**Bible Lesson: Anointing by the Holy Spirit**

To anoint literally means to pour oil or smear ointment on someone. In biblical terms it represented a divine appointment. During Old Testament times, prophets, priests and kings often were selected in this manner; for example, Samuel anointed kings Saul and David to rule over Israel (1 SA 10 and 16). In the New Testament Jesus Christ was anointed by the Holy Spirit to be our prophet, priest, and king. In fact, “Christ” means the “anointed one” (hence the verb “to christen”). Jesus likewise anointed His disciples with the same Holy Spirit. Lucifer was anointed by God to be worship leader, prior to rebelling against God and being tossed out of heaven (EZE 28:14–19). Do not align yourself with evil, Lucifer, or his demonic soldiers, which are destined for the Lake of Fire! Be a Christian soldier and defeat them as a member of God’s army!

* LEV 20:7–8 ~ God said, “Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God. Keep my decrees and follow them. I am the Lord who makes you holy.”
* NUM 15:38–40 ~ God commanded Moses: Put tassels on your garments, so that when you see the tassels you will remember my commandments and obey them, and so you do not corrupt yourselves by seeking after your own hearts and your own eyes. Then you will remember and obey, and you will be consecrated unto me.
* PSA 23:1–6 ~ The Lord is my Shepherd; He provides everything I need. He lets me graze in green pastures and beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for His namesake. Even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for He is with me; His rod and staff protect and comfort me. He prepares a table before me in the presence of my enemies. He anoints my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all of my days, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.
* ISA 44:28 ~ He (Messiah) is my appointed Shepherd and He will do everything I (God) ask. He will build Jerusalem, and lay the foundation of the temple.
* JOH 20:22–23 ~ Jesus appeared to His friends after His resurrection and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Anyone’s sins that you forgive, they will be forgiven. Anyone’s sins that you retain, they will be retained.”
* LUK 4:16–20 ~ Jesus read from Isaiah about the prophecy which identified Him as the Anointed One who would bring the good news of salvation.
* ACT 10:36–41 ~ Peter preached: The Word that God sent to Israel is Jesus Christ; in Him God’s peace can be found. That Word began in Galilee and became known throughout Judea, after the baptism preached by John. God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and His power. Jesus spent His time doing good and healing the demon possessed, for God was with Him. We are witnesses of the things He did in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem where He was killed on a cross. God raised Him from the dead after three days. Many people chosen by God to be witnesses saw Him, and we are among those witnesses.

Have you been anointed by the Holy Spirit? If you answered yes, it follows that you are using your spiritual gifts to edify the church and to spread the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the world. This is what is meant by being baptized by the Holy Spirit: equipped and called into service by God Himself (for a lengthy discussion on this process see Barber, 2020).

* JOH 20:21–23 ~ Jesus addressed them once again, “Peace be unto you. As my Father sent me, now I am sending you.” After saying this, He breathed on them and announced, “Receive the Holy Ghost. Those who’s sins you remit, they are remitted; and those who’s sins you retain, they are retained.”
* ACT 8:17–20 ~ The apostles laid their hands on the converts, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon (the sorcerer) saw that through the laying of hands the Holy Ghost was bestowed, he offered them money saying, “Give me this power, so I can lay hands on others and bestow the Holy Ghost.” Peter admonished him, “Your money will perish with you because you think the gift of God can be purchased.”
* ACT 20:28 ~ Keep watch over yourselves and the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Feed the church of God which He purchased with his own blood.
* ROM 1:16–17 ~ I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation given to everyone who believes; to the Jew first and also the Gentile [to those who spoke Greek as well as those whose native language was Hebrew]. Therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith as it is written: the just will live by faith.

True believers are anointed by God via the Holy Spirit, to be sealed until the time heaven is opened, and for eternity. God will place His mark on everyone who has dedicated their lives to Him, having made the commitment of faith. It is guaranteed that God will preserve, protect, and deliver His own from the forces of evil in this world (PSA 91:11; EPH 6:10–18). “Fear not,” He says, “for I will be with you always” (JOS 1:9; PSA 41:12; PSA 73:23; HEB 13:5).

