



Topic: The Value of the Oil
(Understanding the Anointing of God on My Life)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who has also sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

~2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NKJV)~

Dr. K. L. Thompson, Remnant of God Deliverance Ministry, Inc.
www.ROGDM.org

INTRODUCTION

The world that you and I have no option to live in on today is filled with chaos and confusion. So many people are uncertain of what direction their lives are taking. The governmental and societal systems we could once “somewhat” rely upon are crumbling at the seam. Where we thought at one time we had at least a little handle on how to maneuver and get by the necessities of life, we now find ourselves perplexed and in despair of what our next move should be. While this world is yet filled with chaos and confusion, it is also filled with unlimited opportunities for us to live victorious and overcome. But our victorious living will only be realized as we come to realize the power or operating force in our life which is our connection to our God.

While our God never promised us that living a life submitted and pleasing unto Him will cause us to avoid life’s pitfalls, tragedies, nor adversities, our God has promised that He would be there to deliver us out of them all.

Psalm 34:19 (NLT)

The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time.

This is our promise that no matter what we face in this life, we can rest assured that our God will bring us through.

As we know we did nothing to earn God’s protection over our life. All the work of securing our future was wrapped up in the love of the Father demonstrated in the face of the Son. It was God who established us in Christ. As our study text (*cf. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22*) tells us that not only has God established us in Christ but He has also anointed us and sealed us giving us the Spirit as our guarantee of this seal. The value of God’s anointing upon our life mustn’t be under estimated. The value of the oil upon our life is greater than we will ever fully grasp in this life. However, when we come to the understanding of the importance of God’s anointing in and upon our life, we will begin to live on the side of victory through all that rise up and that brings opposition our way.

OUR STUDY

Our study is taken from the Apostle Paul’s second letter written to the church at Corinth. The Apostle pens this letter at a very vulnerable time in his life writing this letter to the church to defend and protect his Apostleship and to teach and warn against false teacher who were spreading heresy. Paul’s introduction of himself as an apostle is both familiar and necessary, because he was held in low regard among the

Christians in Corinth. Paul reaffirms that his calling and election as an apostle was by the will of God. Paul was not an apostle by the decision or desire of any man, including Paul himself. Like the Apostle Paul, we too must understand that our placement in the plan and will of God was not by our decision nor by the decision of any other man either. It was God himself working through His Son Jesus Christ that made the choice to choose you and me. Jesus tells us so as captured in the writing of the Apostle John.

John 15:16 (NKJV)

You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

We see from the words of Jesus Christ that we cannot take credit for our being in Christ. It was by the will of God that you and I have found ourselves in the Master's Plan. Therefore, if the Corinthian Christians held the Apostle Paul in low regard, it did not diminish his standing as an apostle before God nor will anyone or anything diminish our standing before God.

Paul understood fully that it was God who had established him and appointed him and anointed him in Christ Jesus. In all that the Corinthians were encountering and experiencing in their serving the Lord, the Apostle wanted them to understand and grasp this powerful truth as well.

2 Corinthians 1:21 (NKJV)

Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God.

In this verse, the Apostle tells us that not only has God established us in Christ, God has done something so much greater...He has anointed us. But what exactly does this mean; how exactly does this happen? We know from dictionary.com the word "anointed" is defined as "smeared with oil" (verb) or "a consecrated one" (noun).

What is the anointing? What does it mean to be anointed?

The origin of anointing was from a practice of shepherds. Lice and other insects would often get into the wool of sheep, and when they got near the sheep's head, they could burrow into the sheep's ears and kill the sheep. So ancient shepherds poured oil on the sheep's head. This made the wool slippery, making it impossible for insect to get near the sheep's ears because the insects would slide off. From this, anointing became symbolic of blessing, protection, and empowerment.

In Bible times, people were anointed with oil to signify God's blessing or call on that person's life.

1 Samuel 16:13 (MSG)

Samuel took his flask of oil and anointed him, with his brothers standing around watching. The Spirit of God entered David like a rush of wind, God vitally empowering him for the rest of his life.

In this passage of scripture we see the prophet Samuel, at the leading and command of God, anointing the boy David who had been chosen by God to rule as king over the people of God. What is significant here is that our scripture reference taken from the Message Bible lets us know that this anointing was the empowerment over King David equipping him to carry out his divine kingdom assignment for the rest of life. This is the same with you and I. God's anointing upon our life comes to equip us and to empower us to live our lives totally submitted and completely victoriously unto the God of our salvation.

The act of the prophet Samuel in anointing or pouring of oil upon the child David was an act symbolic of God's Holy Spirit being manifested in David's life. There is no power in the literal liquid oil used here by the prophet just as there is no power in the literal anointing with olive oil practiced in most Christian or apostolic faiths of today.

Spiritual significance of the oil (the anointing).

As previously stated, the oil is symbolic representing, by the faith, the presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is called "holy" because of the work He does in the believer's lives. In the Bible the Holy Spirit is symbolized by many things, such as the wind, the living water, and the fire. At the same time, the Holy Spirit is also life and power. However, the Apostle John is particularly sweet in his description of the Holy Spirit as the anointing.

