



The Anointing, 2023

How does a person keep from being a victim of his/her own lusts and ungodliness?
How does a community of believers in Christ fight and resist when it finds itself assaulted by the spirit of antichrist?

According to 1 John 2.20, 27 resistance and preservation come only in the power of the Holy Spirit, by the *crisma* [chrisma]. *Crisma* means “anointing with oil; an unguent or smearing; endowment of the Holy Spirit; anointing, unction.” The *crisma* imparts to the community of believers *oidate panta*, “comprehensive knowledge, a clarity of faith, truth, assurance of being in the way of life; the ability to perceive; see; understand” because of the relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit is the paraclete. (John 16.8-10, 13) In 1 John 2.20, 27 the *crisma* itself is the teacher, independent of a teaching office. It is the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of Truth, the One who leads the believer into truth and who enables the believer to discern the spirit of antichrist so as not to be seduced. (1 John 2.18-29)

*But you have an unction from the Holy One,
and you know all things. 1 John 2.20*

*But the anointing which you have received of Him
abides in you, and you need not that anyone teach you:
but as the same anointing teaches you of all things,
and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you,
you shall abide in Him. 1 John 2.27*

The anointing of the Spirit determines understanding of the Messiah as The Anointed One. **So just who has the anointing of the Spirit?**

Every true believer is anointed by God. (2 Corinthians 1.21; 1 John 2.20, 27) Every believer can know the Lord. God’s presence and power reside in the anointing.

What Anointing is. Anointing is the practice of applying oil, perfumed oil, or ointment by rubbing or smearing or pouring for the purpose of healing (e.g., Mark 6.13; James 5.14), embalming, e.g., Jesus was anointed for His burial (Mark 14.8; Mark 16.1; John 12), or setting apart for a holy use or purpose of God, such as ministering unto the Lord in the priest’s office, e.g., Exodus 29.7; 40.9-15; or in the office of king, e.g., 1 Kings 1.34; or prophet, e.g., 1 Kings 19.15, 16.

Anointing with oil (poured out) signified the choice and call of God and the impartation of power for a particular work. In the OT heathen kings were sometimes anointed to a task in order to show God’s supremacy over the nations, over His creation, as of Cyrus in Isaiah 45.

Putting oil on the head or body was cultural and used as a token of respect in matters of hospitality. (Ruth 3.3, Luke 7.46) (E.g. Psalm 133) The Bible speaks of the oil of joy, of satisfaction. (Psalm 23.5; 45.7; 92.10; Isaiah 61.3) A person could anoint himself, e.g., Ruth 3.3; 2 Samuel 12.20; be anointed, e.g., 1 Samuel 16.12; or anoint another person or thing, e.g., 1 Samuel 15.1. In the OT, the altar, the tabernacle, the ark of the testimony, all that was within the tabernacle, and all the vessels thereof, were anointed. (Exodus 29.36; 30.26-30; Exodus 40)

Garments were anointed as well. (Exodus 40.13) The anointing made what was anointed sacred, consecrated, sanctified, set apart to a holy use.

In addition to olive oil, oils from castor, bay, almond, myrtle, cyprus, cedar, walnut, and fish were used. (Exodus 29.29; Exodus 30.22-26; Leviticus 4.3, 5, 16; Leviticus 6.20; Ps 132.10). The holy anointing oil of Exodus 30.22-25 consisted of pure myrrh, sweet cinnamon, sweet calamus, cassia, and olive oil in a prescribed compound.

Every believer can understand the relationship of the anointing to his/her life by examining the Scriptures and by seeking the Holy Spirit for clarity and truth.

Consider the following:

1. **The anointing abides in you; and this anointing comes from the Holy One.** (1 John 2.27) Biblical anointing is thus equated with **the Person of the Holy Spirit.**
2. **Jesus is God's Anointed One**, Savior and promised Deliverer. (Isaiah 61.1; Psalm 2.2; Psalm 45.7; Daniel 9.25, 26; Luke 4.18; John 1.41; Acts 4.27; Acts 9.22; Acts 10.38; Acts 17.2, 3; Acts 18.5, 28)

When we say a Christian is anointed, we often mean that the person has a close relationship with God through Christ such that God is with that person in an obvious way, even though every believer is anointed by God.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with Him. Acts 10.38

