

Understanding and honouring the work of  
the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer

# The Presence of God



*Mark Hemans*

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## **Weekly Studies:**

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit
2. The Person of the Holy Spirit
3. The Anointing
4. Jesus Christ is the Anointed One
5. The Anointing and holiness
6. The manifest presence of God
7. How to receive the Anointing
8. The Anointing and leadership

## **Appendix**

- A. The sin and occult list

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# HOW TO USE THE STUDIES

Whatever your knowledge of the Bible you will find these studies a great blessing. They may be used for preaching, seminars, home groups, personal reading, or discipleship.

Each study consists of a memory verse, Bible reading, a simple teaching, followed by some discussion questions relating to what has been taught. Although the studies are simple, they are arranged as to gradually build a deeper understanding on certain themes.

If using the course for a small group or to disciple someone, the following is recommended:

- ◆ The group (student) reads through the teaching and answers the questions BEFORE the meeting.
- ◆ The leader thoroughly acquaints himself with the material before meeting with his home group.
- ◆ The leader at the meeting then highlights the main points in the teaching. (Reading through the teaching will not leave sufficient time for the discussion questions.)
- ◆ The leader then opens the group up to discussion based on the questions given. As there are numerous questions, the leader should ask only one or two people to respond for each question. Focus should be given to the application questions (e.g. “How does this apply to your life?”).

The studies include examples from the life of the author or from someone else to illustrate the teaching. It would be preferable for the leader to substitute his own life experience or perhaps one from the group itself. This will facilitate sharing in the group.

## THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Memory Verse:

**“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”**

**Luke 11:13**

Bible Passage: Acts 2:1-21

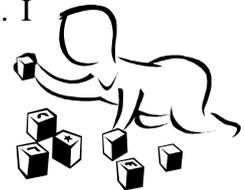
Goal: To understand and receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Note: The leader or a group member may like to share their own experience of how they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, instead of the using the testimony below. People’s experiences of the baptism in the Spirit vary, it may be a powerful and immediate experience, or gradual as with the testimony here.

### **An experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit**

When Mark was 16 he attended a conference on the Holy Spirit. There were about 500 people there and he sat in the gallery. The speaker shared a message and afterwards invited those who wanted to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit to stand up. Mark stood up with some others and the speaker prayed. He didn’t feel anything.

At that time Mark had received teaching about the prayer of faith: that our prayers are based on faith in God’s Word, and not on what we see or feel. He went home and entered his room and prayed: “Lord, I stood up in faith to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I now thank You for it by faith. Father, I ask that You might give me the gift of tongues as a sign of this baptism. I know that You are generous and that You desire to give good gifts to Your children. Lord I now believe that You impart this gift to me as I step out in faith and speak. In the Name of Jesus, Amen.”



As he began to speak a few words, Satan came to discourage him in his thoughts, saying, “Mark, you are just speaking like a baby.” He answered him, “Yes, I am speaking like a baby, but I am speaking by faith, and my faith pleases God (Heb. 11.6). Be gone!”

Each day Mark practiced the gift of tongues by faith for several months. At first he spoke very few words but little by little the words increased until they became a language. At the end of those months he went to his pastor and asked him about this language. He assured him that he was speaking in the language of the Holy Spirit, which was a great encouragement.

### **Receiving the power of God to live the Christian life**

The Lord not only gave Mark the gift of tongues, but also radically changed his life. Before he lacked courage to share his faith in Christ with others. He often suffered depression, like a black cloud over his life. He was violent, fighting with his five brothers and sisters at home, and with the boys at school. He felt a

hypocrite. Even his mother said that she prayed more for him than all the rest! Mark was disciplined as much at school as at home for his bad behavior. The discipline gave him a deep desire to resolve his problems!

When Mark asked the Lord to baptize him with His Spirit, He wanted to receive the power of God to change him. By his own effort he could not do it. He felt frustrated and guilty. But thanks be to God that when we call to Him, He always hears us and responds. The depression and violence went in the Name of Jesus. The Lord gave Mark the courage to share the Gospel with others. He was chosen as president of the students. He formed prayer groups at school. His school mates couldn't believe the change in his life. Instead of fighting he shared the Bible with them. He was hungry for the Word of God, and thirsty for prayer.

**"I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."**

**Matthew 3:11-12**

In the baptism in the Holy Spirit we can experience the divine fire which burns and cleanses the spiritual rubbish out of our lives.

### **Rivers of living water**

Almost 15 years after this baptism, Mark asked for prayer as he felt spiritually dry. When someone laid hands on him, he fell under the power of God, and felt a wonderful peace. Mark had believed in Christ as Saviour and Lord, had studied at a Christian university and seminary. He had believed with his will and intellect, but on that



day he experienced the waters of the well of salvation for the first time. While he was lying down on the floor, it seemed that he was under water, like in a pool, with people talking above. He couldn't hear clearly what they were saying. Then he understood better why this promise is called the 'baptism' of the Holy Spirit.

**"On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, "If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, 'Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.'"**

**Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."**

**John 7:37-39**

### **What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is part of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. We use the word anointing to describe all the manifestations of power of the Holy Spirit, such as deliverance, miracles, and healings. Even unbelievers can experience manifestations of the anointing. However the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct promise for those who believe in Jesus. The baptism in the Holy Spirit consists of :

RECEIVING SPIRITUAL GIFTS and especially the gift of tongues;

EXPERIENCING the Presence of the Holy Spirit;



RECEIVING COURAGE AND POWER to share the Gospel with others.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a blessing promised to us by God. It is not a requisite for our salvation. Salvation only comes through faith in Christ and His work on the cross. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a further blessing and promise for all those who believe in Jesus. Being baptized in the Spirit is not an excuse to think one is better than other Christians who have not had the same experience. On receiving Jesus as Saviour and Lord, the Holy Spirit enters into our hearts. In the baptism, the Holy Spirit comes upon us in power and flows from within like a river.

### **Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit**

The fullness of the Spirit dwells in Christ, therefore it is He who baptizes us:  
**“I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”**  
John 1:33-34

### **Holy Spirit baptism is a distinct promise for believers**

The promises of God don't depend on ourselves, but on the generosity of God. This promise of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all who believe in Jesus.  
**“And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, 'you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”**  
Acts 1:4-5

**“And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; yea, and on my menservants and my maidservants in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”**  
Acts 2:16-18



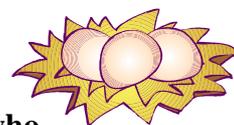
### **Perseverance in faith and the generosity of God**

One day Mark preached in a service about the baptism in the Spirit. Afterwards Pam, an older Christian, came forward and explained that in her youth she tried to speak in tongues but without success. She became discouraged and a thought of doubt entered her mind: “God doesn't want to give me this gift.” Mark explained to her that God is generous and that He desires to give us His gifts. We must ask in faith and continue to give thanks until we receive them. The lady then understood that she had to ask in faith and rebuke all doubt.

Pam confessed her sin of doubt and asked God for the gift of tongues. In humility she began to speak like a baby. Satan through a small thought of doubt had robbed her of this precious gift for 50 years. Jesus teaches us about the generosity of the Father to His children:



**“What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? “If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more**



will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11.11-13

### Seek the Lord without discouragement



have

At times people receive a great anointing and speak eloquently in tongues. However others like Mark, receive only a few words at first and by faith continue to speak. The Lord then expands our capacity, even adding other languages. We must persevere in faith and rebuke all doubts. In the same Bible passage Jesus encourages us to persevere in faith to receive the Holy Spirit. “And he said to them, "Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him'; and he will answer from within, 'Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything'? I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him whatever he needs. And I tell you, Ask, and it will be given you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

Luke 11:5-9

### God will judge us according to the fruit of the Spirit

God will not judge us according to the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Rather He will judge us according to the fruit demonstrated. The fruit of the Spirit is:

“...love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Galatians 5:22-24

The gifts and the power of God are given according to the generosity of God and not because of our own righteousness. We have no basis for pride, or thinking that we are better than others because we speak in tongues or that we have spiritual power. It is possible to have power without love, and to be condemned on the last day.

“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will know them by their fruits. "Not every one who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.'”

Matthew 7:19-23



To use the power and gifts of the Spirit without love and wisdom does not produce fruit, and is useless.

“If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.”

1 Corinthians 13:1-2

## HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are various ways to receive the gift of tongues. Of course it is our desire to receive this blessing, and our faith in the promise of the Word that are important, not the method of receiving. It is helpful to spend time fasting and praying to prepare yourself for receiving this baptism. This method is adapted from the evangelist Bill Subritzky, and I have found it very helpful especially with people who have difficulty receiving.

1. RECEIVE CHRIST as your Saviour and Lord.
2. REPENT FROM SINS of resentment, witchcraft and the occult.
3. RENOUNCE DOUBTS about the baptism and gifts of the Spirit.
4. RECEIVE FREEDOM from demons if necessary.
5. PRACTICE talking like an infant.
  - We have to become like children to receive the blessings of the kingdom
  - Normally one does not lose control of the mouth. We must open our mouths and begin to speak.
  - We can commence in the natural repeating monosyllables such as ba, ba, ba...
6. ASK FOR THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT with the sign of tongues by faith.(See the prayer below).
7. SPEAK once more like a baby allowing the Holy Spirit to give you the gift of tongues.
8. SHARE with others your testimony and the Gospel.
9. CONTINUE daily to pray in tongues by faith.

## PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

*“Heavenly Father I ask You to forgive me for my sins (name them....), and I renounce the sins of my ancestors. With Your help I forgive all those who have hurt me, and I ask that You bless them. Cleanse me by the blood of Jesus. Fill me with the power of Your Holy Spirit so that I might live a holy and pleasing life, share the Gospel with others and fulfill Your will in my life. Thank you, Father, that You are generous and You have promised in Your Word the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now I receive it by faith. I thank You by faith for the gift of tongues. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”*



The members of the group may pray for each other at this point. Sometimes people fall down or have other power manifestations. Make sure there is plenty of space before praying.