I John 2:27 (KJV)

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

Like Paul, John also lets us know that we have received this anointing from God; we did nothing to earn it. The anointing of God abides in us and does so to perform a true work in us. He comes to teach us all things as we continue to abide under the anointing. Whatever the anointing teaches us speaks of the truth of God; the anointing never lies. This is why we should never underestimate the value of God's Spirit working within our life. The anointing comes upon our life on purpose and for purpose.

John 16:13-15 (MSG)

I still have many things to tell you, but you can't handle them now. But when the Friend comes, the Spirit of Truth, he will take you by the hand and guide you into all the truth there is. He won't draw attention to himself, but will make sense out of what is about to happen and, indeed, out of all that I have done and said. He will honor me; he will take from me and deliver it to you. Everything the Father has is also mine. That is why I've said, 'He takes from me and delivers to you.'

From this passage of scripture we see that without God's anointing or Spirit operating in our lives, the Bible tells us that there are things that you and I can't handle. But when God's promised Spirit is come, He will perform the work and plan of God in our life causing us to live as God designed.

Acts 1:4-5 (NKJV)

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The water baptism of John was a foreshadow of the greater baptism of God's Holy Spirit promised by the Father. Here, the disciples were encouraged that if they remained in Jerusalem (a place of worship) they were sure to receive the Father's promise unto them. This is the same for you and me. We must maintain a posture of adoration, worship, and praise unto the Lord; even in our most difficult times. The Bible tells us in Psalm 22:3 that the Lord inhabits the praises of His people. In other words, the Lord shows up in our praise so it behooves us when looking for the Lord to give Him praise.

The power of the oil (God's authority)

Acts 1:8 (NLT)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witness, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

When the Holy Spirit (God's Anointing) descended upon believers at Pentecost, it was not a quiet event, but a powerful one. The Bible tells us that when the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and begin to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Immediately, we read how the Apostle Peter after receiving God's anointing and authority stood up to rebuke the mislabel that had been placed on what had occurred. Some of those looking on had assumed that those who were being anointed were somehow actually under the influence of wine. Peter, full of the anointing and power of God stood up in the authority of the newly out poured anointing and began to expound on the Word of God with demonstration through the scripture that what was happening is what the prophet of old had said would happen. The lives of the people of God were being changed by and through the anointing or oil of God. These first converts laid the foundation for an effective witness of the transforming power of the anointing in the life of those who receive because they believe.

The same is true of you and I. Once we embrace the truth of all God is in all His authority and power, we too will experience a life transformation. Like the rebel Peter who feared for his life after the arrest of Jesus leading him to deny his very association with the Son of God, "the Christ" as he had once called him, we too will become bold witnesses for this Christ crying out compelling men to come unto the Lord. The anointing of God upon our life is what has made us new.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Notice how the Apostle Paul starts this verse with "therefore". His use of this word is to suggest to us that what was prior has now been changed. When we read up one verse, we see Paul letting us know that unless we are in Christ Jesus, our view of Christ Jesus will be based on a fleshly view. No man can begin to know the Son or the Father accept he comes to know them in the newness of his own life. It takes God's anointing upon us to reveal to us who God truly is. God's anointing comes on us when we open ourselves up to receive. Apart from that all we will ever know about the Lord will be defined by our own lifestyle. We must catch the glimpse that the Apostle Peter caught when Jesus asked those surround him concerning who they said He was.

Matthew 16:13-16 (NLT)

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God."

If we read a little further in this passage of scripture, we see that at Peter's response of who Jesus is, Jesus replied letting Peter know that he was blessed because what had been revealed to him could only have

come from a touch of the Father's anointing giving him that revelation. Jesus tells Peter that flesh and blood could never give the true revelation of who Jesus, the Son of God is. Also notice that Peter calls him the Messiah which means the Anointed One. Here Peter lets us know that he recognizes the oil on the life of the Son of God...what a powerful revelation this must have been for Peter. Peter would never be the same and to validate this, Jesus tells him that he is no longer simply Simon but has been given a new name to associate with the new man in revelation he had become. Jesus says to Simon, "you are Peter (which means 'rock')". Jesus goes on to say that upon this rock He will build His church and the church that he builds the power of hell will not overcome it. Let's get a little clarity here...Jesus is not speaking of building his church upon Peter or with Peter's assistance. What Jesus is saying is that you and I can begin to "become" the church of the Living God only after receiving the anointing of God which brings true revelation of God. It is the anointing of God's oil that tears down all falsehoods concerning who you and I apart from God thought that God was. We will never come into the knowledge of the power and authority we have been blessed with except by our unwavering faith in the Lord. The power of the oil of God is able to break all strongholds in our life; it's able to open blind eyes; it's able to set the captive free.

Isaiah 10:27 (KJV)

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.

Here in this passage the prophet Isaiah gives word of hope and consolation to the people of God who are in bondage to the Assyrians. He tells them do not be afraid of the Assyrians who are going to lift up their rod and staff against the nation. God uses the prophet to tell the people that God is going to break the yoke because of His anointing on His people. This should also inspire you and to a place of hope and trust in the power and authority of God's anointing at work in our life breaking down and destroying every obstacle that attempts to stand between us and God. The anointing is the burden-removing yoke-destroying power and authority of God.