3. **Believers in Christ, the Anointed One, are positioned in Christ** and so the Holy Spirit abides in them. This **position** brings with it protection, provision, peace, and place. (Psalm 18.50; Psalm 20.6; Psalm 28.8; Psalm 92.10; Psalm 132.17; Acts 10.38; Ephesians 1 and 2; and verses pertaining to "in Christ"). Thus Christians often speak of the anointing as being their protection, provision, peace, and place. (Isaiah 61.1; Luke 4.18)
4. **The Holy Spirit is present in every believer.** (John 14.15ff; 2 Corinthians 1.20-22; Psalm 140.13; Acts 2.14-42; 2 Cor. 4.14; Hebrews 9; 1 Corinthians 6.19; Ephesians 1.13, 14, e.g.) Thus Christians often talk about the anointing as referring to The Presence or The Presence of God.
5. **With the indwelling Spirit comes power.** (Acts 1.8; Zechariah 4.6; Ephesians 1.19, 20; Ephesians 3.16; Ezekiel 36.27) So Christians often speak of the anointing as the power of God present to perform a certain function.
6. **The anointing is a holy perfume, a holy oil/ointment with a fragrance. It is never to be used as a personal perfume.** A study of this holy oil used to anoint persons and/or things can teach the believer important truths about the anointing,

about what it means to be sanctified, consecrated, and set apart for the tasks of ministry and how that process takes place. Holy anointing oil as given by God's instructions was not to be counterfeited or put upon a stranger without penalty. (Exodus 30.32, 33; Acts 8.20, 21)

7. **The anointing oil teaches us of God's holiness and of our purpose.** (e.g. Leviticus 7, 8, 10, 21; Luke 4.18; Acts 10.38) Jesus was anointed for the sake of the Spirit in order to preach the gospel to the poor. He was sent to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4.18, 19)
8. **With the anointing of the Lord come warnings** (1 Samuel 26.9-23; Leviticus 10.7; Leviticus 21; 1 Samuel 2.10; 1 Samuel 24.6, 10; 2 Samuel 1.16; 2 Samuel 1.21; 1 Chronicles 16.22; Psalm 2; Psalm 89; e.g.) **and also a shield** (Psalm 18.50; Psalm 20.6; 28.8; 84.9, e.g.). Thus, when we speak of the anointing, we are to know that we are not to profane the sanctuary of our God but to be separated from anything secular for the crown of the anointing oil of God is upon us. (Leviticus 21.12; 1 Corinthians 6.15-20) We speak of the anointing as a shield because it represents the presence of the Lord upon us.

God desires that we live out our lives in His Presence, separated unto Him and empowered by Him. For this we need to be anointed with fresh oil, keeping ourselves clean before the Lord and being filled daily. Sensitivity to the Holy Spirit can bring a tangible anointing into our worship and so into our lives. It's going to mean taking the focus off ourselves and re-directing it to the Living God, the Living Bread, the Living Word, the Living hope, to Him who is Living to the ages of the ages, Living waters.

Psalm 92 speaks of God's grace, of the righteous planted in the house of the LORD. In this psalm worshipful meditation turns to prayer as thinking about God leads to directly addressing Him. That happens, folks, when we begin our time with God thinking about Him first before thinking about ourselves.

1. **It's good to give thanks.** Verse 1 When we wake up in the morning we should declare God's loving kindness (*hesed*) and when we end the day we should declare God's faithfulness in the watches of the night. Verse 2 (cf Psalm 5.3; Lamentations 3.23) We are to declare this gratitude skillfully, purposely, privately, and publicly, through music and song, giving careful thought to our expression of worship because **God has made us glad** through His works and we triumph in times of trial and trouble. Verses 3 and 4 (cf James 1.2, 1 Thessalonians 5.18)
2. **God's works will always show themselves to be profound.** Verses 5-9. God has a well-thought-out plan and purpose. The senseless person doesn't get it. The wicked spring up like grass and may flourish, but only temporarily (when we think about life with an eternal perspective). **God is holy; be assured He is forevermore and that the wicked shall be destroyed. God's enemies will perish and all the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.**
3. **God is for His people.** He exalts us and gives us strength. He anoints us with fresh oil, pouring the ointment of His love and favor upon us, pouring out the Holy Spirit, setting us as separated to Himself, consecrated, holy, empowered. Verse 10
4. **God preserves.** Verse 11. We will outlast our enemies and their hostility toward us. (When I return from a spiritual warfare mission, no matter how intense the fight in the heavenlies, I like to say, "I'm still here! By the grace of God, I'm still here!")

5. **The righteous flourish** with a spiritual richness and the beauty of holiness, with strength and stability, with a peace, with growth, with a life blessed by God's favor. Verses 12, 13.
6. **God prospers our souls.** Verse 14. As we are planted in the house of the Lord we flourish and still bring forth fruit in old age. We remain fresh, plump, and flourishing. (Good news for older believers.)
7. **God is righteous, upright, our Rock.** There is no unrighteousness in Him. Our lives should contrast with those of unbelievers, showing forth the favor that God has bestowed upon us. Remember, it's not fair; it's favor.

Mary Craig, D. Min.

***For lo, Your enemies, O LORD, for lo, Your enemies shall perish;
All the workers of iniquity shall be scattered.
But my horn You shall exalt like the horn of a unicorn;
I shall be anointed with fresh oil.
Psalm 92.9, 10***

***Now He which establishes us with you in Christ,
And has anointed us, is God; who has also sealed us, and
Given us the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
2 Corinthians 1.21, 22***

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