It is not necessary to become emotional to receive the Holy Spirit. Ask in faith and wait in faith. If there are manifestations of power the leader should maintain an attitude of calm and explain what is happening. That way the group can become accustomed to the power of the Spirit with peace, joy and understanding. Very rarely a person may begin to speak in a demonic tongue which is very different from the gift of the Holy Spirit. This happens from lack of deliverance and repentance. It is better that the person stops trying to speak in tongues and receives ministry of deliverance from mature Christians.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE. Write out Luke 11:13

**GROUP EXERCISE:**

1. Someone in the group can share their experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

RECEIVE THE POWER OF GOD TO LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

2. How does the baptism in the Holy Spirit help us in our Christian life? (Matt. 3:11-12)

RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

3. What promise does Jesus give us in John 7:37-38?

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

4. What is the baptism in the Spirit? (List 3 things)
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
5. In what way is this baptism in the Holy Spirit different from our salvation?

PERSEVERANCE IN FAITH AND THE GENEROSITY OF GOD

6. What reasons do some people give for not having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit? (Luke 11:10-13)

SEEK THE LORD WITHOUT DISCOURAGEMENT

7. What should we do if we only receive one or two words in tongues initially? (Luke 11:5-9)

GOD WILL JUDGE US ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

8. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit and why are they so important? (Gal 5:22-24; 1 Cor 13)
9. What warning does God give us about using His power and gifts without love? (Matt. 7:19-23)

**GROUP EXERCISE:**

Follow the instructions as to how to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This activity should be lead by the group leader.

# THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Memory Verse:

**“And when He comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”** **John 16:8**

Bible Passage: Proverbs 8:1-21

Goal:

- To honor the person of the Holy Spirit.
- To walk in the fear of God and not grieve the Holy Spirit.

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

### **He is the third Person of the triune God**

One of the great mysteries of the Bible is that God is One in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is the Triune God, the Trinity, three persons in perfect harmony in relationship and function.

This unity of function, can be seen for example in the work of salvation. God the Father sent His Son to save the world. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. And the Holy Spirit cooperates with the Father and the Son by empowering the preaching of the Gospel. It is the Holy Spirit who brings conviction of sin, that there might be repentance and faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit therefore applies the work of the cross in the lives of those who turn to Christ.

**“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”** **John 3:16**

**“Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”** **John 16:7-8**

### **The Holy Spirit is eternal and omnipresent**

Even before the creation of the world the Holy Spirit existed. He is eternal without beginning or end. He is the Spirit of God. He is omnipresent, that is, He is everywhere. It is His presence that sustains life and the created order.

**“When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command,”** **Proverbs 8:27-29**

**“Whither shall I go from thy Spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend to heaven, thou art there! If I make my bed in Sheol, thou art there!”**

**Psalm 139:7-8**

## The Holy Spirit is a Person

The Holy Spirit is the source of counsel, advice, and intelligence. He is not an impersonal force, as some religious groups believe. The New Testament clearly portrays the active leadership role of the Holy Spirit in the early church. He speaks prophetically, Acts 1:16; teaches, 1 Corinthians 2:13; works miracles, Acts 8:39; chooses missionaries, Acts 13:2; directs church councils, Acts 15:28; personally leads individuals, Acts 8:29; prohibits and opens the way, Acts 16:6,7; intercedes, Romans 8:26; establishes pastors, Acts 20:28; and reveals the deep mysteries of God, 1 Corinthians 2:9-12.<sup>1</sup>



The Holy Spirit is the wisdom of God. The Holy Spirit rested upon Jesus, giving Him divine counsel in each moment. Likewise today He continues to communicate with us in various ways, and especially through the Bible and prophecy.

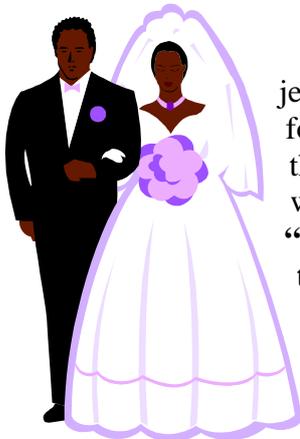
**“And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.”**  
Isaiah 11:2

The Holy Spirit has emotions. As a child enjoys himself with his parents, so also the Holy Spirit rejoices with the Heavenly Father. It is a wonderful thing to experience the joy and delight of the Holy Spirit.

**“...then I was beside him, like a master workman; and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the sons of men.”**  
Proverbs 8:30-31

Given the Holy Spirit has emotions, we can grieve Him through our disobedience and sin. It is a serious thing to receive the power of the Holy Spirit while at the same time continuing in sin, and resisting His good will for our lives.

**“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, 32 and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.”**  
Ephesians 4:30-32



An example of the emotions of the Holy Spirit is His jealousy. We the church are the bride of Christ. The Groom longs for the bridegroom and is jealous for her when she lusts after the things of this world.. In His holy love for us He is jealous when we turn away from Him and follow other ways.

**“Unfaithful creatures! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you suppose it is in vain that the scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit which he has made to dwell in us”?”**  
James 4:4-5

<sup>1</sup> Doctrinas Biblicas. P.C. Nelson. Vida. Pg.91.

## WARNINGS ABOUT NOT HONORING THE HOLY SPIRIT

### **Lying to the Holy Spirit**

The Spirit of Christ is the Lord of the church. When Ananias lied to the apostles in the Presence of God, it was taken as lying to the Holy Spirit. For their sin both he and his wife fell down dead. As a result the early church learned to walk in the fear of God, and not to take the Lord for granted. All our business and other decisions should always be done with the utmost integrity, and especially with regards to the church.

**“But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? How is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." When Ananias heard these words, he fell down and died. And great fear came upon all who heard of it. The young men rose and wrapped him up and carried him out and buried him.”**  
Acts 5:3-6

### **Sinning against the Holy Spirit**

The Pharisees said that Jesus cast out demons by the power of Satan, therefore they blasphemed against the Holy Spirit. Some Christians come under emotional condemnation thinking that they have committed the unpardonable sin. To grieve the Holy Spirit by not heeding His voice is different from blaspheming against the Holy Spirit. Moreover those who blasphemed against the Holy Spirit were well acquainted with the Scriptures, had seen the miracles of Jesus, had heard His teaching, and plotted His death.

It is the grace of God that awakens the desire to repent, to obey God, and to follow Jesus. If you are reading this study with a desire to understand more of the Scriptures and to follow Jesus, the grace of God is upon you, and you have not committed the unpardonable sin.

**"Truly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they utter; 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin"-- 30 for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."**  
Mark 3:28-30

### **Resisting the Holy Spirit**

To “resist the Holy Spirit”, according to the New Testament, means to oppose the advancing of the Gospel, which is a primary work of the Holy Spirit. Stephen preached the Gospel in the power of the Holy Spirit to the Jewish religious council of his day. The council so resisted the Anointing that was upon Stephen that they manifested demons, grinding their teeth. These religious leaders had hardened their hearts against the Holy Spirit and the message of the Gospel. They responded by stoning Stephen.

**"You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you.... 54 Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. 55 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;"**  
Acts 7:51-55

## **Grieving the Holy Spirit**

We grieve the Holy Spirit by sinning, for example through pride, disobedience to His voice, disunity in the church, sexual sins committed by the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit, or by doubting His works and gifts. When King David committed adultery and murder, he was in danger of the Holy Spirit leaving Him.

**“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”**

**Psalm 51:10-12**

The Holy Spirit may actually oppose the people of God because of their rebellion against Him.

**“But they rebelled and grieved his holy Spirit; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them.”**

**Isaiah 63:10**

The church should never allow “light-hearted jokes” about the nature or work of the Holy Spirit, lest we grieve Him. Just as a husband can become jealous for some joke made about his beloved wife. So God is jealous for the Holy Spirit and the way we speak of Him. Irreverent “jokes” are at times made by “anti-charismatics” in ridicule of what they do not understand, or by charismatics who have become overly accustomed to the work of God and lack the fear of God.

**Persecuting those anointed by the Holy Spirit** can result in a curse sent by God. People who have an Anointing and spiritual gifting of the Holy Spirit should be respected for that Anointing upon their lives. We may not be in agreement with their theology, or their manner of ministry, or even like their personality, but that isn’t reason for gossip, slander, or other forms of persecution. This does not in any way mean that such a person isn’t accountable to the church and to God for his doctrine and personal testimony.

**“When they were few in number, and of little account, and sojourners in it, wandering from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another people, he allowed no one to oppress them; he rebuked kings on their account, saying, “Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!”**

**1 Chronicles 16:19-22**

John Welsh (AD. 1570-1622) was a godly Scottish reformer who was used by the Lord in preaching and prophecy. Dr. Jack Deere tells the story of what happened to a young man who mocked Welsh:

*“One night at supper, he was speaking of the Lord and his Word to all who were sitting at the table. Everyone at the table was being edified by Welsh’s conversation with the exception of one young man who laughed and sometimes mocked him. Welsh endured this for a while, but then abruptly stopped in the middle of his discourse. A sad look came over Welsh’s face, and he told everyone at the dinner table to be silent “and observe the work of the Lord upon that mocker.” Immediately, the young man sank beneath the table and died.”<sup>2</sup>*

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<sup>2</sup> Pg74 Surprised by the Voice of God, Jack Deere, Zondervan Copyright 1996

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Write out the memory verse from John 16:8

### HE IS THE THIRD PERSON OF GOD

2. In simple terms explain what is meant by the Trinity (see teaching).
3. Give an example of how the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit function in harmony. (John 3:16; 16:7-8)

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS ETERNAL AND OMNIPRESENT

4. What does it mean that God is:
  - a) omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-8)
  - b) eternal (Proverbs 8:27-29)?

### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

5. Give some examples of the active role of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament church (see notes).
6. What do we learn about the Holy Spirit from:  
Isaiah 11:2  
Proverbs 8:30-31
7. What does it mean to grieve the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 4:30-32)
8. In what way is the Holy Spirit jealous for us? (James 4:4-5)

### LYING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

9. What do we learn about the administration of finances in the church in the case of Ananias and Sapphira? (Acts 5:3-5).

