

The Anointing of the Holy Spirit

Session #10

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Key Verse: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord" (1 uke 4:18-19 NKJV).

Key Scriptures:

- Acts 4:27; 10:38
- 1 Corinthians 2:4–5
- □ 2 Corinthians 1:21–22
- Ephesians 3:7
- □ 1 Thessalonians 1:5
- □ Hebrews 1:9
- □ Psalm 18:50; 20:6; 89:20–23.
- □ 1 John 2:20
- □ 1 Samuel 16:13
- □ 1 Kings 19:16

Objective: The purpose of this lesson is to help the student understand the anointing of the Holy Spirit and how to walk in it.

Introduction: The anointing of the Holy Spirit is absolutely critical to ministry. Without it, we can do nothing; with it, we can do anything as the Lord leads! God's power and presence come through the anointing, and the Holy Spirit is the member of the Godhead through which this anointing flows. Through the anointing, the Spirit releases His gifts and empowers us to be bold ambassadors of Christ as we represent Him before others. We need the anointing of the Holy Spirit!

I. What is the anointing?

A. Both Old and New Testaments use the word *anointing*.

- 1. In the Old Testament, two Hebrew words are used for the word *anointing*. The first is the word *balal*, which means "to overflow, especially with oil." The second is *mashach*, which means "to rub with oil," "to anoint," "to consecrate."
- 2. In the New Testament, two Greek words are used for the word *anointing*. The first is *chrio*, meaning "to smear or rub with oil," "to consecrate." The second is *aleipho*, meaning "to oil with perfume."

B. You need to understand what the anointing is and what it does.

- 1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is the overflow of the divine life of God through you as a consecrated servant of the Lord.
- 2. The anointing makes you spiritually able to impart the life and fragrance of God's Word into the lives of others.
- 3. Through the anointing, God goes beyond your natural abilities as a leader and imparts supernatural ability to minister.

II. Why do I need the anointing?

A. Jesus Himself needed the anointing (Luke 4:18–19; Acts 10:38).

- 1. Jesus needed the anointing to preach.
- 2. He needed the anointing to heal.
- 3. He needed the anointing for spiritual warfare.
- 4. He needed the anointing to set captives free.
- 5. He needed the anointing to discern and to deliver.

B. The apostles, too, walked in the anointing.

- 1. Jesus did not want them to attempt to begin their mission until they were walking in the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49).
- 2. The apostles waited in prayer until they were clothed with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).
 - a. In this verse, the Greek word for "power" is *dunamis.* This word means "power in action." It literally means a powerful force. The English word dynamite originates from this Greek word.
 - b. God, who is supernatural, wants to raise up a supernatural people who can do a supernatural work.

C. The apostle Paul depended upon the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Paul's entire ministry was based upon the active power of God at work in his life: "I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power" (Eph. 3:7 NIV).
- 2. Paul took no credit for the anointing present in his life, but gave all the credit to the mighty power of the Holy Spirit: "My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power" (1 Cor. 2:4–5 NIV).
- 3. The truth of Paul's message was verified by the powerful acts he performed through the anointing of the Holy Spirit: "For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true" (1 Thess. 1:5 NLT).

D. The anointing changed the course of David's life.

- 1. The Scriptures record that from the moment David was anointed by Samuel, the Holy Spirit came upon him with power (1 Sam. 16:13). Apparently, the change in Him was so great and the Spirit's presence so evident, that others took notice (v. 18).
- 2. As psalmist, David spoke of the Holy Spirit's omnipresence in His life (Ps. 139:7–10). He knew Him intimately and extolled His greatness.

E. God will give you the anointing, just like He did for Jesus, Paul, and David.

- 1. Second Corinthians 1:21–22 NIV says, "Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."
- 2. Not only does God save you and establish you in the faith, but He also gives you the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of all that is to come. What a glorious inheritance!

III. What are the divine purposes of the anointing in my life?

A. The anointing sanctifies you (Lev. 8:10–12 KJV).

- 1. The holy anointing oil sanctified everything it touched. In a similar fashion, you need the Holy One to make you holy. You cannot sanctify yourself; only the anointing can do that.
- 2. You need God's love to make you loving, His strength to make you strong, and His anointing to make you consecrated and holy to Him.

