

From Chains to Freedom
through
God's Anointing

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing” (Isaiah 10:27).

Many Christians understand that the key to growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ is the anointing. A believer who manifests an anointing has the fruit of holiness on his lips; he reveals the fruit of righteousness from the Tree of Life. When God gives an anointing and the Word is preached with power, He breaks the yokes of bondage and people are released.

Yet, while Scripture makes it clear that the Holy Spirit anoints every believer at the point of salvation (2 Corinthians 1:21-22), many remain in their bonds. Nevertheless, when we turn to the Lord we shall see His glory, “and where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Chapter One

REVERENCE GOD IN THE ANOINTING

According to 1 Samuel 16:13, 2 Samuel 2:4, and 2 Samuel 5:3, David had three separate anointings regarding his call to become king. First, Samuel anointed David, whom God chose over his brothers to be king. Second, he was anointed to be king over Judah. Third, he was anointed to be king of Israel. Three specific anointings.

When believers gather for worship, their praise and singing prepares the way for God to bring indescribable blessings. Before the service ever begins, when members of the congregation function in their anointing as believer-priests, their attitude of prayer and praise can prepare the way for each singing group and for every speaker in the service.

We have to build up momentum for the presence of God to be manifested. If everyone

comes in with a heart full of worship and a quiet and prayerful spirit, expecting from God, then when we begin to worship, the manifestation of God's presence is beautiful. By the time the message comes, it can just flow.

God wants to anoint each part of the service; therefore, we need to *reverence* God's presence. Filling your seat is not enough. We are to prepare the way of the Lord (Isaiah 40:3). By being on time, with a heart prepared to receive an anointing to worship the Lord in song, you show tremendous honor and high esteem for His presence. The gift of music is not enough. Talent is not enough. The gift of speaking is not enough. A well-prepared message is not enough. For God's presence to be manifested and for burdens to be lifted, the service must have the anointing of God upon it.

The Anointings of an Office

What is an anointing? It is a supernatural act of God that gives a person divine ability to do the task at hand. It means that God has appointed a person to an "office," which Webster's defines as a special position of trust for a specific duty conferred by a governmental authority. God delegates kingdom authority to a believer-

priest according to his call. The office affords the necessary privilege of the anointing, the abiding presence of God.

In Acts 10:38, the Word of God says that the Holy Spirit anointed Jesus Christ to go about “doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; *for God was with him.*”

Every Christian who has the Holy Spirit is anointed, but many Christians do not *manifest* the anointing.

King Saul was anointed as captain over God’s inheritance (1 Samuel 10:1). Because of that anointing, David refused to lay his hand upon Saul (1 Samuel 24:6; 26:9-11): “The LORD forbid that I should stretch forth mine hand against God’s anointed.” Even though Saul was not right, he was still anointed—and David knew it! Saul didn’t manifest his anointing, but God anointed him and gave him an office.

A practical way to manifest God’s life is revealed in 2 Corinthians 4:10-11. As we are delivered unto death by people and circumstances for Jesus’ sake, His eternal life is made manifest in our mortal flesh.

God will never call a person without giving an anointing for the office (1 Thessalonians 5:24). It is the anointing that takes the burden from off

the shoulder and breaks the yoke from off the neck. This is why, in our example of the worship service, the Scripture reading must be anointed; every song must be anointed; and even the reading of announcements must be anointed. You ask, "How can you have anointed announcements?" The speaker manifests the anointing by his physical presence—his eyes, his tone of voice. With fervency, he commits his soul to the presence of God for the purpose at hand.

Seeking God Himself

There's such a difference between seeking God through knowledge and simply seeking God Himself. When we separate knowledge *about* God from God Himself, the knowledge is not anointed. But when the Holy Spirit accompanies knowledge, the knowledge is anointed and helps us to know God more intimately.

In Exodus 28:41, the priests had to be anointed for service, dedicated and set apart. First they were washed with water and clothed in linen and fine garments. Then at the tabernacle they were anointed with blood, first on the right ear, then the right thumb, and finally the right toe (Exodus 29:20).

The ear speaks of hearing—knowing how to

hear and being ready to hear (Isaiah 50:4-5). The thumb refers to the mind—knowing how to think once we have heard (Proverbs 16:3) and being ready to obey (2 Corinthians 8:12a). The toe speaks of our walk, or manner of living—that we would know how to walk and where to go (Psalm 16:11).

In Leviticus 14:14-17, the priests anointed those who needed cleansing first with blood, then with oil. As redeemed sinners, we needed a covering by the precious blood of Christ before we could receive the unction of the Holy Spirit. It is interesting that in Exodus 29:7 the anointing oil was poured on the head of the high priest (who represented Jesus Christ) *before* the animal was sacrificed. Because Jesus was perfect in His humanity, he didn't need personal atonement by a blood offering. Yet, because He humbled Himself as a man, He needed the anointing of the Holy Spirit to function in His call (Isaiah 61).