### SINNING AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT

10. How had the Pharisees committed the unforgivable sin? (Mark 3:28-30)

### RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

11. How do unbelievers resist the Holy Spirit? (Acts 7:51)

### GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

12. Are there things in your life, doctrine, relationships, or manner of speech that grieve the Holy Spirit? (Psalm 51:11)

### PERSECUTING THOSE ANOINTED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

13. What should be our response to those whom the Lord has gifted and anointed with His Holy Spirit? (1 Chronicles 16:19:22)

# THE ANOINTING

Memory Verse:

**“But the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you...” 1 John 2:27**

Bible Passage: Psalm 45:1-9

Goal: to understand the way God manifests His Presence amongst us, through the Anointing.

## **The Anointing is God’s manifest Presence**



The Anointing is the manifest Presence of the Person of the Holy Spirit at a particular place and time. God is omnipresent and His Presence fills the universe. However Scripture is clear that we can invite His Presence amongst us in a special way. Just like a repentant sinner can invite the Holy Spirit to dwell in his heart. Likewise the Christian can pray to be baptized, filled or anointed with the Holy Spirit. As Christians we already have the Spirit of God, and yet we can also receive more of Him.

In these following studies we will be looking at God’s purposes for imparting the Anointing. Simply put these include: a deeper loving relationship with God; a greater love for Jesus; having the fear of God; empowering to preach, witness, heal, cast out demons; and to minister in the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

When God manifests His presence amongst us we can normally feel His Anointing in some way. Whether it be heat, a cool breeze, the smell of perfume, a tremendous peace, joy bubbling up within, physical weakness & other manifestations because of God’s power, or goose bumps indicating the oil of the Holy Spirit being poured out.

## **Ministering in the Anointing**

When ministering in the Anointing, one may have an assurance and faith that the Lord is going to work in the lives of the people present. The physical signs of heat or goose bumps may encourage us, yet ministry in the Anointing doesn’t depend on them. Rather we are to step out in faith on the basis of God’s promises believing that God will manifest His power.

## **The importance of repentance and prayer**

In the New Testament we see special times of power and Anointing in the life of Jesus. Two important things happened to Jesus before He began ministering in the Anointing.

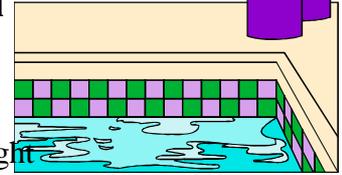
- First, at His water baptism the Holy Spirit revealed Himself as a dove and descended upon Jesus (which was symbolic of repentance, although Jesus never sinned).
- Secondly, Jesus spent 40 days and nights fasting and praying in the wilderness.

After spending this time with the Father, He began to minister in the Anointing with miracles, and signs & wonders.

**“and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all.”**

**Luke 6:18-19**

The experience of Jesus encourages us to humble ourselves in personal repentance with water baptism, and to be fervent in prayer so that we might also move in the Anointing in an ongoing way.



### The Anointing at Pentecost



In the days prior to Pentecost we find the disciples gathered together for 10 days of prayer, waiting for the promise of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Then on the day of Pentecost the intensity of the Anointing of the Holy Spirit came upon the believers with noise, wind, tongues of fire, the gift of tongues, and drunkenness in the Spirit.

**“And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the**

**Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."**

**Acts 2:2-4,12-13**



### The Anointing includes...

In the Anointing we can receive all the blessings and promises of the Bible concerning the Holy Spirit. Therefore with the Anointing comes: repentance, conversion, the baptism in the Holy Spirit, prophecy, wisdom, all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the fruits of the Spirit, healings, miracles, deliverance from demons, and manifestations of power.

It is important to realize that even non-Christians can have power manifestations. For example the soldiers fell down as though dead when Jesus was raised from the tomb, yet later they spread lies that the disciples had stolen the body of Jesus. Power manifestations from the Anointing do not necessarily indicate right doctrine, personal holiness, or repentance in a person. Jesus said: **“Thus you will know them by their fruits.”** (Matthew 7:20)

### God’s love manifested in power

The power of the Spirit is to be accompanied by the fruits of the Holy Spirit. God’s power and gifts are to communicate His holiness and love. To say that all we need is love and to reject the gifts and power of the Holy Spirit, is to drastically limit the way God has chosen to reveal His love. How can we truly love the sick, while at the same time deny them His gift of healing? How can we say to someone suffering from demonic based depression, “May God’s peace be with you”, while denying him the power of God to release him from the demon? How can we expect the church to be on fire for Jesus while denying the church the reality of His presence? The Anointing is the manifestation of God’s love.

The power of Jesus flowed from His deep compassion for people. How He loved the sick.

**“As he (Jesus) went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick.”**  
**Matthew 14:14**

In the story of Lazarus being raised from the dead we read of how Jesus wept in His compassion for Mary and the other Jews in their grief.

**“Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; 34 and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept. 36 So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"**  
**John 11:32-36**

Again we see how Jesus loved a grief stricken widow who had just lost her only son. It was God’s love that moved Him to raise the young man from the dead. Clearly the Anointing manifests the love of God.

**“And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." 14 And he came and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." 15 And the dead man sat up, and began to speak. And he gave him to his mother.”**  
**Luke 7:13-15**

As we make love our aim, we shall seek the Anointing and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Thus 1 Corinthians 13 which speaks of the priority of love, should not be separated from 1 Corinthians 14:1 which says:

**“Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.”**  
**1 Corinthians 14:1**

### **The Anointing is described as perfume**

From time to time people smell the perfume of the Holy Spirit. In the Old Testament we find this beautiful fragrance of perfume with the holy oil and incense of the tabernacle. The oil represents the Spirit, and the incense, prayer.

**“Moreover, the Lord said to Moses, "Take the finest spices: of liquid myrrh five hundred shekels, and of sweet-smelling cinnamon half as much, that is, two hundred and fifty, and of aromatic cane two hundred and fifty, and of cassia five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and of olive oil a hin; and you shall make of these a sacred anointing oil blended as by the perfumer; a holy anointing oil it shall be.**  
**Exodus 30:22-25**

The robes of the high priest were anointed with the holy oil (Leviticus 8:12). Jesus is our great High Priest, and His garments are perfumed.

**“...your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;”**  
**Psalms 45:8**



### **Times of refreshing**

One of the beautiful promises of the Bible is that of times of refreshing. The Christian can easily work until he feels dry and spent in his ministry and relationship with God. We know that Satan wants to discourage us so that we forget our first love for Christ. In the Anointing of the Holy Spirit we drink of the heavenly

waters and are refreshed. It is such a blessing to spend time lying down or sitting in the presence of the Holy Spirit, receiving His power and peace. Often one senses an intimacy with the Lord, and we hear Him speaking to us in our spirit.

### **The Anointing is for the whole church**

All those who believe in Jesus already have the Holy Spirit and a measure of Anointing. On believing in Jesus we receive the Spirit of Christ within our heart. In the Anointing and baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit comes upon a person.

**“Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”**  
**John 3:5-6**

When the Holy Spirit descended upon a church who had little experience of Him, the Lord encouraged the church with a word saying: “I want to anoint My church in love, holiness and power and not only a few people.” The idea that the Anointing is only for ‘spiritual’ people or pastors, can limit the ministry of the church and falsely exalt the leaders. God has a generous measure of the Anointing for each one in the church to fulfill His wonderful purpose for His children:

**“Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is from God, that we might understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.”**

**1 Corinthians 2:12**

**“But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has commissioned us; he has put his seal upon us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”**

**2 Corinthians 1:21-22**

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Write out the memory verse from 1 John 2:27

### THE ANOINTING IS GOD'S MANIFEST PRESENCE

2. Complete the sentence: "The Anointing is the \_\_\_\_\_ Presence of the \_\_\_\_\_ at a particular \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_."<sup>3</sup>
3. What are some of the purposes of the Anointing? From your personal experience how have you found the Anointing beneficial?
4. What do you feel when the Holy Spirit comes upon you?

### MINISTERING IN THE ANOINTING

5. Why are we not to depend upon physical feelings to minister in the Anointing?

### THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE AND PRAYER.

6. What was Jesus' preparation for His ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit? How can we prepare ourselves for times of special ministry?

### THE ANOINTING AT PENTECOST

7. Why did onlookers say that the disciples were "filled with new wine" (Acts 2:13)

### THE ANOINTING INCLUDES:

8. What does the Anointing include?
9. Who can be affected by the Anointing? What is the test of righteousness (Matt.7:20)?

### GOD'S LOVE MANIFESTED IN POWER

10. Why is it wrong to separate the love of God from His gifts and power?
11. Give an example of how the love of Jesus was expressed in acts of power?
12. How does 1 Corinthians 14:1 help us understand chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians?

### **Group activity...** *times of refreshing*

Whether alone at home, with the family, or in the home group context spend some "floor time" (lying on the floor) soaking in the Holy Spirit, or sitting quietly in a chair receiving His Presence. Those gathered around can pray for one another, soaking each other in prayer.

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<sup>3</sup> "The Anointing is the manifest Presence of the Person of the Holy Spirit at a particular place and time."

## JESUS CHRIST IS THE ANOINTED ONE

Memory Verse:

**“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted;”**  
Isaiah 61:1

Bible Passage: Isaiah 61:1-7

Goals:

- To be refreshed in the Holy Spirit.
- Have a greater revelation of Jesus.

### JESUS, THE ANOINTED ONE

The Holy Spirit is poured out on Jesus Christ - He is THE ANOINTED ONE. Therefore to experience the Anointing is to meet with Jesus, the Anointed. The Anointing comes because Jesus is present. If we smell the perfume of the Holy Spirit, it is because the Anointed One is present, His robes are anointed with perfume. If we experience the power of God, it is because Jesus is clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit.



When Jesus began His ministry on earth, He announced that the Scriptural prophecy was fulfilled. Isaiah had prophesied that Jesus, the Messiah, would be clothed with the Holy Spirit in power in order to do the works of the Kingdom.

**“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 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 fixed on him. And he began to say to them, **“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”**  
Luke 4:18-21

Jesus preached the gospel, cast out demons, did miracles, and announced the kingdom of God in the Anointing of God. Today He is in His church. He wants to continue His marvelous works amongst us in the power of His Holy Spirit.

