

The Anointing

March 6, 2005

1 Cor. 2:1-5 (NKJV)

And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. [2] For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. [3] I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. [4] And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in **demonstration of the Spirit and of power**, [5] that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in **the power of God**.

I want to talk to you today about the thing that separates the extra-ordinary from the ordinary; the super-natural from the natural; a word from God from a word from man. I am talking about what the Bible calls "The Anointing".

We who call ourselves "Pentecostal" or "Spirit-filled" talk a lot about "The Anointing", but do we really know what it is? The simplest definition of "The Anointing" is "The power of the Holy Spirit".

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He stood in the synagogue and read from the Book of Isaiah these words....

Luke 4:18-36 (NKJV)

[18]"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;
[19] To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

Notice that it says that the **Spirit of the Lord** was upon Him and had **anointed Him** to preach.

Every preacher will tell you that it is a wonderful thing to feel the anointing of the Holy Spirit when you preach.

R. Kent Hughes puts it this way.....

“There are times when I am preaching that I have especially sensed the pleasure of God. I usually become aware of it through the unnatural silence. The ever-present coughing ceases and the pews stop creaking, bringing an almost physical quiet to the sanctuary----through which my words sail like arrows. I experience a heightened eloquence, so that the cadence and volume of my voice intensify the truth I am preaching.

There is nothing quite like it---the Holy Spirit filling one’s sails, the sense of His pleasure, and the awareness that something is happening among one’s hearers. The experience is, of course, not unique, for thousands of preachers have similar experiences, even greater ones.”

It is wonderful to know that **“the Holy Spirit is filling your sails”!** When “the anointing is there you know it! When it’s not there you know it! The anointing is not something you can “work up”. If you have to work it up, it’s not the anointing.

Let me tell you something else about the anointing. When you preach with the anointing, it will not necessarily make everybody appreciate you or like you.

After Jesus said, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me , because He has anointed me to preach”..... “all those in the synagogue were filled with wrath, and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff.”

The anointing can get you into trouble! Satan gets nervous when God's ministers preach with the anointing because it's the anointing that destroys his power. It's the anointing that destroys the power of darkness, heals the broken hearted, sets the captives free, gives sight to the blind, liberates the oppressed, saves the lost and heals the sick.

It was the anointing that gave Elijah the courage and the power to challenge the false prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel.

It was the anointing that enabled Moses to stand before Pharaoh and say.... "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let My people go...'"

It was the anointing that enabled Peter to go out into the streets of Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost and preach to thousands of Jews who had only a month and a half earlier crucified Jesus and three thousand of them got saved.

It was the anointing that enabled Martin Luther to stand against the power of the Catholic Church in the sixteenth century and proclaim that we are justified before God by faith and by faith alone.

It was the anointing that gave Bishop Hugh Latimer and Bishop Nicholas Ridley and John Bradford and all the other martyrs the power to praise God while the flames were engulfing their bodies. It enabled them to say, "Be of good cheer, brother, we shall have a merry supper with the Lord tonight."

It was the anointing that caused people to leave the Cathedrals in England and walk out into the fields to hear John Wesley and George Whitefield preach the gospel. Thousands of them were converted because of the power of the Holy Spirit that was upon those men.

It was the anointing that was upon Jonathan Edwards when he preached his famous sermon "Sinners in the hands of an Angry God", and strong men grabbed tree trunks to keep from sliding into hell.

It was the anointing that came on thousands of people one Sunday morning in Cane Ridge, Kentucky, in 1801 when an unknown lay preacher stood on a fallen tree and preached from 2 Corinthians 5:10, where it says, "We must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ". This was

long before **Benny Hinn**, but hundreds fell to the ground under the weight of the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit.

I could go on and on but you know exactly what I'm talking about. It's the anointing that makes the difference!

We must have the anointing. Without it we have only form with no substance. We have only ritual and ceremony but no reality. We have a form of godliness but no power.

2 Cor. 3:5-6 (NKJV) Paul said.....

Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God, [6] who also made us sufficient as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but **the Spirit gives life**.

That's why Paul said.....

1 Cor. 2:1-5 (NKJV)

..... when I came to you, I did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God. [2] For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. [3] I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. [4] And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the **Spirit and of power**, [5] that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Preaching is dead without the anointing. **Singing** is dead without the anointing. I don't care how much training a person may have, without the anointing it simply falls flat. It does not life your spirit and transport you into heavenly places like anointed singing does.

Even **prayer** without the anointing is dead and worthless. Jesus said.....

Luke 18:11 (NKJV)

The Pharisee stood and **prayed thus with himself**, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector.

The Pharisee was praying but he was praying with himself. There was no power in his prayer. No anointing. No life!

James tells us the kind of prayer that gets results. He said....