Then, in Exodus 30:26-29, the tabernacle and everything in it had to be anointed with oil "that they may be most holy: whatsoever toucheth them shall be holy." In Leviticus 16:14-19, however, we see the awesome plan of the most holy God foreshadowed. Because the congregation was unclean and the tabernacle defiled, He rec-

onciled them by sprinkling blood on the mercy seat in the holy of holies. Today, the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ, is sprinkled on the mercy seat in heaven, where we can boldly approach His throne (Hebrews 1:8-12; 4:16).

Anointed in Every Detail

There should be an anointing on a father's life to be a father. The application of the Blood is a covering so his past doesn't interfere with his fatherhood. The oil is for divine enablement by the Holy Spirit. A husband needs a special anointing to be a husband. How can he love his wife as Christ loved the Church if he doesn't have Christ's anointing (Ephesians 5:25)? So many saved husbands go to church, but they have never received an anointing to be a husband.

A wife needs an anointing to be the wife of a certain man. She needs an anointing that complements her womanhood. Single men and women need an anointing for God's call on their lives. Because the anointing sets us free, it will break the bands of loneliness and dispel whatever lies the enemy projects.

We need an anointing for each aspect of our lives. Remember that God anointed David for each new phase of his life. The Bible says in

1 John 2:20 that we have an 'unction', or anointing. This is true for all Christians. "But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any [natural] man teach you..." (1 John 2:27). You do not need a soulless unsaved educator to teach you about God's Book. The anointing manifests the life of Christ so we can apply God's divine medicine for the soul.

Chapter Two
THE FRUIT OF AN
ANOINTED LIFE

In Isaiah 61:7, the Word of God says, “they [Israel] shall rejoice in their portion:...everlasting joy shall be unto them.” They shouted for joy over their portion! The anointing for joy and gladness is, indeed, strength (Nehemiah 8:10). Throughout history and still today, people have endured unimaginable hardship for the joy set before them (Hebrews 12:2). *The anointing breaks the yoke.*

After seeing the New Jerusalem, John the Apostle wrote, “I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it” (Revelation 21:22). There will be no temple in heaven; however, our bodies, temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), will be there, glorified and perfected—God’s completed temples with a perfect, eternal anointing.

Have you ever wondered why James says

concerning those who are sick, “Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he hath committed sins, they shall be forgiven him” (James 5:14-15). Here is a great principle of God: The anointing will heal the sickness through the prayers of the elders. The oil is a symbol that the Holy Spirit has anointed their office with His power. Therefore, because of their office, they will see some specific healing that otherwise would not happen.

God wants the congregation to have special honor for the office of elder and pastor-teacher. When that happens, those who hold that office can use their gifts as special messengers to anoint the congregation, and the prayer of faith will heal the sick. This is a unique plan of God.

The Flesh Profits Nothing

Few conditions are worse than that of having second-hand knowledge without a first-hand encounter with God. This happens when people do not manifest their anointing. Christian schools and colleges, as precious and sacred as they are, are worth absolutely nothing unless

every class is anointed. It isn't enough for the teachers to get up and write on their blackboards. It is urgent that they live before God, think before God, and pray before God. Teachers must enter their classrooms in the nature of the presence of God.

There should be an anointing on every meeting, whether of a board of directors, deacons and elders, or outreach teams. The ear, the tongue, the thumb, the toe, the mind—each should be anointed. Every word spoken in a meeting should be under the anointing. That is honoring the principle of the presence of God.

Enjoying the presence of God and knowing that holiness is a tree ripe with fruitfulness, we begin to understand the nature of the anointing of the Holy Spirit: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance. These are the fruits of an anointed life. These are the fruits of someone whose burden was removed from his shoulder and the yoke taken off his neck. The anointing has broken the yoke.

The Word of God says so beautifully in Psalm 20:6, "The LORD saveth his anointed." With the anointing comes saving strength (Psalm 28:8), and the light of God shines upon

the head of the anointed (Psalm 84:9, 11).

The Anointing and Power

Here's a tremendous principle: When you are about to deal with a serious problem, go to God and receive an anointing for that problem. Whether or not it was your fault, make it right with God, and get an anointing for that problem.

Some people seek answers, while others seek God. Some people ask questions, while others flourish in the fellowship of His presence. I am not saying it's wrong to ask questions, but it's better to thrive in God's presence. We can't have His power and holiness in our lives unless the Holy Spirit anoints us.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is within you" (Luke 17:21). It is more than simply expanding in knowledge or doctrine. In the Kingdom of God we expand in an all-consuming, ever-growing relationship with Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Chapter Three

LIVING BEFORE GOD IN THE ANOINTING

“The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Corinthians 3:6*b*). Jesus made this clear when He said, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). Once again, the Word makes it absolutely clear that Jesus Christ would not speak words to the flesh without the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Fear is the result of not being anointed. Thinking of the past is another consequence of not being anointed. Insecurity is the evidence that someone is not manifesting an anointing. Preoccupation with self and self-serving interests in the flesh are marks of someone who lacks evidence of an anointing. A man with an unforgiving spirit reveals that he lives day in and day out without a fresh anointing from God.