### **Experiencing Jesus in the Anointing**

The Holy Spirit gives us rich revelations of Jesus in His glory. He comes to glorify Jesus.

**“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. 14 He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”**  
John 16:13-14

This is why prophecy flows in the Anointing. The Holy Spirit takes the words of Jesus and declares them to us.

Paul prayed that we might receive the Spirit of revelation in order to understand the inheritance that we have in Christ:

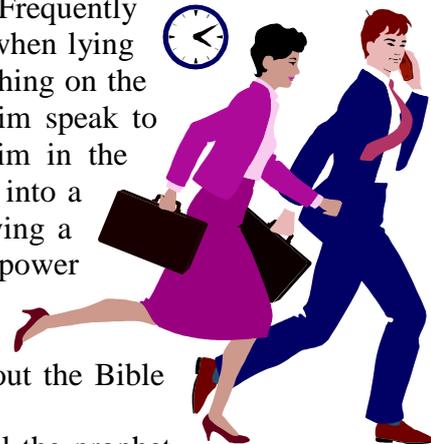
**"...that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints..." Ephesians 1:17-18**

In the Anointing we encounter the risen and glorious Christ. The Apostle John was in the Spirit when he had a revelation of the glory and authority of Christ. This is what he saw in the Spirit:

**"...and in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden girdle round his breast; his head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters; in his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth issued a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead but he laid his right hand upon me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last..." Revelation 1:13-17**

### **What's the hurry?**

The Holy Spirit desires to reveal Jesus to us. Frequently when people are experiencing the power of God (e.g. when lying on the floor), they get in a hurry to get on to the next thing on the agenda. They miss out on seeing Jesus, or hearing Him speak to them. They miss out on the greater blessing. Our aim in the Anointing is to have a revelation of Jesus and to enter into a deeper friendship with Him. It is much more than having a power experience. It is what God is doing through that power encounter which is of greater importance. Being willing to wait patiently even for half an hour or more can be imperative to what God is doing at the time. Throughout the Bible we see how God's servants knew how to wait, listen and watch in the Anointing. For example Ezekiel the prophet writes of his experience:



**"This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. When I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you." Ezekiel 1:28b-2:1**

So what's the hurry? If you're experiencing the power of God in some form, wait on God, listen and watch with your "spiritual eyes and ears." Many people miss out on the full blessing of God, because they are in a hurry and don't understand the dynamic of waiting on God in the Anointing.

At times ushers or "catchers" pull folk up off the floor before God has finished with them. The Lord will get people off the floor when He is ready. The service program of worship or preaching can go on with people continuing to receive the power

of God. Of course the pastor needs discretion to decide if someone is causing a disturbance, and needs to be ushered out.

### **Our focus is Christ, not man**

People can easily fall into idolizing the preacher or pastor. They say "Let's go and hear such and such, he is really anointed". Yes God has anointed men and women and uses them in mighty ways. Yet there are dangers in focusing on man:

- Man is glorified instead of the Creator, which is idolatry.
- The preacher may become proud and could fall into sin.
- Christians don't learn to seek God and trust in Him. They become dependent on others. The only intermediary between God and man is Christ.
- The preacher may deceive or manipulate people financially.
- The danger of going off into strange doctrines, because the people lack discernment, putting too much trust in a person rather than God.
- The members of the church don't develop in their different ministries in the power of the Holy Spirit. God wants to anoint the whole church.



When Paul healed the lame man, immediately the people wanted to worship him, along with his companion, Barnabas. Paul tore his clothes, rushed out amongst the people, and exhorted them to worship God.

**“And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, because he was the chief speaker, they called Hermes. And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was in front of the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the people. But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out among the multitude, "Men, why are you doing this? We also are men, of like nature with you, and bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.”**

Acts 14:11-15

### **Jesus Christ is anointed with the oil of joy**

There are those who think that God is very serious and we must be very solemn and “respectful” in church. There is almost no room for a smile in their worship services! Some teach that a Christian cannot express happiness in a service. This comes through a person’s limited experience of God, coupled with a lack of understanding of what Scripture says about the joy of the Lord.

The Lord wants to celebrate and rejoice over us, His children. His holy joy can spring forth in our hearts and pour out in laughter. It is so precious to experience the heavenly party of God amongst us. We read that Christ is anointed with the oil of joy. In the Presence of the Anointed one there is divine joy: **"Your divine throne endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and**



celebrate and rejoice over us, His children. His holy joy can spring forth in our hearts and pour out in laughter. It is so precious to experience the heavenly party of God amongst us. We read that Christ is anointed with the oil of joy. In the Presence of the Anointed one there is divine joy: **"Your divine throne endures for ever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness above your fellows; your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and**

**cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad."**

**Psalm 45:6-8**

**"But of the Son he says, "Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever, the righteous scepter is the scepter of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, thy God, has anointed thee with the oil of gladness beyond thy comrades."**

**Hebrews 1:8-9**

### **PRAYER**

"Heavenly Father, I desire to drink Your heavenly water, and receive the promise of being refreshed by the Holy Spirit. Reveal to me my sins, cleanse me so that I might have this intimacy with You. Reveal to me the glory and beauty of my beloved Saviour, Jesus Christ. I ask in faith for a wonderful revelation of Christ. May this revelation of Jesus cause me to love and serve Him with all my life. I receive now by faith this time of wonderful refreshing in the Holy Spirit. Anoint me Father by Your Holy Spirit that I might do the works of Jesus. Thank you heavenly Father. In the Name of Jesus, Amen."

## STUDY QUESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE. Write from memory Isaiah 61:1

### JESUS THE ANOINTED ONE

1. Why do people smell perfume or have other experiences in the Anointing (see notes)?
2. Why was Jesus anointed with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18-21)?

### EXPERIENCING JESUS IN THE ANOINTING

3. What is the primary goal of the Holy Spirit (John 16:14)?
4. What do we learn of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 1:17-18?

### WHAT'S THE HURRY?

5. Why do some fail to receive all that God has for them in the Anointing?

### OUR FOCUS IS CHRIST, NOT MAN

6. Give 3 reasons why it is spiritually dangerous to idolize man:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
7. In whom should our focus be? Why? (Acts 14:8-15)



### JESUS CHRIST IS ANOINTED WITH THE OIL OF JOY

8. Why do you think God releases laughter in the church (Ps 45:6-8)?

# THE ANOINTING AND HOLINESS

Memory Verse:

**"... and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us."** Romans 5:5

Bible Passage: Exodus 30:22-38

Goals:

- to come into a deeper commitment to Jesus;
- to serve others in God's power.

## Give glory to God

The manifestations of the Holy Spirit are evident, whether they be miracles, healings, deliverance, drunkenness, laughter, trembling, heat, etc. Nevertheless, what is not so evident to all is the purpose of the manifestations. First of all, the Anointing teaches us that God is great and mighty.

**"I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knowest me right well; 15 my frame was not hidden from thee, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth."** Psalm 139:14-15

We will never be able to understand the fullness of God and His powerful works with our finite minds. Paul teaches that the works of God are greater than our understanding. For this reason, in reverence and humility we give glory and honor to God, because He is great and awesome in His works. The Anointing therefore leads the church into the fear of God, as we experience God being in our midst.

**"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen "** Ephesians 3:20-21

The Anointing should cause us to worship God, humble ourselves before His almighty Presence, and live in the fear of God. Now let's look at some other purposes for the Anointing.

## Intimacy with God

In "the place of meeting", (another name for the Tabernacle), Moses had intimate communion with God. The Bible tells us that the tent was anointed with an aromatic oil. The priest would also burn incense on the alter of incense, filling the Tabernacle with perfume. Thus as we enter into God's awesome presence there may be times when we smell the aroma of His perfume.

**"... and make an incense blended as by the perfumer, seasoned with salt, pure and holy; and you shall beat some of it very small, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting where I shall meet with you; it shall be for you most holy. "**



Exodus 30:35-36

The Anointing comes as we walk in intimacy with God. In the Anointing we come into the secret place of God, sharing an intimate and loving relationship with Him. **"...and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us."** **Romans 5:5**

Alone with God, in the "place of meeting", He rewards us by speaking to us and encourages us with the Anointing. Jesus said:

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

**Matthew 6:6**

In a worship service people likewise enter into the "place of meeting". This may happen when someone falls in the Anointing, or begins shaking, or God's awesome stillness comes upon one. In this situation many wonderful things can occur. Often, falling down is only the beginning of what the Holy Spirit is doing. Folk can receive revelations of Jesus, of heaven and the angels, receive joy, prophetic words, gifts and ministries of the Holy Spirit, healing and deliverance.

So how many times is it appropriate for someone to fall down or have other manifestations of God's power? May we all have a longing for more of the Lord's power in our lives, and press in to Him. Jesus wants to bless His people with His grace, peace, healing and love. In the same way that He received the little children, so Jesus wants to receive all who will humble themselves to receive His power.

Unfortunately even His own disciples didn't want the children to bother Jesus. May we remember the patience and mercy of Jesus when we are with people who ask for prayer, and desire the blessing of Jesus.

**"Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called to them to him saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."**

**Luke 15:15-17**



All of us need to rest in the Holy Spirit on a regular basis, and especially those involved in church leadership. To soak in His love and peace, allowing Him to remove anxieties, lift off oppression, and give us the grace we need for Christian ministry.

**"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."**

**Matthew 11:28-30**

### **Commitment means loving Jesus**

In the Anointing we experience intimacy with our Lord. This intimate love involves a commitment, or "covenant". When a couple really love each other, they should marry as an act of commitment to each other. In wedding vows the bride and groom commit themselves with the words:

*“I promise to live with you for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish, until death do us part.”*

Likewise Jesus is the bridegroom of the church and we are His bride.

When Jesus asked Peter “Do you love me?”, the question included two things:

- Loving the church with a ministry;

**“And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything, you know that I love you.”  
Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep.”** **John 21:17**

- Secondly, loving Jesus meant the high price of Peter’s own death on a cross. To love Jesus is to obey Him and to follow Him even though there be sacrifices. To walk in the Anointing will mean making personal sacrifices so that the Gospel be extended.