* MAT 28:19–20 ~ Jesus told His disciples, “Go into every nation and teach the people everything I have taught you. Baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Remember, I’ll always be with you, even until the end of time.”
* JOH 3:31–34 ~ He who comes from above is above all others, but he who is of the earth speaks only worldly things. The witness from heaven testifies of things seen and heard, though nobody accepts it, except for those who certify it as true, having been sealed by God. He who was sent speaks the words of God, wherein God gives His Holy Spirit without limit.
* JOH 6:26–27 ~ Jesus pronounced, “Truly I tell you, the reason you follow me is not for the miracles, but because you have partaken of the bread and are filled. Therefore, work not for meat that perishes but for meat which endures unto everlasting life [i.e., the bread of life, which is the body of Christ]. This is the Son of Man who carries the seal of God the Father.”
* EPH 4:30 ~ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, who has sealed you for the day of redemption.
* 2 CO 1:21–22 ~ He who established us and you in Christ, and anointed us, is God who has sealed us and placed into our hearts His Spirit as insurance that we remain in Him and receive the promise.
* REV 7:2–3 ~ An angel appeared in the east carrying God’s seal. He shouted to the four angels who were given charge to harm the earth and the sea, warning them to hold off until God’s servants had been sealed.
* REV 9:1–4 ~ The angel blew the trumpet and I (John) saw a star falling to the earth from heaven; he opened the bottomless pit from which bellowed smoke like a furnace, blocking out the sun. From the smoke arose locusts who would sting like scorpions. They were commanded to hurt anyone or anything except those with God’s seal on their foreheads.

If you are not sealed by God, you will be vulnerable to the mark of the beast. However, if sealed by the Holy Spirit, you are immune from the mark of the beast and cannot become possessed by any evil spirit including Satan.

* REV 13:11–18 ~ Then another beast with two horns arrived, speaking like the dragon. He exercised the same power as the first beast, performing magic feats such as bringing fire down from heaven. He convinced everyone to worship the first beast, and to make a graven image of it. And the second beast brought the image to life. He caused everyone to receive the mark of the beast on their right hand or forehead; only those with the mark could buy and sell goods. They tracked down and murdered anyone who didn’t receive the mark and worship the beast. The beast’s number is the number of a man: 666.
* REV 14:9–10 ~ The angel warned them that anyone worshipping the beast or receiving the mark of the beast would face God’s wrath.
* REV 19:20 ~ But the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet that performed miraculous signs on his behalf, with which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and worshipped its image. They were thrown alive into the lake of fire.

True freedom is to be cleansed of sin, freed from its bondage to serve the living God. Jesus will give you a freedom that lasts forever (JOH 8:31–47), the moment you confess and repent, trusting in the salvation of Christ that through faith in Him you might be set free. This includes a life insurance policy promising that death is not the end, and life will never end (1 JO 5:11). So, while most life insurance policies go into effect once a person dies, yours goes into effect immediately (JOH 5:24; HEB 9:13–22), insofar as Christ has saved you from death and hell and awarded you a place in the Kingdom of Heaven to reign with Him (2 TI 2:12).

* PSA 119:44–47 ~ I will obey your laws continuously forevermore, and I will walk in freedom, for I have sought your rules. And I will boldly testify before kings, and I will delight in your commandments that I have loved.
* ROM 5:14–18 ~ Just as the sin of one man (Adam) brought judgment and condemnation to all, so has the righteousness of one man (Christ) brought the free gift of grace, providing justification of life to all believers.
* 1 CO 7:22 ~ Those who were servants when called by Christ have become free, and those who were free when called by Christ have become servants. You were bought with a great price, so do not become a slave to humankind, but remain responsible to God and the purpose for which He called you.
* GAL 5:13~ Brothers, you have been called to be free men, but do not use that freedom as an excuse to engage in lusts of the flesh, but in love serve one another.
* 2 TI 2:12 ~ If we suffer with Him, we also will reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us.
* JAM 1:22,25 ~ Don’t merely listen to the Law, do what it says. Whoever considers the perfect law of liberty, and continues focusing on doing what is right and not only hearing what is right, that person will be blessed because of their actions.

To consecrate is to render something as holy. Biblical sacrifice is to offer something that is considered consecrated (deemed holy) by God. We become a living sacrifice once we have been anointed, consecrated by God as an offering unto death. But we do not have to suffer death because Jesus died in our place to pay the debt of sin. We have had our sins removed from the record, rendering us holy before God so we can instantly join Him in heaven; the grave is not our destiny, not even a bypass (1 CO 15:44; 2 CO 5:6–8). Satan and death have no power over us, for God has given us the free will to choose life (DEU 30:19). That, my friends, is absolute freedom.