The anointing of the Holy Spirit breaks the yoke. It takes the burden from the shoulder, and breaks the yoke off the neck. Luke 9:11 says that, because of His anointing, Jesus healed everyone who had need of healing. He healed Mary Magdalene, a woman who had seven demons (Luke 8:2), because He was anointed to do that.

So He could return to the people the next day with a ministry of power, Jesus continually went to the mountains, to the hills, and to the desert places to pray. When He sensed that the people did not properly receive the manifestation of God's power, Jesus would leave the crowds and go back to be with His Father. He would not minister unless He was ministering with an anointing.

Take Nothing for Granted

One of the greatest sins among believers is to take an anointing for granted. Keeping in mind that the Word of God is unchangeable, we learn and relearn truth. Sometimes we forget, but we are always learning.

When we begin to understand this principle of the anointing, our prayer life will have a brand-new impact. It is no longer fulfilling an obligation, "doing our duty," or an evangelical

practice. It is fulfilling a desire of love. Love takes us way beyond duty and far beyond obligation. Love takes us into an experience of the Holy Spirit's anointing.

Charles Spurgeon, a renowned preacher of the last century, would say before every message, "I'm deeply anointed tonight. I'm going to speak in a ministry of the Holy Spirit. God has anointed me now, and I claim it. I'm going to exercise the anointing in my faith. I'm going to be filled with the fruit of God's power."

He said this each time, reminding himself that he was to speak only in the anointing of God. Why is that so important? It's because only the anointing takes the burden from off the shoulders and breaks the yoke from off the neck. Nothing is more beautiful than that. The yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing: the yoke of Adam, the yoke of sin, the yoke of evil—removed, because of an anointing.

Discern the Anointing

Some people come to church overwhelmed and burdened with finances, overwhelmed with domestic problems or by the sudden news of disease in the family. They sit there robbed by Satan of the message and defeated in the flesh

because they did not discern the anointing. It did not break the yoke off their neck. To discern the anointing means to recognize the presence of God (John 14:17). Only an anointing can release the chains of bondage.

Someone recently asked me why I had spoken such a brief message that day. My answer? "Because that's all I was anointed to speak!" I was done when the anointing said 'quit' and brought the message to an abrupt close. I said everything I wanted to say because on that particular night I was anointed for twenty-seven minutes. It was not a conscious decision on my part. I didn't watch the clock. I just knew when to quit.

Every Christian has seen people in broken relationships, with broken hearts, and in bondage to differences. People suffer because they have never allowed the Holy Spirit to anoint their relationships. If people go against a pastor or another believer and do not repent, their relationships in the body of Christ will be strange. Instead of allowing the Holy Spirit to set them free, they grieve Him.

Responsibility and Accountability

Each time we prepare to hear a message, we

must receive an anointing *before* the pastor speaks. We must be anointed before the song leader leads us in singing. Before a musical group comes to sing, we need an anointing to hear that specific group. We need to do this as a practice. My part is to go to God and ask the Holy Spirit to anoint me for a specific purpose. Then, I pray for the singers and each speaker, that nothing would hinder their anointing as they minister.

Imagine what would happen in the offerings if everyone would ask God to anoint their faith to know what to give! Before an offering is taken, the members of the congregation should ask God to anoint their faith.

The point is this: Everyone has a responsibility before God and an accountability to Jesus Christ. Our faith needs to be anointed. Our love must be anointed. Our responses need to be anointed for each specific detail.

Begin to understand “responsibility” and what being responsible means: *response-ability*. We need responsibility to the Cross, to Christ’s death, to His burial, to His Resurrection, and to His Ascension. We need a responsibility to His mandates, to His promises, and to communicate His nature faithfully. It is through the anointing

that God gives divine responsibility.

It would be possible for me to grieve the Holy Spirit (so quickly that I wouldn't know it) by simply forgetting to ask for an anointing. As a counselor, if I forget being anointed for a session, I will grieve the Spirit without doing another thing.

You wouldn't have strange feelings around people with whom you differ if your feelings had God's anointing. We need the anointing of God for our emotions. Every moment of life is sacred, and our goal is to live each moment in an anointing.

CONCLUSION

On earth, Jesus Christ was anointed for every part of His life and each thing that He did. That is why He reaped results! He “went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil” (Acts 10:38), because He came for that purpose and was anointed for the task.

We need to guard our hearts to prevent becoming familiar with the anointing. Don’t rely on your gifts or your call apart from the anointing. Continually go before God’s throne of grace and mercy to find strength to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16).

I desire every detail in my life to be anointed and separated by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit. Every moment, every hour, every day, I must be sanctified by the Spirit, washed in the precious Blood of the Lamb (1 Peter 1:2-21). It is because He was manifested that we were able to believe. By Jesus Christ, the chains are destroyed.

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; be-

cause the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek...to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound" (Isaiah 61:1).

There is a purpose beyond ourselves. Let's seek God continually for specific anointings to break the heavy chains of bondage in our own lives. Then we will be able to give to those that mourn "beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness," as we glorify the Lord.