**“Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”**  
**John 15:13**

**“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.”** **1 John 3:16**

Jesus' desire is to send the Holy Spirit upon those disciples that love and obey Him.

**“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray to the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.”** **John 14:15-17**

### **The Anointing and covenant**

God reveals to us His power so that we might covenant with Him. When God sends His power it isn’t just for a thrill experience. He is powerfully calling us into covenant (a binding relationship) with Him. Here are three biblical examples of how God sent His power to establish a covenant between Himself and others:

- God established a covenant with Abraham through a supernatural sleep (sleeping in the Holy Spirit often happens to those who fall down under the Anointing).

**“As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram; and lo, a dread and great darkness fell upon him....When the sun had gone down and it was dark, behold, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates...”**

**Genesis 15:12,17-18**

- With tremendous manifestations of power God made a covenant with His people, Israel, on Mount Sinai. (See Exodus 19:16-19; 24:7-8).

- The new covenant that Jesus established by His blood, was accompanied with manifestations of power.

**“And Jesus cried again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom; and the earth shook, and the rocks were split; the tombs also were opened, and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the**

earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe, and said, 'Truly this was the Son of God!'" **Matthew 27:50-54**

### **The Anointing and holiness**

At a home group meeting, a lady attended who was involved in the Mormon church. She desired to be healed of stomach pain and came forward to receive prayer at the end of the meeting. The Lord revealed that the root of her sickness was the sin of accepting the false doctrine of her sect. She didn't want to repent of her sin and renounce the sect, but instead insisted on receiving prayer. On being prayed for, she fell to the floor and began to roll around, manifesting a demon. When asked to renounce her sin in the name of Jesus, the demon took control of her mouth and she couldn't speak.

The lady wanted to be healed, but it was evident that God's desire for her was repentance. One of the major works of the Holy Spirit is to convince the sinner of his sin. The Lord uses His power so that there might be repentance and holiness in the church.

**"And when he (the Holy Spirit) comes, he will convince the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment..."** **John 16:8**

**"But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God chose you from the beginning to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."** **2 Thessalonians 2:13**

### **The Holy Spirit leads us into truth**

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher. When we read the Bible with His help we receive an understanding of the Word which we can not obtain from our natural mind. This is why it is so important to ask the Lord to give you understanding before and during your reading of Scripture. We cannot understand the things of God without the help of the Holy Spirit.

The truth of Christ and His Word confronts us with our own sin. As we accept the truth of who we are before God and stop making excuses, we begin to really repent. The Holy Spirit sanctifies us, and sets us free from the demons that empowered our sins. **"...but the anointing which you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that any one should teach you; as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in him."** **1 John 2:27**

**"Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."** **John 8:31-32**

### **Unity in the things of God**

The Holy Spirit, the Bible, and the Gospel are always in agreement. The Anointing never negates the truth of the Bible. Likewise the Word never speaks against the Holy Spirit or His powerful acts.

**"This is he who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the witness, because the Spirit is the truth. There are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree."** **1 John 5:6-8**

There are those who mix idolatry, false doctrine, or legalism with spiritual gifts and power, even invoking the Holy Spirit. At the same time they deny the truth of the Gospel of salvation in Christ alone. Satan is described by the Bible as an “angel of light”, and “the father of lies”. We do well to remember that the Holy Spirit comes to confirm the Scriptures and the preaching of the Gospel. Paul gives us a clear warning:

**"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed"** **Galatians 1:8**

### **PRAYER**

*"Heavenly Father. I worship You. I thank you for what You are doing in my life by Your Holy Spirit. Thank you for God's love which is being poured into my heart. I desire to have an intimate and loving relationship with You. I want to live a holy and pleasing life before You. Give me the grace to do it, as I can't do it by my own strength. May Your power spring forth in my heart so that I can live a life full of loving service. Father, send Your Spirit to guide me into the truth of Christ. Thankyou Father for hearing my prayer, by faith in the Name of Jesus. Amen."*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE. Write out Romans 5:5

### GIVE GLORY TO GOD

1. What is the main purpose of the Anointing? (Psalm 139:14-15)
2. Why can't we understand the fullness of God and His works? (Ephesians 3:20)

### INTIMACY WITH GOD

3. What kind of relationship does God want to have with us? (Romans 5:5) Why is the Anointing important in intimacy with God?
4. Are you pressing in to God for more of His presence? If not what do you feel is holding you back?

### COMMITMENT MEANS LOVING JESUS

5. What does a marriage covenant involve? How is our relationship to Jesus like a marriage covenant? See notes.
6. What 2 things did Jesus' question to Peter include (John 21)?
  - a)
  - b)

### THE ANOINTING AND COVENANT

7. How is the power of God more than just a thrill experience?
8. How did God establish a covenant :
  - a) With Abraham? (Genesis 15.12)
  - b) At Mt Sinai? (Exodus 19:16)
  - c) Through the cross of Jesus? (Matt. 27:51-53)



### THE ANOINTING AND HOLINESS

9. Who leads us into holiness? How? (John 16:7-8; 2 Thessalonians 2:13)
10. What has been your experience of God dealing with sin in your life?

### THE HOLY SPIRIT GUIDES US INTO TRUTH

11. Why do we need the help of the Holy Spirit to understand the Scriptures?
12. In what way is the truth of Scripture personally confrontive? How does the truth set us free (John 8:31-32)?

## THE MANIFEST PRESENCE OF GOD

Memory Verse:

**"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."**

**1 Corinthians 12:7**

Bible Passage: Luke 11:5-13

Goals: To understand the manifestations of power of the Holy Spirit.

### **The Anointing is for the benefit of the church**

In the Anointing the Holy Spirit builds the church up through manifestations of power and spiritual gifts. The manifestations of the Holy Spirit can be of great benefit to the church, creating enthusiasm for the Lord in worship and evangelism. The purpose of these power manifestations is to benefit the church. This is where maturity in the leadership is very helpful. Simple teaching that explains something of what happens in the Anointing helps to avoid confusion, fear, or accusations, particularly with new folk.

**" To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."**

**I Corinthians 12:7**

### **When God comes**

Simply put, when someone is experiencing the power of God it is because God is present. If a person falls down it doesn't mean that he is in sin, has a demon, or is especially holy or dedicated. It is the power of God working in Him. The type of manifestation in itself isn't so important as the long-term fruit of what God is doing. The goal of experiencing the Anointing is to love Jesus more, and to lovingly spread the Gospel.

The fact that the Holy Spirit should "show up" in a service is difficult for some. Generally this is because manifestations of God's power isn't part of their worldview or experience. (They have never seen someone manifesting a demon for example). This worldview may be combined with erroneous teaching (e.g. "The dispensation of God's power ceased with the early church"). Nevertheless the Bible from cover to cover is filled with accounts of special visitations by God. In the following account Luke describes the Holy Spirit as falling upon people. The Anointing was obviously something visible and evident to all.

**"Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit; 16 for it had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit."**

**Acts 8:14-17**

### **Types of manifestations of the power of God**

There are many ways that the Holy Spirit reveals Himself, some of which are listed below. Just because someone is experiencing or doing something "unusual" doesn't automatically mean that it's of God. In some cultures people are normally loud or emotional and that is how they are at church. Other giftings or manifestations should not be affirmed by the leadership if the person has ongoing sin in their lives (e.g. fornication, is physically abusive, etc).

Some may do things to imitate what the group is doing or to draw attention to themselves.. Some manifestations are demonically based. Discernment comes through Scriptural understanding, pastoral experience and as we walk with the Holy Spirit. We should seek to honor the work of the Holy Spirit even when we personally feel uncomfortable. In general the church should be far more tolerant of what it doesn't understand.

- ❖ Silence (Hab. 2:20; Rev. 8:1).
- ❖ Crying and sobbing (Prov.2:3).
- ❖ Shouting (Jos.6:5).
- ❖ Jubilant praise (Ps.68:3).
- ❖ Laughter (Ps.45:7;126:2).
- ❖ Trembling (Dan.10:10-11).
- ❖ Shaking (Ps.29:8).
- ❖ Dancing & leaping (2 Samuel 6:16).
- ❖ Prophetic manifestations. For example, one begins to fly like an eagle, signifying a new freedom of God in their life. (Eze.8:8;12:7).
- ❖ Some animal type noises are prophetic (Rev.4:7). These are normally rare. For example some one crows like a rooster, prophetically announcing a new day of God's work. Demons may make grotesque animal noises, such as that of a pig. One needs experience and discernment of the Holy Spirit in knowing the difference.
- ❖ Perfume (Ex.30:34-38).
- ❖ Impromptu singing either in a known language or in the gift of tongues (1 Cor.14:15).
- ❖ Speaking in tongues (1 Cor.14:39).
- ❖ Prophecies (Rom.12:6)
- ❖ Running (1 Kings 18:46).
- ❖ Revelations (1 Cor.14:26) and visions (Nu.12:6).
- ❖ Healings and miracles (Acts 19:11).
- ❖ Demonic manifestations and power conflicts (Luke 4:35).
- ❖ Drunkenness in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:12-17).
- ❖ Angelic manifestations - seeing and hearing angels (Ge.19:1).
- ❖ Manifestations of intercessory prayer, such as heavy breathing, groaning, and weeping (Rom.8:26).
- ❖ Heat, sensations of fire or electricity (Ex.13:22; Heb.12:29; Lk.3:16).
- ❖ Falling down (see below).
- ❖ Sensations of oil (Ex.29:7).
- ❖ Deep repentance (Acts 2:37).
- ❖ The terror of approaching judgment. Visions of hell. (Ge.35:5; Ps.55:15).



### **Falling in the Holy Spirit<sup>4</sup>**

It is worth specifically explaining the experience of falling in the Holy Spirit as it is a normal phenomenon in the Anointing. Basically people fall over because God's powerful Presence is "too much" for their limited human bodies. For most people spending "floor time" is a special moment of intimacy with God in which He speaks to them. As we experience the Anointing, we should believe that God is at work in us imparting his grace, love, and peace.