* MAL 3:2–4 ~ Who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? He is like the refiner’s fire or the launderer’s detergent. He will act as a refiner, purifying the Levites and refining them like precious metal. Then the Lord will have qualified men to bring offerings in righteousness, and those offerings will be acceptable as in times past.
* LUK 3:16–17 ~ John the Baptist answered them saying, “I baptize you with water. But One comes after me whose shoes I am unworthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He has the winnowing fork in hand, ready to clear the threshing floor. He will gather the wheat into the barn, and He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”
* JOH 17:16–19 ~ Jesus prayed to the Father, “They are not of the world even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them by the truth, for your Word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. For these, I sanctify myself so that they too may be truly sanctified.”
* ROM 12:1 ~ Give yourselves to God. Let yourself be a living sacrifice. After all He has done for you, is that too much to ask?
* HEB 10:26–27,31 ~ If you deliberately continue sinning after you have received the knowledge of truth, there will remain no sacrifice for sins. All you will receive is the fearful expectation of judgment and a raging fire that will consume the enemies of God. Yes, it is a dreadful thing to fall into the vengeful hands of the living God.

How on earth would anyone choose death? But they have, and they do, and they will. It’s up to God’s chosen, made saints by the sanctification of the Holy Spirit, to persuade people to embrace peace, love, faith, truth, and life through Christ who is the way, the truth (Word), and the life. Teach others that they also can be free indeed! Help in the harvest of the saints by bringing the lost sheep back into the fold, which is God’s Church on Earth, the body of Christ. If you are a member of this body, you will exercise your talents, gifts, knowledge, and skills to spread the words and the love of God to everyone you meet, whenever the opportunity presents itself. Having received an anointing, you are now appointed to this higher cause as you go about your daily chores and responsibilities.

* MAT 10:32–33 ~ Jesus said, “Anybody who confesses me before others, I will confess them before my Father in heaven. Anybody who denies me to others, I will deny them before my Father in heaven.”
* JOH 14:6,9–11 ~ Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; nobody comes to the Father but by me. If you have seen me, you have seen the Father, because the Father lives in me and I in Him.”
* EPH 4:10–16 ~ He that descended from heaven is the same that ascended far above the heavens, that He might fulfill all things. He appointed apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, and for the edifying of the body of Christ. This He did so that we might become unified in the one true faith, and in the knowledge of the Son of God, to become like Him, perfect in righteousness. He wants us to grow into mature Christians and not be like little children who are easily influenced by deception and trickery. He wants us to become more like Christ who joins together the entire body, according to the effectual working of every part, and the strengthening of all in love.

Being anointed will empower you to boldly proclaim the Lord: His words, works, and ways. Initially, one may feel apprehensive, unprepared, or uncertain; but the Holy Spirit will help you gather your words, lead you in your walk, and fulfill your mission (MAT 10:19–20). The Holy Spirit provides the confidence (PRO 2:2–6,10–12), guidance (PRO 16:9; MAT 7:7), direction (PSA 32:8; PRO 3:5–6; ISA 30:21), power (MAT 10:1; LUK 10:17–20; ACT 1:8), ability (2 CO 9:8: EPH 3:20), and authority (MAT 16:19; MAT 28:19–20) to equip you to perform amazing acts of faith, and possibly miracles (MAR 16:19–20; JOH 14:12). These things you cannot do on your own; it will be the Holy Spirit working through you. And you will be motivated to learn, teach, edify, and encourage as you gain confidence and power directly from Almighty God.

* PSA 32:8 ~ I (God) will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will guide you with my eye.
* PRO 16:3 ~ Commit your works to God and He will establish your thoughts.
* 2 TI 3:14–16 ~ Continue in the things you have learned and are convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them. From a child you have known the holy scriptures, which are able to make you wise unto salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is effective for doctrine, for guidance, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.
* 1 PE 3:15 ~ Sanctify the Lord in your hearts, and always be ready to give an answer, with humility and respect, to anyone who asks about the hope that is within you.
* 1 JO 2:6 ~ Whoever says they are a Christian should show they are following Christ by the way they conduct their lives, walking in the way Christ walked.

References:

Barber, A. V. (2020). Fundamentals of Christianity: A Bible Study and Guide (Fourth Edition). El Paso, TX: Special Delivery Press.

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