The value of the oil (the price paid).

Question: Do you understand the value of your anointing?

This may be a question that few of us have the answer to right on the tip of our tongue. Given a couple of minutes to meditate on this question, we just might be able to come up with an answer that somewhat makes sense. Whether we believe it or not, a great price was paid.

John 16:7 (KJV)

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

We glean from this passage of scripture that the disciples had no clue of what they were in store for. They were ignorant to the great blessing that awaited them. We read earlier in this chapter that Jesus has taken this opportunity to give His disciples warning of the sufferings that would come. He wanted them to be warned so that when these things begin to happen, they would be prepared for them. Their embrace and belief in the Holy One, the Christ would usher them into great persecutions. They would not be welcome in the very place where worship of the God of Israel was to go forth. In fact, Jesus tells them that some may even be killed by those believing they are doing God a favor. He tells them these things will be done because the people doing them, although they claim to know the Father, never understood the Father. Jesus tells the disciples that he held back this news from them earlier because He was still with them. But now

the time of His departure is at hand; He is on His way back to the Father who sent Him. It amazes how these very disciples who walked with the Savior; ate with the Savior; saw miracles wrought at the hands of the Savior now are sadden by the pending earthly departure of the Savior. It is at their response that the Lord begins to break open a truth to them concerning the glorious future that awaits them at His departure from His earthly tabernacle. Jesus tells them that His departure from them will usher in the Holy Spirit or anointing of God. As long as they had Jesus living among them in the flesh they would never be able to receive the power of God's anointing through the gift of His Holy Spirit. They would never be able to experience the union and fellowship between the Father and the Son that comes through being reunited back unto the Father. See, while you and I didn't have to pay the price for God's precious anointing upon our life, the anointing yet cost a great price.

Romans 4:25 (NLT)

He was handed over to die because of our sins, and he was raised to life to make us right with God.

Romans 8:32 (NKJV)

He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Wow; what love the Father has bestowed upon us! The price of our freedom from sin...it cost a Father His only begotten Son; it cost a Son to lay down His life. Jesus' death opened up the way for you and I to get back to the Father. Man in his fall into sin was left broken in his relationship with his creator God. There was no way we could ever right the wrong wrought by the sin through Adam and Eve's disobedience to God. Knowing this, God took it upon Himself to redeem us back to Him. God became flesh like you and I for the sole purpose of restoring the "apple of His eye".

John 1:14 (NLT)

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

Except our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came down in human form there was no way the penalty for sin could be paid. The Father loves us so that He would wrap Himself up in the flesh of His only Son and come to earth for the sole purpose of giving up this life in exchange for our life. The Bible tells us in **John 15:13** "*Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down hi life for his friends*". There is no love on earth that can compare to the love of the Father upon His children. John says it like this:

John 3:16-17 (MSG)

This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

The anointing comes not to destroy us but to make us right; to make us whole again. As we have said, without the power of God's anointing (Holy Spirit) operating in our lives, we will never; can never be made right. God poured out of Himself in order to pour Himself in us. There was a price to pay for God's great anointing. Jesus paid it all; it is to Him that we owe all. Jesus took on the physical pain of crucifixion hanging in our stead. He was mocked, beaten and humiliated. In His weakened state, He was forced to

carry on His shoulders the instrument of His death—the cross. Then He was nailed to it and hoisted up to die an excruciating death.

He did all this to take on man's sin. Jesus lived a perfect life on earth and never knew the disgrace of sin or the bitterness of regret. But at the cross, the Father placed all of mankind's sins upon the Savior (*cf. 2 Cor 5:21*). There our Savior experienced the fullness of our transgressions, guilt and shame. To cap it off, in the final hours of this humiliating ordeal, the Son of God; the Holy One; the One who had always been with the Father experienced what you and I have never experienced...ABANDONMENT. Jesus was separated from His Father; their fellowship broken for the only time since eternity past. It was the sin of you and I that became the barrier that kept them apart until the Son (the Redeemer of the world) had finished the work of atonement for our sin. What a great price paid for you and I to receive the right to the tree of life.

Conclusion

One of the most precious and valuable gifts that God gave us, as believers, is the Holy Spirit (His anointing). The Holy Spirit came to dwell in each one of us the moment we became born again. The Father has sent the Holy Spirit unto us to lead us and guide us into all truth. He's also here to lead us in our daily affairs. Jesus tells us that the Comforter, which is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in Jesus' name, he shall teach us all thing and bring to our remembrance all the things spoken by Jesus unto us (*cf. John 14:26*). The oil on your life is always flowing in the direction of God's divine plan for your life. My brother and my sister, you and I have been called to walk in the same miracle working power as Jesus did. And we will—when we understand the Holy Spirit anointing that's in us. The anointing upon our life has come to empower us to be effective witness for Christ; it has come to enable us to share the Good News about Jesus Christ to the lost; it has come to enable us to live victoriously. *The Value of the Oil.*

God's peace and blessing be upon you....

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