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<sup>4</sup> The leader of the group can read the passages below if the group has a particular concern or questions about the falling in the Holy Spirit.

Often God speaks prophetically to the person. People may also receive physical healing or the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Folk who experience the power of God may not understand what is happening or appreciate the experience if they have not been taught. In the Anointing it is important to patiently **WAIT, WATCH, AND LISTEN**, in order to hear and see from God.

- 1 . Not everyone who falls over or has a power experience later shows a changed life (John 18:6)
2. Some are converted to Christ through the experience (Acts 22:7-8; 1 Cor.14:25).
3. People may receive revelations and visions (Revelations 1:17-20).
4. Falling because of the powerful Presence of Christ (Ezekiel 1:28; Matthew 17:6; Revelations 1:17).
5. Falling as a power clash between the Kingdom of God, and the kingdom of Satan (Mark 3:11). This type of falling may be a form of deceit in which the demons go quiet or hide to avoid being cast out.
6. Lying down as a way of resting in the Holy Spirit, and meditating upon Christ (Psalm 23:1; 63:6).

**Floor time is a special moment of intimacy with God in which He speaks to us.**

### **Our responsibility**

Having received blessings from God, it is our responsibility to share those blessings with others. *The more we give, the more we receive*, which is a spiritual law in the Kingdom of God. The intensity of the Anointing increases on sharing it with those who haven't received yet. When a congregation or individual keeps their experience of the Anointing to themselves, without desiring to share it with others, it is like stored bread, which becomes dry. When Jesus received the two fish and five loaves, He didn't keep them for Himself and His disciples. Jesus shared them with five thousand men, not counting women and children. The result of his generosity was that twelve baskets of food were left over.

**"...give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For the measure you give will be the measure you get back."**  
Luke 6:36

**"And preach as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand" Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give without pay."**  
Matthew 10:7-8

## STUDY QUESTIONS

**MEMORY VERSE. Write out 1 Corinthians 12:7**

**THE ANOINTING IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE CHURCH**

1. How can simple teaching on the Anointing be helpful for new people?

**TYPES OF POWER MANIFESTATIONS**

2. What is the goal of experiencing the Anointing?
3. Why do some people find the manifestations of the Holy Spirit difficult to accept?

**TYPES OF MANIFESTATIONS OF THE POWER OF GOD**

4. In what ways have you experienced the Anointing (trembling, falling, etc)? What has been the result of experiencing God's power in your life?
5. Are there manifestations of the Anointing with which you feel uncomfortable? If so why do you think that is?

**FALLING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT**

6. Complete the sentence: "People fall over because..."<sup>5</sup>
7. Why do some not understand or appreciate their power experience (see notes)?
8. Complete the sentence: "In the Anointing it is important to patiently \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, in order to hear and see from God."<sup>6</sup>
9. From the notes give 2 Biblical reasons why people fall over in the Anointing?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.

**OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

10. What happens when we fail to share the blessings of God with others?
11. How are you seeking to bless others and share the Gospel in a practical way? (Luke 6:36)

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<sup>5</sup> "People fall over because God's powerful Presence is "too much" for their limited human bodies."

<sup>6</sup> "In the Anointing it is important to patiently **WAIT, WATCH, AND LISTEN**, in order to hear and see from God."

## HOW TO RECEIVE THE ANOINTING

Memory Verse:

**“As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God.”**

**Psalms 42:1**

Key Passage: Luke 11:5-13

Goal: To remove obstacles and receive the Anointing of God.

### **God's sovereignty**

God gives his Anointing and gifts to whom He wants. He is sovereign.

**“All these are inspired by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.”**

**1 Corinthians 12:11**

Given the sovereign will of the Holy Spirit the following five steps are very useful for persons that desire to receive the Anointing.

### **What are we going to receive<sup>7</sup>?**



Due to the power of the Holy Spirit people at times manifest demons. This was a common occurrence in the ministry of Jesus. However others who are watching can become afraid, and reluctant to receive prayer. Folk who manifest demons when they receive prayer, do so because of demonic forces that are already afflicting their lives. They are not receiving demons. They are having a power encounter. When God attacks the Kingdom of darkness it isn't surprising that the enemy should react!

When demons are cast out and the person receives the infilling of the Holy Spirit, people experience a wonderful peace, freedom, healing, and God's love. May our trust in the Heavenly Father be greater than any fear of Satan, or of receiving demons. We can be fully assured that the Father gives His children good gifts in His great love. It was in the context of casting out a demon that Jesus reassured the crowd of the goodness of His Heavenly Father.

**"What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Now he was casting out a demon that was dumb; when the demon had gone out, the dumb man spoke, and the people marveled"**

**Luke 11:11-14**

## RECEIVING THE ANOINTING

### **I. Repentance from sin**

If there is sin in our life and we have grieved the Holy Spirit we need to ask the Lord for forgiveness (see sin list). Sin can be a barrier for receiving the Lord's precious anointing. Particularly we need to forgive those who have hurt us, and decide to bless

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<sup>7</sup> This study draws from teaching cassettes by Pastor John Arnott, Toronto Airport Church, Canada.

and love them. To know the Anointing is not only to know His power but also His love. Unless we personally decide to forgive and love, we will never know the fullness of God's Anointing.

**“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; 15 but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”**  
Matthew 6:14-15

## II. Receive Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord

A primary purpose of the Anointing is to confirm the preaching of the Gospel of repentance. So it is necessary that we first receive Jesus Christ as Saviour, and allow Him to be in charge of our lives. Peter told the crowd that they would receive the gift of the Spirit after they had repented and been baptized.

**“And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off, every one whom the Lord our God calls to him."**  
Acts 2:38-39

## III. Be delivered from demons

Sometimes folk seek to move in the Anointing, and yet begin to manifest demons. One pastor tells the story of how some Christian women after dancing to the Lord, fell to the ground in a demonic trance. It is important that as we seek to move in the Anointing and be a blessing to others, that we also seek personal wholeness and deliverance. Repentance from sin is key to deliverance. In this way our ministry will bring greater honor to the Lord, and be more fruitful for the church.

## IV. Seek the promise of the Holy Spirit

A deep desire to know and experience the Holy Spirit is a must. Some folk say “if the Lord wants to give me this blessing (or gift) of the Holy Spirit, that's good, but if not, that's OK too.” Speaking like that really is an expression of doubt and spiritual laziness. Earnest seeking of the Lord accompanied by times of waiting, repentance, fasting, and fervent prayer often precedes outpourings of the Holy Spirit.

**“But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For that person must not suppose that a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways, will receive anything from the Lord.”**  
James 1:6-8

Some argue that upon receiving Christ that there is no need to ask for any further blessing. Yes, in one sense that is correct. In Christ we have all that we need. Yet it would be proud to suggest that we have already appropriated all the blessings that are in Christ. When we receive Christ we become inheritors of His riches. It is like a poor man having an empty bank account in which someone has generously placed millions of dollars. Unless that poor man actually goes to the bank and withdraw funds, his daily life will always be one of poverty. Despite the fact that the funds are his, he still needs to draw on them.

There are others who are content with a past move of the Holy Spirit and never move on seeking the next wave. Like those who many years ago received the gift of tongues, but have since been closed off to a new move of God. May we continually thirst after God.



**“As a hart longs for flowing streams, so longs my soul for thee, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?  
Psalm 42:2**

## **V. Find your place in the Church**

The Anointing oil flowed down Aaron’s head and over his high priestly garments. Jesus Christ is the great High Priest and we are His body, the church. God pours the oil on the Body of Christ. Unless we become part of a church and seek to faithfully serve the Lord with others, we will not know the Anointing in an ongoing way. There are those who receive a gift or an empowering but are of little benefit in God’s Kingdom, because they function as individuals and haven’t learn to submit to authority or work in unity with others. So we need to find our place in the Body of Christ, be available to serve, and be willing to submit.

**“A Song of Ascents. Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! 2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, upon the beard of Aaron, running down on the collar of his robes!” Ps 133:1-2**

**“Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every joint with which it is supplied, when each part is working properly, makes bodily growth and upbuilds itself in love.” Ephesians 4:15-16**

## **VI. Allow the Holy Spirit to have control**

Some of us (like the author) are great side seat drivers! We like to give directions and be in control of the driving. Likewise when it comes to the Anointing we can try to stay in control with our body. For some it is difficult to hand over the control of our bodies to the Holy Spirit. We tend to resist. However the Bible says that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. The body was made for Him. He is the owner and driver. We need to leave the steering to Him.



**“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; 20 you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

So when we ask for the Anointing to come upon us, we should allow that Anointing to increase. If one feels weak in God’s Presence, he can either decide to receive more or stay in control. When people resist the Anointing they risk missing the blessings that God desires to pour out upon them.

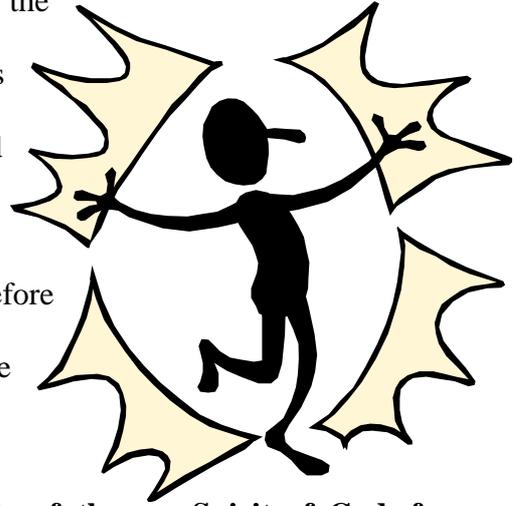
While God’s power may come like a lightning bolt, many experience it like a gentle breeze or peace. When we understand this we can cooperate with God’s breeze, and allow that breeze to increase to a strong wind of God over us.

People feel manipulated if pushed to the floor. Pushing people shows that the person “ministering” is seeking public attention, and is insecure. The goal of ministering to folk is not physical manifestations but sanctified and changed lives. Only God’s Presence can do that, pushing doesn’t achieve anything!

