

## God's Anointing

Each day, as I open these scriptures and I begin to study and to try to comprehend the precious truths that God has “breathed” onto these pages, I am immediately reminded of just how “small” my mind really is, how though I want so badly to truly understand their meaning and purpose, I can barely scratch the surface of the unfathomable mind of God in my comprehension of the words that I read.

But thankfully, I'm not discouraged by the “smallness” of my mind. God, very generously, gives me peace by reminding me that His Holy Spirit will graciously explain all that I need to know, and that is so for any and every matter and need in my life. All I need to do is to just keep reading and studying these truths. He will do the rest.

As I have studied through these words that I will read for us in a moment from Chapter 4 of this Book of Luke, I could not help but think of the Trinity of God, and how all the members of the Trinity, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all at work within the heart, soul, mind and spirit of our Lord Jesus, all at the same time. And that how, while yes, Jesus, in His eternal essence is still One Part of that Trinity of God, He is, at the same time, the “Son of Man”. And in His being as the “Son of Man” He is being called and sent by God the Father to carry out a purpose and a mission that only a “Son of Man” could do.

And folks, may I say again, that while, with our “small minds” you and I are not able to comprehend such mysteries as these. Thanks be to God, as we have a need to know something, His Holy Spirit will generously supply our every need. I think of the words of James 1, where we are told . . .

<sup>5</sup> If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. <sup>6</sup> But let him ask in faith, with no doubting. (James 1:5-6)

So then, as we continue to study these truths about how the “Son of God” has become a “Son of Man”, and how He somehow left some of His Holy attributes in His heavenly realms, as we have studied in other messages, we believe that Jesus had to do it that way so that He could truly become a “Son of Man”, fully human and fully able to suffer as we suffer, to be tempted as we are tempted, but yet without even one sin, and then to die the death that we deserve, taking our sins upon Himself, atoning for each one of them.

Look with me and follow along as I read these words from Luke 4, beginning in verse 16.

<sup>16</sup>So He (the Lord Jesus) came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. <sup>17</sup>And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." <sup>20</sup>Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. <sup>21</sup>And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." (Luke 4:16-21)

I cannot help but note in the beginning words of this text that we are told that it was the usual custom of the Lord Jesus to go to the synagogue on the Sabbath. Folks, those are intentional words to say to you and to me that this is where we belong on our Sabbath, each and every Sunday morning. Why would that be so important? It's because here is where we read and hear the Word of God. And here is where we learn of Him. And here, is where we have the opportunity for our hearts to be changed through the salvation and the teachings that the Lord Jesus brings to us.

Yes, those things can take place anywhere. But with these words, Jesus is clearly saying that the best place is here, in our kind of synagogue, our "church". Here is where we will hear the word of God and be changed by it.

And folks, there truly is a special change that will begin to take place within a person's soul when we begin to turn our heart to the Lord Jesus and to accept His salvation. And it's a change that will manifest itself in every part of a person's life.

And may I remind us that it is a change that is unique and that it does not come about solely through learning or practice. Yes, learning and practice are important parts of it, but the real change instead comes about because God literally removes the old nature from our hearts and minds, and then He implants a brand-new nature within us.

Those are strange words to our secular minds, but they are still nonetheless true. God tells us about that special change in Ezekiel chapter 36, where He tells us,

<sup>26</sup>I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup>I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

May I say in the strongest of words that God is doing these exact things within you and me, right now, this very day and every day as we reach for Him and surrender our hearts to Him.

But let me pause and remind you and me of something that I have said on other occasions. And that is, that God does not save you and me merely so that we can go happily into heaven when we die. No, He has much, much more that is appointed for us to do.

He wants you and me to join with Him in bringing about these same kinds of changes in the next person and the next and the next. With our new heart and our new spirit, we are being equipped to be His instruments of mercy to other people. And I must tell you, that is a wonderful privilege.

And as we read these words of our scripture text for today, God is revealing, through the Lord Jesus, exactly how we are to get about it. Listen again to Jesus' words! He said,

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

The first truth that we see about Jesus is that He was fully surrendered to the will of God, His Father. That is the first and absolutely essential element of our own relationship to God, and in the calling that He will place upon our heart.

Note also, that the work Jesus was to be about, was part of a specific mission that He had been "sent" by God the Father to carry out. Listen, in verse 18

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight

to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup> To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus also told us in John chapter 5

<sup>30</sup> . . . I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent me.  
(John 5:30)

It is a difficult thing for you and me to imagine such high and lofty matters as these, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, looking down upon the affairs of men. And seeing the great need, God the Father then saying to His Son, the Lord Jesus, "You must give up your glory here in heaven and go down to the earth and preach the gospel to the poor . . . heal the brokenhearted . . . proclaim liberty to the captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind . . . set at liberty those who are oppressed (and) . . . proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."

And then God the Father also saying, "And you must do all of that as a weak and lowly human being."

In whatever way all of that might have actually taken place, we know that Jesus was "obedient" to His Father, and that He would be obedient, even unto death on the cross.