B. The anointing enables you to minister, or serve (Ex. 28:41).

1. After being clothed in the priestly garments, Aaron and his sons were anointed to serve as priests. They were set apart for this most holy task.

2. You are anointed to serve. The anointing is not for your own personal pleasure or use, but for serving others and ministering in the name of the Lord.

C. The anointing helps you to see (Rev. 3:18 KJV).

- 1. Among other things, the word *see* means "to perceive," "to be aware of," and "to regard."
- 2. The anointing helps you to perceive the value of the eternal, to "fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal" (2 Cor. 4:18 NIV).

D. The anointing imparts knowledge to you (1 John 2:20, 27).

- 1. The Holy Spirit brings revelation knowledge of God's truth.
- 2. Spiritual knowledge is not the result of academic study, but it is the result of fellowship with the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:12–16).

E. The anointing enables you to do good works (Acts 10:38).

- 1. You can anoint others for healing (James 5:14–15).
- 2. You are called to do good works, but the only ones that are of value are those done through the power of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Cor. 3:12; Zech. 4:6).

F. The anointing empowers you to preach (Luke 4:18–19).

- 1. Before He preached, Jesus acknowledged the presence of the anointing upon Him.
- 2. On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached under the anointing and 3,000 people received Christ (Acts 2:38–41).

G. The anointing will give you victory. (Isa. 10:27 NKJV).

- 1. The anointing of the Holy Spirit makes all the difference in your life. When you walk in the anointing, the Holy Spirit changes you from being a fearful follower to a powerful disciple. He moves you out of your comfort zone and into the challenge zone.
- 2. The anointing will break every yoke of bondage in your life, if you will avail yourself of it.

IV. How do I walk in the anointing?

A. Walk in holiness.

- 1. The anointing is always associated with consecration. God anoints only that which is consecrated to Him (Ex. 28:41; 29:29).
- 2. Consecration implies ownership. When you consecrate yourself to the Lord, you are acknowledging His supremacy in your life. This motivates you to live holy.

B. Walk in unity (Ps. 133:1–3).

- 1. When you walk in unity, the anointing flows upon you.
- 2. The anointing comes upon the one whose heart is in harmony with others and who desires to be a blessing to those around him.

C. Walk in diligence and obedience (Prov. 13:4 KJV; 28:25 NKJV).

- 1. The soul of the diligent shall be fat ("filled with oil").
- 2. He who trusts in the Lord shall prosper, literally meaning "to be fat with oil."

D. Walk in generosity (Prov. 11:25 KJV).

- 1. "The liberal soul shall be made fat," literally meaning to be "filled with oil."
- 2. Generosity on your part releases the anointing into your life.

E. Walk in righteousness (Ps. 45:7 KJV).

- 1. This verse speaks of the anointing of our Lord. Because He loved righteousness and hated iniquity, God gave Him the anointing.
- 2. God anoints those who are passionate about Him and His purposes. You, too, must also walk in this same kind of passion and zeal.

Summary: Nothing can take the place of the anointing. Books, television programs, teaching tapes, and counsel are all good things, but they cannot replace the anointing in our lives. If we want to be effective leaders, we've got to have the anointing. It's that simple.

Because of the anointing, we can preach, do good works, grow in knowledge, walk in revelation, and minister. The anointing empowers us to do all these things at a supernatural level above our natural level of ability. As we walk in holiness, unity, obedience, generosity, and righteousness, the anointing will flow more and more readily, and we will become "vessel[s] for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work" (2 Tim. 2:20).

THIS WEEK'S BIBLE READING: Isaiah

Use the **Bible Study tool** as you read. Return your completed form for credit. You will get much more from the time if you prepare in advance by reading prayerfully through the assignment:

Questions and Discussion Points

- 1. Give a simple definition of the anointing.
- 2. Why do Christians need the anointing?
- 3. Discuss the three purposes of the anointing that you most need to have operating in your life.