

Anointed Work
Pastor Joe Oakley
GFC – 9/2/18

Tomorrow is Labor Day. Most people just see it as a day off work and they don't really know what it's about. Labor Day is a public holiday in America that honors the contributions and achievements that workers – laborers – have made to the strength, prosperity and well-being of our country.

I decided this would be a good day to talk about work. I preached on it not that long ago in our series on Colossians, but I want to take a different approach today and preach on Anointed Work.

Pastor Deb preached a powerful message on the anointing a few weeks ago. Today I want to expand your view of anointing. When most of us think of anointing we think of someone doing something we consider to be spiritual. Things like preaching, prophesying, singing or leading worship.

Because of that belief, we limit the anointing to church services or spiritual activities, but I believe God wants to anoint us in every area of life, including our work.

Your work may be your career or your job. By the way, if you don't have a job, your full-time job is finding a job. Or your work may be your home and your family.

Whatever our work may be, God wants to anoint it.
 He wants to empower us in our work.
 He wants to give us wisdom and understanding.
 He wants to increase our abilities and take our natural abilities into a supernatural realm.

Remember who the first Spirit-filled person in the Bible was? Not Adam, Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses or Joshua. We find that person in Exodus 35:30-35:

And Moses said to the children of Israel, "See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel of the tribe of Judah; and He has filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom and understanding, in knowledge and all manner of workmanship, to design artistic works, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of artistic workmanship. And He has put in his heart the ability to teach, in him and Aholiab. He has filled them with skill to do all manner of work of the engraver and the designer and the tapestry maker and of the weaver."

The first Spirit-filled person in the Bible was filled with the Spirit of God in order to work. The infilling of the Spirit gave him wisdom and understanding to be creative, to design, and to do all kinds of work. It also gave him the ability to teach others to work.

I find this very interesting. As I said, we usually think of spirit-filled people doing things like preaching, prophesying and speaking in tongues. And they do those things. But what if being filled with the Spirit could also make us more creative in our work, more able to work with wisdom and understanding?

You see, it's one thing to work. It's another thing to be anointed by the Spirit in your work.

To be anointed means a lot of different things to different people, but to me it basically means the Holy Spirit is in it. It wasn't just me, but it's the Holy Spirit also working in me and through me. The power of the Holy Spirit is at work.

Take preaching for example. I can study and pray and have a good word. But without the anointing of the Holy Spirit it's just a good word. But when a sermon is anointed by the Holy Spirit it is the word of the Lord for that moment and these people and it goes out with power and accomplishes something in our lives.

Or take singing. There's lots of good singers. But an anointed singer is in a different realm. You don't go away just saying, "That was good singing." You go away touched by God.

I believe the ultimate purpose of being filled with the Spirit is to become more like God. And God is the Creator. God is creative. We are made in His image. So, if God is creative, we are creative.

If you don't believe you are creative, you are living below your potential. Maybe, like Bezalel, you need to be filled with the Spirit of creativity.

God wants to give us creative ideas, not just in church, but also at home and at work and in our relationships and in our finances. God is interested in our entire lives. That means God cares about our work. He created us to work. Work is a blessing, not a curse. He wants to anoint our work with blessing, wisdom and revelation.

There are several keys to anointed work. The first thing we saw with Bezalel was that he was called by God. Calling is not just for preachers or full-time ministers. I believe all of us have a calling.

The Bible is full of examples of different callings including:

Artistic Ability	Architectural Ability	Administration
Boating	Carpentry	Cooking
Designing	Farming	Fishing

Writing
Music
Teaching

Leading
Painting
Selling

Medicine
Inventing
Soldiering

These are not all considered spiritual abilities – in fact most of them aren't - but in the Bible God used people with these abilities. We need to get beyond just finding a job and find our calling. When we are in our calling we will be fulfilled in our work. When we are outside our calling, work will be a drudgery. I'm not saying work will be easy if you are in your calling, but I am saying it will be fulfilling. You'll go home tired but feeling like you accomplished something important.

