

# THE ANOINTED

By

Curtis Dickinson

Anointing in the Bible is either material – with oil, or spiritual – with the Holy Spirit. In Israel the prophets, priests, and kings were usually inaugurated to their offices through the ceremony of anointing the head with oil or ointment.

In the Old Testament a Savior is promised under the title of Messiah, the Hebrew word for Anointed (Psalm. 2:2; Dan. 9:25-26). This anointing was to be spiritual, with the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 61:1).

When Jesus was about thirty years old (Luke 3:23) he was baptized by John. “Having been baptized and praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form, as a dove, upon him, and a voice came out of heaven, Thou art my beloved Son: in thee I am well pleased” (Luke 3:21-22). From this time on Jesus is said to be “full of the Holy Spirit.” and “in the power of the Holy Spirit.” “And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit returned from the Jordan, and was led in the Spirit in the wilderness during forty days, being tempted of the devil” (Luke 4:1-2).

It was soon after this that Jesus went to Nazareth where he had been brought up. On the Sabbath day he entered the synagogue and was given the book of Isaiah to read. “And he opened the book, and found the place where it was written,

‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, Because he anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor: I have sent me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovering of sight to the blind, To set at liberty them that are bruised, To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.’

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down: and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, **Today has this scripture been fulfilled in your ears**” (Luke 4:17-21).

Here, at the beginning of his ministry, is a declaration by Jesus that he is the one whom God anointed to fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy. In this anointing Jesus received the Holy Spirit of God, the spirit by which God spoke, by which He created and through which He was able to cause whatever He desired to be accomplished. The spirit with which God anointed Jesus would give Jesus the power to do the works of God, just as if God were doing them. John the Baptist said “For he whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for God did not give the Spirit by measure. The Father loves the Son, and has placed everything under his hand” (John 3:34-35). The Holy Spirit of God was not given to Jesus “by measure” but totally, and without limits.

Throughout Jesus' ministry he emphasized the fact that he had no inherent power of his own, but that he was an agent of the Father, and could only do that which the Father enabled him to do.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing: for whatever things he does, these the Son also does in like manner.” (John 5:19)

“For as the Father has life in himself, even so gave he to the Son also to have life in himself; and he gave him author authority to execute judgment because he is a son of man” (John 5:27).

“I can of myself do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is righteous; because I seek not my own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 5:30).

“My teaching is not mine, but his that sent me” (John 7:16).

“When you have lifted up the son of man, then shall you know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself, but as the Father has taught me, I speak these things. And he that sent me is with me; he has not left me alone; for I do always the things that are pleasing to him” (John. 8:28-29).

“The words that I say unto you I speak not from myself, but the Father abiding in me, does his works” (John 14:10). “If you loved me you would have rejoiced, because I go unto the Father: for the Father is greater than I” (John 14:28).

In these seven statements Jesus disclaims any intrinsic power of his own to perform the great miracles and signs the people had witnessed. The supernatural signs were not for the purpose of demonstrating his own power, but to prove that he had been anointed by God and was, indeed, the promised Messiah. John said that Jesus did many other signs which are not written. “But these are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Anointed), the Son of God; and believing you may have life in his name” (John 20:31).

While anointing with the power of God's Spirit enabled Jesus to perform supernatural signs and miracles, it in no way took the initiative away from Jesus. Jesus still had full control of his actions. He had the freedom of choice and exercised his own will. He deliberately chose to obey God in every way, even to the point of death. “I lay down my life for the sheep,” he said. “No one takes it (life) from me, but I lay it down of my own accord” (John 10:15, 18).

When tempted, Jesus resisted the temptation by resorting to the commandments of God. The motive for his faithful obedience was not fear of punishment nor for appearances sake. It was because he delighted in pleasing the Father. “I do always the things that are pleasing to my heavenly Father” (John 8:29). “My meat is to do the will of him that sent me and to accomplish His work” (John 4:34).

Adam and Eve had a choice: to obey God or Satan. They showed no desire to please the heavenly Father, while Jesus - “the second Adam” - lived only for the purpose of pleasing Him. “I seek not my own will, but the will of him that sent me” (John 5:19)

It is one thing to receive the unlimited spirit of God that gives one the power to control the storm, heal the sick and even to raise the dead. None of this required great effort or self-sacrifice on Jesus’ part. But it is quite another thing to be the one who is expected to live a sinless life and be fully obedient to God, even when it meant criticism, opposition, and intense suffering. Yet, it was because of his obedience, not because of the power bestowed on him at his anointing, that he was exalted and glorified after his resurrection. “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient unto death, yea, the death of the cross. Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him a name that is above every name” (Phil. 2:8-9). “Though he was a Son, yet learned obedience by the things which he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation” (Heb. 5:8-9).

It is in his perfect obedience to the Father that Jesus became our example. We Christians are never commanded to work signs and miracles – contrary to what many Pentecostal evangelists say today – but we are told over and over that we are to be obedient to the Lord’s commands. Before his ascension Jesus called the eleven apostles together and said, “All authority has been given unto me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:18-20).

Our obedience is possible when we follow the example of Jesus and commit ourselves fully to God. “For hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow his steps: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: who, when he was reviled, reviled not again, when he suffered threatened not: but committed himself to him that judges righteously: who his own self bare our sins in his body upon the tree, that we having died unto sins, might live unto righteousness” (1 Pet. 2:21-24).

He suffered, but “did no sin” – not even a hateful word for his persecutors. He did not retaliate against those who made him suffer, but committed himself to God’s purpose and God’s will. This means that Jesus was convinced that God’s way is always right, and the only way.

This is the way we glorify God, as Jesus glorified Him, by doing the work He gives us to do (obeying Him). “Even so let your light shine before men; that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16).

.....  
Copyright © Curtis Dickinson. Formatted and Posted by Ken Fortier Ministries. Permission is hereby granted by Mrs. Regina Dickinson to reproduce and distribute Curtis’ articles to as many as possible. This statement is to remain attached to this article for permission to be valid. Vol. XLIV, Number 4.  
.....