with a bitter taste. You see, dying to ourselves can be a "bitter tasting" experience.

But Prov. 27:7 says *...to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.*

Dying to self becomes sweet when we realize it is necessary if we want God's anointing.

Myrrh comes from the stem of a low, thorny, ragged tree. Nothing attractive about that. And there's usually nothing attractive to us about dying to our self. It's a thorny plant and thorns hurt. Jesus wore a crown of thorns on the cross. So, thorns can represent painful death to ourselves.

Also, Nicodemus brought Myrrh to embalm the body of Jesus, so again it was associated with death (John 19:39). There is no escaping it...if we want the Holy Spirit to anoint us we must die to ourselves. Dying to ourselves is a purifying process.

In the KJV it says, "pure myrrh." The word pure means "freely flowing" - flowing spontaneously - or clear. In order to get the purest myrrh, you have to let it flow freely and spontaneously from the plant. However, if you want more myrrh and you don't want to wait all you have to do is make an incision in the bark and the myrrh will ooze out. But it won't be as pure.

If you want the purest anointing in your life you must wait on God and allow the free-flowing move of His Holy Spirit in your life. The anointing doesn't happen overnight or when we try to rush God. It doesn't happen when we interfere with what God is doing. The strongest anointing flows freely from God without any intervention from man.

So many time we try making incisions in the bark. We want the anointing but aren't willing to allow the free flow of the Spirit. Instead we try to help God out. We make an incision in the bark and add to the word God gave us. We make an incision in the bark and try to do things our way. We make an incision in the bark and try to do things in our own strength.

Many things are done in the name of the Lord, but God really has very little to do with it. Instead, we must get out of the way. And we do this by denying our self and dying to self.

So, myrrh represents the free-flowing move of the Spirit as we die to ourselves.

2. CINNAMON (represents RIGHTEOUSNESS)

In our present day, cinnamon is a spice. In Bible times cinnamon was a perfume.

While myrrh comes from a low, thorny, ragged tree, cinnamon comes from a tall stately cane tree that sometimes grew as tall as 90 ft.

Since cinnamon was an upright plant...this speaks of righteousness.

Also, cinnamon was derived from the inner part of the cane. You see, man looks at the outward appearance, but God looks at the heart...the inner part. There will always be those who try to “look good” on the outside, but inside things are not so good. Matthew 23:27-28 says:

Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of dead men's bones and everything unclean. In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but, on the inside, you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness.

The only way we will be anointed of God is if our heart is upright. God cannot and will not anoint unrighteousness:

You can't lie, cheat or steal and expect God to anoint you.

You can't gossip and backstab others and expect God to anoint you.

You can't cheat on your spouse, watch pornography, or be in sexual sin and expect God to anoint you.

Unrighteousness will hinder the anointing quicker than anything. Now does this mean that we must be perfect? Of course not. But we can't live in habitual, unrepented sin and expect to be anointed.

3. FRAGRANT CANE (represents BROKENNESS)

Cane is a fragrant, reed-like grass growing along streams and rivers. But guess what you must do to the leaves to enjoy the fragrance? YOU HAVE TO CRUSH THEM!!!! These cane leaves are fragrant only when crushed. This obviously speaks of brokenness. Luke 20:18 says:

Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.

In this verse being crushed means to be ground to powder. It has the same meaning as "to winnow grain," or "to tread under foot."

To winnow grain means to separate the chaff from the grain. The chaff is the worthless part of the grain. So, the grain was put on a threshing floor and trampled on by oxen. Sometimes it was beaten with a sharp threshing instrument.

Listen, God is going to crush out everything in our lives that is worthless. When He breaks us, He is separating the worthless from the good. Jeremiah 15:19 says:

Therefore thus says the Lord: "If you return, Then I will bring you back; You shall stand before Me; If you take out the precious from the vile, You shall be as My mouth."

Next, I want you to notice that because fragrant cane grew along streams and river banks, it was well watered. What does water represent in the Bible? Ephesians 5:25-26 says: for husbands to love their wives by *cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.*

Water represents the word. There will be no anointing without the word of God.

4. CASSIA (represents HUMILITY)

Of all the spices this one was the least impressive. It literally means shriveled bark. It is from a root word that means to shrivel, contract or bend the body or neck in deference.

It was also the least costly of all the spices. This is clearly a picture of humility. Humility is the opposite of pride. It means not haughty or arrogant. Andrew Murray said, "Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you." Philipians 2:3-4 says:

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Paul the apostle understood humility. In:
 I Cor. 15:9 He says he's the least of the apostles.
 Eph. 3:8 He says he's the least of all the saints.
 I Tim. 1:15 He says he's the chief of all sinners.
 In Eph. 3:7-8 He says he's less than the least of all God's people.

In Luke 9:48 Jesus said:

For he who is least among you all - he is the greatest.

You see humility is being nothing more or nothing less than who you are.

5. OLIVE OIL (represents being Spirit Filled)

This is the ingredient that holds all the other ingredients together. It speaks of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks to us, intercedes for us, comforts us and leads us. Without the Holy Spirit there would be no anointing because He is the anointing. 1 John 2:27 says:

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as His anointing teaches you about all things (The Spirit Himself is the anointing who teaches us.) and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in Him.

Jesus promised to give the Holy Spirit to all believers.

The Holy Spirit is received at salvation. After salvation there is a second experience called the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I don't have time to teach about that today, but I will tell you that my walk with the Lord totally changed after I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I had more hunger for the word, more power and more everything.

I also had more love which brings us to our last point. Once we understand the reason for the anointing and we recognize the anointing, then we must release the anointing.

III. RELEASING THE ANNOINTING

We have the Holy Spirit in us, but many of us don't allow the Holy Spirit to live through us. The main work of the Holy Spirit is to live in and through us, and to be powerful in and through us.

How do we release the anointing?

By dying to self.

Through righteousness, brokenness and humility.

By being filled with The Spirit.

By being totally dependent upon the Holy Spirit.

- When we are sick – we get anointed with oil - which represents anointing and we are healed!
- When we are held captive by something – we turn to the anointing to break the yoke!
- When we are down – we ask for the anointing of joy to replace the spirit of heaviness.
- When we have questions – we turn to the anointing that teaches us.

And when we receive the anointing, we do what Jesus did – We go around doing good, preaching good news, healing the sick and setting captives free.

The anointing is not just for us! It empowers us to minister to God and minister to those in need in Jesus' name and in the power of the Spirit!