How do you know your calling? Two keys we see with Bezalel are that God put a desire in His heart and God gave Him specific abilities. What are you good at? What's in your heart to do? Psalm 37:4 says:

Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.

That doesn't mean you will have everything you selfishly desire. It means that when we put God first and find our joy in Him, He will put desires in our hearts. That's one way we know our calling: by the desire in our heart. Also, we will see fruit in that area and others will see it to.

God anoints us when we are in our calling. The second key to anointed work is doing your work as unto the Lord. Colossians 3:23-24 says:

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

Work as unto the Lord, not men. The key is to work as if He were your boss. Work as if God is watching, because He is! If you would change anything about the way you work if Jesus showed up physically at your workplace to watch you work – you better change that because Jesus is at your workplace watching you work!

The great thing this verse promises is that when God's your boss, you will be rewarded. You will be blessed when you do things God's way. And you will also be able to bless others!

In December 1944 America was in the middle of World War II. Just days before Christmas, the Battle of the Bulge inflicted major casualties on the Germans and Hitler's reign started to crumble. General Dwight D. Eisenhower led the American troops swiftly through France, Belgium and into Germany itself. As they moved toward Berlin, they faced one last major obstacle, the Rhine River. Since the time of Napoleon, this swift muddy river had held Germany's enemies at bay.

The Americans were approaching the Rhine River without enough boats to get across. So, General Eisenhower sent an urgent message to Washington saying he needed 700 specially made boats by early March. The government began to contact civilian boat builders to build the boats.

On Feb. 9, they contacted the Florida boat builder Correct Craft. They said, "We are contacting every boat builder because we need 700 boats by Feb. 28. How many boats can you build by then?"

The owners of Correct Craft were Christians, so they said, "We'll pray about it tonight and let you know tomorrow." They were normally able to make 48 boats in a month, but when they prayed they felt God told them they could build 300 boats in 15 days.

Everyone told them this was impossible, especially since most male laborers were serving in the military. Nevertheless, the owners believed in a God who was able to do the impossible. So, they hired women, many of whom had family serving overseas. They increased their workforce from 60 to 320 and began to work 6 days a week. Notice I said 6. The government wanted them to work 7 days a week, but Correct Craft refused because they felt they must honor the Lord's Day in order to be blessed.

The government kept insisting until Correct Craft said, "If you keep insisting, you can have this contract back. This job is impossible for man to do alone." They knew this work had to be anointed by God! They believed if they honored God and His word and did their work God's way as unto Him, He would help them. And He did.

On Monday, Feb. 12, they built one boat. On Tuesday, they built 3 and on Wednesday they built 7. That was 3 of the 15 days they had to build, and they had only built 11 boats. So, they went to prayer that night.

The next morning, the owner's oldest son woke up with an idea for a new machine that would speed production. The idea worked and by the end of the week they had built 62 boats. But they had another 238 to build.

Yet, they took Sunday off to worship. The next week was dubbed by National Geographic as "The Production Miracle." Suddenly, Correct Craft was building 42 boats a day, almost as many as they previously made in a month.

They miraculously completed the job with 4 days to spare. The other boat builders – who worked 7 days a week – were far behind in production and the government asked Correct Craft if they would build more boats. So, they built another 100 boats before the deadline.

On top of that, the other company's boats were not built according to the specifications the military had provided, so they could not be used.

So Correct Craft met the deadline early and their boats were the only ones that could be used. Military experts estimated 15,000 lives were saved because Correct Craft was able to deliver those boats on time. Correct Craft was not able to do this on their own; their work was supernaturally anointed by the Spirit of God.

God wants to anoint our work. That takes us being dependant upon Him and doing our work His way. He is not going to bless sloppiness or laziness or mediocrity. He's not going to bless cutting corners or breaking His principles. We've got to start now in the job we have working for the Lord. Until we're faithful where we're at, we won't be given more. Until we do our work God's way, we won't be anointed.