James 5:16 (NKJV)

.....pray for one another, that you may be healed. The **effective, fervent prayer** of a righteous man avails much.

The prayer that avails is the red hot, anointed, Holy Ghost inspired prayer of a righteous man.

O how we need the anointing! But how do we get it?

Let me remind you of a story that is found in the Old Testament. It is the story about a woman whose husband had died and the creditor was coming to take her two sons into slavery to pay off their debt. The story is found in 2 Kings, Chapter 4.

2 Kings 4:1 (NKJV)

A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets **cried out to Elisha**, saying, "Your servant my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves."

Notice it says, "She cried out to Elisha". Elisha means "God is salvation". He is a type of Christ. If you want the anointing you must asked for it. You must cry out to Christ!

2 Kings 4:2 (NKJV)

So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."

The jar was made out of clay. It is a type of humanity. It's symbolic of you and me. We are earthen vessels.

The oil stands for the Holy Spirit. When a clay pot is filled with oil, it's a picture of a child of God with the anointing of the Holy Spirit in his or her life.

2 Cor. 4:7 (NKJV) says....

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

It's not the vessel that's important! It's what's in the vessel that's important! It's the **anointing!** That's the treasure that's in the vessel and that's what is important!

Luke 4:14 (NKJV) says.....

Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region.

Jesus became very famous! Why? It was not because of His clever press releases or His T.V. spots. News of Him spread through-out that region because He had gotten alone with His Father, fasted for forty days, overcome the temptations of Satan and returned in the **power of the Spirit.**

He had the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon Him.

He went into the synagogue and said..... "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me!**"

God wants us to have that same anointing! Paul said.....

Romans 8:11 (NKJV)

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Jesus said.....

Mark 16:17-18 (NKJV)

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; [18] they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

Those things will only happen when the anointing of the Holy Spirit is working through you.

2 Kings 4:2-3 (NKJV)

So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house?" And she said, "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil." [3] Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbors--**empty vessels**; do not gather just a few.

Elisha told the woman to get all the empty vessels that she could find. The size of the vessels was not important. It made no difference if it was a big jar or a little jar; a plain jar or a fancy jar; an educated jar or an uneducated jar. The only requirement was that it was **empty!**

God cannot fill vessels that are already full of something. Vessels that are full of self and sin earthly things cannot be filled with the oil of the Holy Spirit. You must empty yourself of all selfishness and begin to hunger and thirst for more of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. That's when you will be filled.

Elisha told her to bring in jars from everywhere. He said, "Get as many as you can!" There is no shortage of oil! There's plenty for everyone.

Preachers, enlarge your vision! Don't be satisfied with a few vessels. Bring in all the vessels that you can possibly find. It doesn't matter what color the vessels are. As long as they are vessels, God wants to fill them and use them for His glory!

2 Kings 4:4 (NKJV)

And when you have come in, you shall shut the door behind you and your sons; then pour it into all those vessels, and set aside the full ones."

He told her to shut the door. The anointing is going to be obtained in private.

Matthew 6:6 (NKJV)

But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

If you want the anointing of the Holy Spirit on your life, you must develop a private, intimate prayer time alone with God. That's where you will get your vessel filled with the anointing oil of the Holy Spirit.

2 Kings 4:5-6 (NKJV)

So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out. [6] Now it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said to her son, "Bring me another vessel." And he said to her, "There is not another vessel." So the oil ceased.

There is no shortage of oil! The depth and height and strength of God anointing in your life is determined by only one thing and that is your availability.

The song says.....

“His love has no limit; His grace has no measure;
His power has no boundary known unto men.
For out of His infinite riches in Jesus
He giveth and giveth and giveth again.”

Psalm 133 describes the anointing of Aaron. It says that the oil was poured upon his head and it ran down his beard and it ran down to the edge of his garments. He was literally baptized in oil. The oil was poured out.

That is what Jesus has promised to do in His church in the last days.

Joel 2:28 (NKJV)

"And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions.

Isaiah 55:2 (NKJV)

Why do you spend money for what is not bread,
And your wages for what does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good,
And let your soul delight itself in abundance.

The Lord doesn't want us to merely exist with a few drops of oil. He wants us to have an abundance!

And finally.....

2 Kings 4:7 (NKJV)

Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."

The man of God told her to pay off her debts and live on the rest!

Her existence gave way to living!
Her bondage gave way to freedom!
The anointing broke the yoke!

That's what Jesus wants to do for you. He wants to set you free. He wants you to have life more abundantly.

I believe He has brought you to this convention to get you vessel filled with a fresh supply of oil! All of you missionaries and pastors and evangelists who are already here and all of those who will be here tonight and throughout the week, God is ready to fill you! All of you who are members of Elim, God is ready to fill you. There is no shortage of oil. He's looking for vessels!

When you cry out to Him, He will hear you cry! Give invitation!