

THE ANOINTING

Text: I John 2:27

"The anointing." How often have we heard this term? We often say of preachers, teachers and singers "they were anointed" or "they were not anointed." Unfortunately, we sometimes wrongly attribute the "anointing" to individuals who display natural ability in their acts of ministry. The anointing is not a natural ability nor did Jesus mean for the anointing to be for only a few, but for all who would follow Him.

Understand, when Christ promised to send the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost to His followers, He did so in order that the Spirit might do at least two things:

1. Remind them of what He had taught them (and)
2. Empower them to accomplish the great commission.

So, we may say that to each spirit filled believer there has been given an "anointing."

■ I John 2:27 (Text)

"But the anointing which you have received of him abideth in you."

Jesus had already promised "I will send you another comforter that he may live and abide with you forever."

■ The Greek word for "Anointing" in v. 27 is "CHRISMA" which means: endowment (Chrism) of the Holy Spirit: - anointing or unction.

■ This is the same word used in Luke 4:18 where Jesus said, "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the Gospel...*"

Therefore it could be said we receive the same anointing as did Jesus when we received the baptism of the Holy Spirit."

But what exactly is the anointing? Before we can completely answer that we need to understand the different dimensions to the anointing. There are three (3) specific dimensions to the anointing.

It is divine approval, divine authority and divine ability.

First consider...

I. THE ANOINTING IS GOD'S DIVINE APPROVAL.

■ *Jesus said in John 14:15-16 "If you love me keep my commandments and I will pray the Father and He will send you another comforter."*

A life in line with the Word is a life with God's approval.

A. The anointing is not merited on our part or an act of favoritism on God's part.

It is important that we have a right understanding of what it means to say we have God's approval. Some people err in their thinking. They begin by saying...

- 1) God is Blessing me - true
- 2) God is Blessing everything I do - doubtful
- 3) Everything I do is God's will - false

B. The anointing is a natural blessing from obedience out of love.

■ Ivor Powell said "True love for Christ accepts His teachings, desires His honor, seeks His will, promotes His wishes, yearns for His nearness. True love promotes prayer, provides a heart free from immoral cobwebs, welcomes the One whose presence makes the heart a temple."

True Love for God will not go unrewarded. It will be returned.

II. THE ANOINTING IS DIVINE AUTHORITY.

■ I John 2:13-14 says, "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it."

1. This authority is absolutely necessary and totally impossible without unity with God.

Everything must be put on hold until we are one with the Father.

Even Jesus did not start His ministry until He received the anointing. Jesus put the ministry of the disciples on hold before He ascended when He said "Go and wait for the promise."

2. The anointing is an authority based on the merits of Christ.

When we ask in the name of Christ the Father looks past us and sees the Son as the real petitioner. He answers as though Jesus Himself had asked.

Our authority is based upon who we know and not upon what we can do.

III. THE ANOINTING IS DIVINE ABILITY GIVEN BY GOD.

■ In John 14:12 Jesus said, "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

A. The anointing is divine ability to do what Christ did.

Jesus was telling us "I must go away so you must take up where I have left off." We can do what Jesus did because of the anointing.

■ Mark 16:17-18 tells us, "And these signs shall follow them that believe, In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

B. The anointing is the ability to do *greater works* (or more in number).

Christ's ministry was limited to a very small part of the world and to what He could do as one person. But He has said to us "Go Ye" (all of us) into "all the world."

CONCLUSION

■ In his book *Gifted to Serve*, T.L. Lowery writes, “First John 2:27 teaches that followers of Jesus have received an anointing that remains. In the Old Testament, kings, priest, and prophets were anointed with oil as a sign that God had chosen them for specific tasks. In a similar way, God the Father gives the Holy Spirit to believers as God's seal or as a guarantee of the eternal life they have already entered into (Ephesians 1:13).” He goes on to say that, “Early Christians never said, “Let the pastor do it.” Every believer had experienced an electrifying encounter with the Holy Spirit. All Christians knew God had plans for their lives.” (19, 50)

God is still anointing believers today for special tasks. The anointing of the Holy Spirit is that which you need in order to fulfill God's plans for your life. Do you want to be an anointed servant of God? Be Filled With the Spirit!