The third key to anointed work is the power of God. One of the results of being filled with the Holy Spirit is that God will give you creative vision, dreams and ideas. In Acts 2:17 – on the day of Pentecost – when Peter stood up to preach, he said:

In the last days, God says, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

Being filled with the Spirit is more than speaking in tongues or prophecy. Those things are important. But another result of being Spirit-filled is having dreams and visions.

God wants to give us supernatural revelation – not just for our spiritual lives, but for our work and finances. God wants to bless us to fund His kingdom. Not all of us are called to preach or sing, but we are all called to fund the kingdom of God. God wants to supernaturally bless us so that we are blessed and so that we have more to invest into His kingdom.

Listen to this amazing true story. Matt McPherson is a songwriter, singer and worship leader. He has a passion for it, but after receiving only \$15 for a weekend of ministry, he realized he had to do something more to support his family. Matt began to seek the Lord about it and got a word that God was going to bless him in business so he could be self-sufficient in ministry.

One day God spoke something to Matt that changed his life forever. He said, "I know the answer to every problem in the world. If men would only ask me, I would give them the answers." Matt began to cry out to God for wisdom. He had grown up with a love for hunting and archery. He had made bows all his life. So, Matt asked God how to build a better bow.

Several weeks later Matt woke up at 3 AM and had a vision. He saw a piece of notebook paper suspended in front of his eyes. On it was a sketch of a bow

revealing a revolutionary new design that would change the archery industry forever.

That was in 1992. Today Mathews Archery is the largest archery manufacturer in the world. Matt has continued to ask God for wisdom and now has 20 patents with more on the way.

But Matt didn't stop there. He prayed for wisdom to design a better guitar. God answered his prayers once again and gave Matt the revolutionary design that became the state-of-the-art McPherson Guitar.

There are several things that are different about this guitar, the most noticeable being moving the sound hole to the edge of the guitar, which results in a fuller sound. The McPherson Guitar is the guitar of choice for many professional musicians, including Phil Keaggy, Steven Curtis Chapman, The Band Perry, Brad Paisley, and Chris Tomlin.

God has blessed Matt's companies and now he and his wife Sherry are financially able to travel and sing and record. In fact, they have their own recording studio and record company. God has anointed their work and blessed it so that they are self-sufficient in ministry. And in addition, they are able to give money to support other ministries. All because someone believed God had the answers to all problems and God anointed them to work!

Think of it: bows and guitars have been around for centuries. Then someone comes along and asks God for wisdom about how to make them better, and God gives it to them.

Matt takes no credit for the success he's achieved. He knows it was prayer and tapping into God's creative wisdom that brought this about.

God is no respecter of persons and I believe He wants to supernaturally anoint and bless our work! We may not invent something, but we may come up with some ideas or creative solutions to problems that improve the companies we work for. This would result in raises and promotions for us. That would bless us and allow us to bless others.

That's a fourth key to anointed work: depending on the Holy Spirit.

When I preach, I work hard at studying and praying. I do my part. I don't just show up unprepared. But I also know that if I just depend on myself, my study, my work, nothing lasting will happen. I must depend on the Holy Spirit.

So must you in your work.

You need the power of the Holy Spirit.

You need the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

You need the favor of the Holy Spirit.

You need the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Are you praying every day for God's wisdom?
Are you asking for His power?
Are you depending on yourself or the Holy Spirit?
Your power or His?

The disciples were expert fishermen, but they fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus came along and told them where to cast their nets and they caught so many fish their boat almost sank! That's anointed work!

Moses used a staff in his work as a shepherd, but when God anointed it, he used it to perform miracles and part the Red Sea! That's anointed work!

David used a slingshot in his work protecting sheep, but when God anointed it he killed a giant and won a great victory for Israel! That's anointed work!

And I believe when you do your work as unto Him – when you do your work God's way and for God's glory – when you totally depend on Him, He will anoint your work and you will see supernatural results.