And here, as Jesus stepped forward into ministry, we are reminded that God the Father is faithful. He filled Jesus with the power of the Holy Spirit who would guide, direct and empower Him in all that He would do.

Again, it is all so strange for us to comprehend. Here, the Lord Jesus, the very God who created the ground He was walking on and the air He was breathing would, as a man, depend upon the power and the might of the Holy Spirit who indwelled His being.

Why is that pointed out to us? It is because, God wants you and me to know, with confidence, that it will be the same with us, that we too will be filled with His Spirit and that it will be His Spirit who will empower and enable us to carry out the plans that He has for us.

Let me pause here for a moment and say that I do fear that most of the time we are weak in our faith, and we don't fully believe that God's Spirit will do all those special things in and for us. While yes, we do often say words that sound confident, but at least for myself, I know that I waver far too often.

And I fear that I use my own wits and intellect and logic far more than I use the power of the Holy Spirit. And I grieve because of my weakness, and that causes me to ask myself, "How can I get on past where I am in my faith, on to where I need to be?"

Folks, I am convinced that such strides can only come through in the same manner that it came to Jesus. Here, in these words, He tells us that through the Holy Spirit, God "anointed" Him to go about doing His work. Listen carefully to these simple words! Verse 18,

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me (Luke 4:18)

Jesus then went on to tell some of the specific things that He was sent to do. But everything that is mentioned here "springs forth" from these simple words,

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me (Luke 4:18)

What does it mean to be "anointed" by the Lord? You and I have heard this word "anointed" used a lot over the years, not so much in the Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist churches, but used often in the charismatic denominations. And if we are honest, we might confess that we are not comfortable with all the ways that they often use it.

But just because some of our dear brothers and sisters in other denominations might have a different understanding of a word does not make that word any less real and true and essential to our Christianity.

The word "anointed" is being given to us here as one of those special concepts of scripture that speaks a powerful word to our souls, a word that convinces us that we are not alone in our efforts, that there is a special power and might residing within us that fully enables us to speak and to do things that we are not otherwise able to do.

What exactly does this word "anointed" mean?

First of all, this concept of being "anointed with the Holy Spirit", brings with it a sense of being fully immersed, fully covered over, fully saturated with God's Spirit, saturated to the point that there is no place remaining within us that the Holy Spirit is not.

And He is not just present within us, He also brings with Him a special prompting and encouragement called “unction”. We find that word used in the King James Version of scripture in 1 John 2:20, where we read,

<sup>20</sup>But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. (1 John 2:20)

You might note that other versions, such as the New King James translates that word “Uction” as “anointing”, and they do have a very integral meaning. And both words are tied specifically to the power and the working of the Holy Spirit.

“Uction” is the powerful means by which the purposes of the “anointing” is carried out by the Holy Spirit within us. The “unction” of the Holy Spirit stirs us up, spurs us on to do things that we would not otherwise do, things that are not natural to our ordinary thoughts and behaviors, things that spring from above, out from the heart of God.

That was what was taking place with Jesus as He stepped forward into the ministry that He had been sent to carry out. He was “anointed” to do this special work and He was spurred on by the special “unction” that comes with the “anointing” of the Holy Spirit.

And again, His mission was to preach the gospel to the poor . . . heal the brokenhearted, . . . proclaim liberty to the captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind . . . set at liberty those who are oppressed; (and). . . proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

Note here that none of these purposes are social in nature. These purposes reach straight to the soul of a person. The words “preach the gospel to the poor” are not making reference to those who are economically poor. These words speak about the “poor in spirit”, the same “poor in spirit” that is spoken about in the “Be-attitudes” given in the Book of Matthew chapter 5. These are the ones who know that they are “needy” in matters of the soul.

And the words, “to heal the brokenhearted” speak about those who have a broken and contrite heart, because they realize their sin and that they desperately need to be reconciled to God.

The “captives” are those who are held in bondage to their own sinful nature.

And the “blind” are those who cannot see the truths of God because of the blindness put upon them by the world and especially by the devil who has “blinded their eyes”.

To “set at liberty those who are oppressed” is to free up those who cannot see a way out from under their sinful burdens, their suffering and their grief.

And to “proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord” . . . this is the “jubilee”, like that special time spoken about in the Old Testament when all debts are settled and everything that was once ours, but somehow had gotten taken away from us, is returned and becomes ours again.

Jesus came to restore us to the life that mankind once knew back there in the Garden of Eden, those days when sin did not control our thoughts and behaviors.

And I must tell you in no uncertain terms that this also is what God has called you and me to do. We have been anointed to do these exact same things. Jesus has said to us that “As I have been sent, so send I you”. You and I are called to be about His same mission, to preach the gospel to the poor . . . heal the brokenhearted . . . proclaim liberty to the captives . . . recovery of sight to the blind . . . set at liberty those who are oppressed (and) . . . proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

And God has equipped you and me in much the same way that He equipped the Lord Jesus, with the power, the anointing and the unction of the Holy Spirit. Now, you and I need to respond to His unction and get about the calling He has place upon us.

Listen to this command from the Lord Jesus as we close . . .

**19** Go ye therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

May we pray!