## OBSTACLES TO RECEIVING THE ANOINTING

There are a number of obstacles to receiving the Anointing including:

1. Sin, idolatry and all forms of witchcraft and the occult (see sin list in the back appendix).
2. Curses and demons are spiritual barriers hindering the Anointing.
3. Unforgiveness, hate, resentment, grudges, and desire for revenge.
4. Being in a hurry. "They that WAIT upon the Lord shall renew their strength."
5. Pride. Being unwilling to humble oneself before others in order to receive.
6. Doubt, analysis and intellectualism. The Anointing is to be received with a child like faith.



**"The unspiritual man does not receive the gifts of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned."**

**1 Corinthians 2:14**

## STUDY QUESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE. Write out Psalm 42:1

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO RECEIVE?

1. Why do some people manifest demons in a Christian context?
2. What did Jesus say to encourage the crowd when Jesus drove out the demon in Luke 11:11-14?

RECEIVING THE ANOINTING

3. Write out the six steps to receiving the Anointing given in the notes
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.
  - e.
  - f.

OBSTACLES TO RECEIVING THE ANOINTING

4. Write down some of the listed obstacles from the notes.
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
4. What is the “natural man”? Why can’t the natural man understand the Anointing? (1 Cor.2:14)

GROUP ACTIVITY

Spend time sharing in groups of 2 or 3 of any obstacles or difficulties that people have to receiving the Anointing. Take time to confess sin. Pray for one another that those barriers be removed and that people receive the Anointing.

## THE ANOINTING AND LEADERSHIP

### Memory Verse:

**“And preach as you go, saying, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.”** Matthew 10:7-8

Bible Passage: 1 Samuel 9:27 – 10:13

### Goals:

- For leaders to have adequate prayer coverage.
- To preach and evangelize in the power of the Holy Spirit.

### God’s grace in leadership

In the previous studies we have seen that the Anointing is for the whole church and not only for certain leaders. However because of the responsibilities, and special challenges facing leaders it is right that we now focus on the Anointing and leadership.

To have a Christian ministry is to take on spiritual responsibility. In whatever ministry we are involved, we need the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfil our responsibilities. God gives his Anointing and grace to enable us to do our ministries. That’s the way the Kingdom of God advances. We each need the grace of God to sustain and develop our ministry in the church. This grace is not only for certain people such as evangelists, but for all believers.

**“But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ's gift.”**

Ephesians 4:7

The words grace, power, or anointing mean basically the same thing in many parts of Scripture. Here Paul speaks of God’s grace or power to preach to the Gentiles.

**“Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace which was given me by the working of His power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ...”**

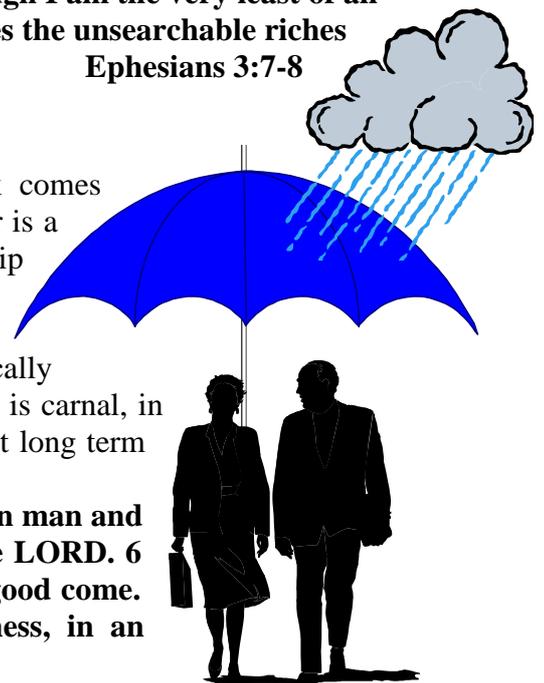
Ephesians 3:7-8

### God’s grace released through prayer

This tremendous grace of God to do His work comes through the discipline of daily prayer. A prayer-less leader is a power-less leader. If we really believe Christian leadership is a divine work we will dedicate ourselves to prayer, and to the raising up of intercessors to cover our ministry. The leader who doesn’t give daily priority to prayer, is basically saying he can do it on his own, without God. Such a man is carnal, in danger of finding himself in a spiritual desert, and without long term blessing in his activities.

**“Thus says the LORD: “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his arm, whose heart turns away from the LORD. 6 He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an**

**“Our trust in the Lord as leaders is directly indicated by what priority we give to prayer.”**



**uninhabited salt land.”**

**Jeremiah 17:5-6**

Our trust in the Lord as leaders is directly indicated by what priority we give to prayer. If we schedule Christian events without seeking God’s will, or without requesting prayer cover from the intercessors, we are showing in a practical way where our trust is! But as we pray, God’s grace is released upon us and upon the church. Our ministry becomes fruitful, and the river of God flows out blessing many.

**"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. 8 He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit."**

**Jeremiah 17:7-8**

### **Confronting the enemy**

Each ministry involves a certain element of spiritual warfare. Some ministries are more frontline than others, and directly engage high level demonic powers. The struggle against demonic powers is a real one. Before going into a ministry involving high level spiritual warfare, we should ask the strategic question: “Is my prayer cover adequate?”

The prayer cover that you had previously may not be adequate for the intensity of battle involved in taking on a new ministry, or for extending the existing one. For example a missionary may find that the amount of time he spent in prayer in his home country is insufficient for the spiritual warfare encountered on the mission field. This may help to explain why some leaders in front line ministries experience sickness, depression, constant set backs in the ministry, financial problems, or marriage and family difficulties. It may well be that they have an inadequate prayer cover for what they are doing.

**“Or what king, going to encounter another king in war, will not sit down first and take counsel whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand?”**

**Luke 14:31**

As we give ourselves to prayer, God’s grace is released upon us as leaders. That grace or Anointing clothes us in power, and pushes back the powers of darkness to advance the Kingdom of God. In the time of spiritual drought and hardship we will continue to have fruitful ministries.

### **Anointed leaders**

God desires to give us his Anointing to fulfill his calling on our lives. At times when Mark speaks prophetically over people concerning their ministry role, often there is a powerful impartation of the Anointing, with weeping, falling, or trembling. Demons may manifest in reaction to the intensity of the Anointing imparted for leadership and ministry. God wants to impart his power for us to get the job done. Here are some biblical examples of leaders anointed by the Holy Spirit for their ministry.

◆ Saul called to be king of Israel:

**“After that you shall come to Gibeathelohim, where there is a garrison of the Philistines; and there, as you come to the city, you will meet a band of prophets coming down from the high place with harp, tambourine, flute, and lyre before them, prophesying. 6 Then the spirit of the LORD will come mightily upon you,**

**and you shall prophesy with them and be turned into another man. 7 Now when these signs meet you, do whatever your hand finds to do, for God is with you."**

**1 Samuel 10:5-7**

◆ Paul called to take the Gospel to the Gentiles.

**"But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he (Paul) is a chosen instrument of mine to carry my name before the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel; 16 for I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." 17 So Ananias departed and entered the house. And laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 9:15-17**

### **Preaching in God's power**

At a healing service where Mark shared the gospel, the Anointing came down powerfully. The sick were falling under the power of the Holy Spirit. A lady approached Mark after the service. She was enthusiastically hopping around, and it was difficult to understand what she was saying. She shared how her spine had been operated on three times, leaving her without movement in one leg. After being touched by the Holy Spirit, she could now move her leg without difficulty. Praise God!

God promises to anoint his church with the Holy Spirit so that we can preach the Gospel in his power, accompanied by signs and wonders.

**"...how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation. 7 It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard him, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his own will." Hebrews 2:3-4**

### **THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS AND THE APOSTLES**

In the Gospels and Acts we find tremendous stories of Jesus and the apostles ministering in the Anointing.

#### **◆ Jesus**

The prophet Isaiah clearly shows us the relationship between the anointing upon Jesus, and his commission to bring good news to the world.

**"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound" Isaiah 61:1**

The Jesus that walked the shores of Galilee 2000 years ago is the same powerful Jesus of today. We can expect mighty things to happen today, because Jesus is with us.

**"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever." Hebrews 13:8**

**"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20**

#### **◆ Peter**

Likewise Peter was anointed by the Holy Spirit to fulfill his calling as the apostle to the Jews (Gal.2:7-8). In Acts 4 we see how he boldly proclaimed the Gospel to the Jewish rulers under the Unction., after a lame man had been healed.

**“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, 9 if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a cripple, by what means this man has been healed, 10 be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by him this man is standing before you well. "**

**Acts 4:8-10**

◆ **Paul**

Paul preached by the power of God, and not with persuasive words. In these last days we need a Gospel preached in the power of the Holy Spirit. We are confronted by the arrogance of man who thinks that his knowledge has disproved God’s existence and biblical truth. We are confronted by the rise of witchcraft, the occult, and sects. We are confronted by a generation of young people who are seeking supernatural experiences and are not content with religious platitudes and arguments.

**“...and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”**

**1 Corinthians 2:4-5**

**“For the kingdom of God does not consist in talk but in power.” 1 Corinthians 4:20**

It is worth emphasizing that ministering in God’s power requires character and a tough persevering faith. Almost anyone involved in the healing ministry has experienced times of discouragement and confusion.

**Power to share the gospel**

We need the Anointing in order to advance the Gospel. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of evangelism and mission. It is his desire to empower us to preach the Gospel. We all need the Anointing, and especially so the leadership of the church. Jesus said that we would receive power in order to be his witnesses:

**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.”**

**Acts 1:8**

**The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of evangelism.**

When the Holy Spirit was poured out at Pentecost, the believers were supernaturally enabled to speak in the languages of the different nationalities that had come to Jerusalem. The Holy Spirit from the very beginning catapulted the Gospel to the nations in manifestations of power and supernatural gifts, and He continues to do so today.

**“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in his own language”.**

**Acts 2:4-6 (see also Acts 2:7-11)**

**“So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.”**

**Mark 16:19-20**

**PRAYER**

*"Heavenly Father, I ask that You might give me more of Your power and grace to carry out my ministry and role in the church. With all the challenges and difficulties, grant me perseverance, in order to obey You and develop my ministry. Deliver me, Father, from all timidity so that I might preach Your gospel with power and authority. I thank you in faith for the new grace and power that You are giving me now. Thank you, Father, that I am more than victorious in Christ Jesus, Your Son. In the Name of Jesus. Amen*

## STUDY QUESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE. Write out Matthew 10:7-8

### GOD'S GRACE IN LEADERSHIP

1. What function does the grace of God have for fulfilling our calling or ministry? (Ephesians 4:7)
2. How is God's grace released in our lives? (Jeremiah 17:7-8)
3. Why do some leaders try to advance the Kingdom without prayer?

*Are you in touch for prayer cover?*

4. *Quickly check through this self-evaluation:*

- Are you disciplined in daily prayer?
- Do you take occasional prayer retreats?
- Do you have a strategy for prayer cover by others?
- Are you regularly in communication with your intercessors?
- Do you jump into activities without prayer preparation?



### CONFRONTING THE ENEMY

5. Do you think you have adequate prayer coverage for your ministry? If not how do you think you will rectify the problem?

### GROUP SHARING ACTIVITY

6. Are you regularly covering someone in prayer who is involved in front line ministry? What has happened as a result of praying for them?
7. Do you have any suggestions for improving the prayer coverage (e.g. Better communication, more testimonies, etc.)?

### ANOINTED LEADERS

8. What happened to Saul (1 Samuel 10:5-7), and Paul (Acts 9:15-17) before taking on leadership?

### PREACHING IN GOD'S POWER

9. How does God bear witness to the preaching of the Gospel (Hebrews 2:3-4)?

### POWER TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

10. How did the Holy Spirit show Himself to be the Spirit of mission on the day of Pentecost? (Acts 2:7-11)
11. In what way are you seeking to share the Gospel with others? Take time now to pray for opportunities to minister the Gospel in the power of the Holy.

APPENDIX A

# SIN AND OCCULT LISTING

## **Recognizing our Sin is Half the Battle**

Often people don't recognize their sins because no one ever told them it was sin. This list of sins and occult is meant to be a blessing and help to people. As we identify our sins we can then confess them to God and receive forgiveness and peace. A real barrier in recognizing sin is the way that we justify what we do.

For example, some justify their anger by blaming the other person – "It's their fault that I'm angry because they.....". Others justify pornography as "a personal diversion which doesn't harm anyone". Others justify violence in marriage "because it helps" in some way. White lies are said to be "necessary and useful".

There is no end to the reasons we give to justify our sins. Such arguments become demonic fortresses of the mind that must be identified as unbiblical deceptions. True repentance begins when we stop justifying our sin, and call it what it is: sin. Then the cleansing work of the Blood of Jesus can begin in us.

**“ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived; neither the immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor sexual perverts, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor robbers will inherit the kingdom of God.”**  
**1 Corinthians 6:9-10**

Sin is sin, and we are guilty before God for our rebellion. Sin brings condemnation, curses, demons, eternal death, guilt and sickness. God requires humility in repentance so that there might be forgiveness and peace with Him. While we defend our sins, we have not truly repented, and therefore are not forgiven by God.

**“If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**  
**1 John 1:8-9**

*Through repentance you can receive peace and forgiveness from God.*

PLEASE MARK OFF YOUR SINS IN THIS LIST

**The greatest sin**

**Not believing in Jesus as the  
 only  
 Saviour**

**Sins of the tongue:**

- Lies
- Anger, shouting
- Making fun of others in their need
- Coarse language, swearing
- Slander
- Criticism
- Judging others

- Gossip
- Self curses (e.g. "I am worthless, I will never succeed.")
- Cursing others (e.g. "He will always be sick.")
- Grumbling/criticism against the leadership of the church.
- Unfulfilled promises and good intentions.

**Sins in the family:**

- Neglect of children
- Lack of discipline and order in the family.

Not teaching the Bible to one's children.  
Lack of respect for your partner  
Putting down your spouse in front of others.  
Mistreatment of one's wife  
Lack of love, obedience and honour of the husband .  
Violence and anger in the marriage.  
Violent discipline of children.  
Disobeying parents  
Lack of respect of parents

**Sins of the heart:**

Unforgiveness  
Resentment  
Bitterness  
Holding grudges  
Hate  
Lust  
Greed  
Envy and covetousness  
Pride  
Selfishness  
Jealousy  
Double mindedness  
Lack of faith, doubt  
Anxiety, worry, not trusting God.  
Racism and bigotry

**Various sins:**

Lack of love towards God and others.  
Religiosity and legalism  
Prayer and fasting not accompanied by righteousness.  
Persecution of Christians  
Religious pride  
Lack of daily prayer and Bible reading  
Using God's Name in vain  
Blasphemy  
Lack of prayer for authorities in the church  
Lack of obedience, respect and support of church leaders and pastors.  
Causing division in the body of Christ.  
Rebellion and disrespect towards authority.  
Laziness  
Stealing

Addictions  
Taking advantage of others unjustly  
Violence  
Impatience  
Manipulation  
Deceit  
Not visiting the sick and prisoners  
Mistreating the poor and needy  
Murder  
Vengeance  
Abortion  
Drunkenness  
Bribes  
Attending worldly parties with drinking & dancing.  
Videos or films of violence, horror, swearing, pornography.  
Inappropriate TV watching

**Sins of the use of resources:**

Dressing luxuriously as an expression of pride, vanity  
Buying things out of vanity.  
Gambling  
Using our time wastefully  
Not obeying God with our finances (tithing and offerings)  
Lack of compassion and generosity to the poor  
Using our resources selfishly  
Not offering hospitality  
Financial irresponsibility

**Sins against the Holy Spirit:**

Resisting or grieving the Holy Spirit  
Criticizing and belittling the work and manifestations of the Holy Spirit  
Mistreating and persecuting those who are used by God in the Anointing  
Speaking against the gifts of the Holy Spirit

**Sins in the work place**

Laziness or sloppiness at work  
Taking advantage of and mistreating employees.  
Not paying or withholding appropriate wages.  
Borrowing and not returning is stealing.

Unjust or illegal contracts  
Corruption  
Not paying taxes

**Sexual sins:**

Perverse sexual acts – oral, anal, or sex with an animal.  
Violent or forced sex (including in the marriage).  
Rape  
Prostitution  
Fornication  
Adultery  
Masturbation  
Homosexuality  
Lesbianism  
Sex between family members – incest  
Pornography  
Lustful thinking

**Obsessions & addictions**

Addiction to smoking, alcohol, novels, TV, the internet, computer games, video games, or play stations.

*NB. Watching TV, reading novels, using the internet and games are not necessarily sins, but lack of self-control in these areas is.*

**Occult and witchcraft sins:**

Acupuncture  
Amulets (good luck objects, etc)  
Ancestral worship  
Ankh (a cross with a ring top used in satanic rites).  
Apparitions – occultic  
Astral traveling  
Astrology  
Automatic writing  
Birth signs  
Black arts  
Black magic  
Black mass  
Blood pacts  
Casting of spells and curses  
Chain letters  
Colour therapy  
Conjuration (summoning up a spirit)

Consulting medium, spiritists, witchdoctors or psychic healers  
Contact with spirits  
Control of objects by mental power (Tk or Pk).  
Coven of witches  
Crystal ball gazing  
Crystals & stones  
Demon worship  
Divining rod, twig or pendulum  
Dungeons and dragons  
Eastern meditation  
ESP  
Espiritism  
Fire walking  
Fortune telling  
Halloween  
Hallucinogenic drugs (e.g. heroin)  
Hard rock & heavy metal secular music  
Harry Potter novels, toys, movies.  
Horoscopes  
Hypnosis  
Idols and images used in worship  
Incantations  
Iridology (eye diagnosis)  
Jonathan Livingstone Seagull (reincarnation).  
Judo  
Karate  
Kung-fu  
Levitation  
Listening to demonic voices (including voices of deceased).  
Magic (not sleight of hand but supernatural power)  
Manipulation and cursing of others  
Mantras  
Martial arts  
Mental suggestion, telepathy, therapy  
Mesmerism  
Mind control, dynamics, mediumship, reading.  
Necromancy (conjuring up spirits of the dead)  
New Age (in all its diverse forms)  
Numerology  
Occultic games  
Ouiji boards  
Occult novels, magazines, music, or movies

Pagan rites, religious objects, artifacts and relics  
Palmistry  
Pokemon Cards  
Satanism  
Secret society oaths  
Sorcery  
Soul traveling  
Spells  
Spirit guides or friends  
Star signs  
Superstitions  
Tarot Cards  
Tea-leaf reading  
The Lodge (Free Masonry)  
TM – transcendental meditation  
Videos and movies of violence, horror, pornography, occult.  
White magic  
Witchcraft  
Yoga  
Zodiac signs

*To pray to, to use as a mediator, to show religious respect, or to worship idols and images.*

*To burn candles to them, to prostrate or bow before an idol or image.*

Adventists  
Ananda Marga Yoga Society  
Bahai  
Buddhism  
Children of God  
Christadelphians  
Christian Science  
Communism  
Confucianism  
Divine Light Mission  
EST  
Hare Krishna  
Hinduism  
Islam  
Jehovah's witnesses  
Marxism  
Materialism  
Mormons  
The International Way  
The New Age (in all its diverse forms)  
Unification Church (Moonies)  
Universal Church of God

### **Sects, World Religions & Philosophies:**

*It is important to renounce all oaths, pacts and baptisms made with any sect or secret society, destroy their religious objects, and destroy any books that are not in accord with Scripture.*

*A sect is a religious group that has one or more of the following characteristics:*

- Denies the full divinity of Jesus Christ.
- Doesn't recognize the full authority of the Bible as the basis of faith and conduct.
- Accepts prophecies, traditions, and other books as fundamental to belief and practice.
- Denies the Trinity, that of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- Emphasizes traditions and rules to gain salvation.

*All religions that deny that Jesus Christ is the only Saviour and way to God are to be renounced.*

**This sin & occult list is adapted from Bill Subritzky's literature (see website, Dove Ministries).**

