CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES



I. Sermon Recap

II. Study Guide

III. Devotional

IV. Small Group Resources

"Prayers for the Persecuted Church"

NOVEMBER 1, 2026

COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
3645 Cashiers Rd, Highlands, NC 28741

SERMON RECAP

Pastor Gary opened this new series by exploring the biblical meaning of being anointed (set apart, consecrated, and empowered) by God for His purposes. In Scripture, oil was poured over kings, priests, and prophets as a visible sign that God had called them into a holy office. Saul and David were both anointed, but they stewarded that anointing very differently. Saul deflected blame, protected his image, and resisted repentance. David, though deeply flawed, remained tender before God, quick to confess, and desperate for the presence of the Holy Spirit.

The message pressed us to consider how we respond when sin is exposed in our lives. Do we blame-shift like Saul, or do we confess like David? One of the clearest marks of spiritual maturity is not sinless perfection, but humble repentance. Pastor Gary reminded us that salvation itself begins with admitting, “I have been wrong, and Jesus is Lord.” The anointing of God is not something we manipulate or flaunt; it is something we steward through obedience, accountability, worship, humility, and prayer.

Pastor Gary then connected the image of oil to Jesus in Gethsemane, the “place of the press.” Just as olives were crushed to produce oil, Christ was pressed in agony before the cross. From His suffering came cleansing, healing, light, and the sending of the Spirit to empower the Church. Because the people of God are anointed by the Holy Spirit, they will face pressure, opposition, and persecution. Our response is not fear or self-pity, but prayerful faithfulness. SpecifiocaLly in that we need to continue to pray for the persecuted Church, asking God to give them passion, provision, privilege-minded endurance, and strength.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- The anointing is a calling to consecrated purpose.

In Scripture, oil symbolized being set apart for God's work. In Christ, believers are also set apart by the Holy Spirit.

- Saul and David reveal two different ways to handle sin.

Saul defended himself, blamed others, and protected his image. David confessed quickly, repented deeply, and longed for restored fellowship with God.

- Prayer fuels the anointing.

Pastor Gary described prayer as the "spiritual fuel" that keeps us dependent, tender, obedient, and aligned with the Spirit.

- The anointing attracts pressure and persecution.

Jesus was pressed in Gethsemane, and His people will experience pressure as they bear witness to Him. The Church must pray for persecuted believers with passion, depth, and endurance.

Key Scripture

Primary Sermon Texts

Because this message moved through multiple biblical scenes, the primary texts include:

- 1 Samuel 10:1 — Samuel anoints Saul with oil.
- 1 Samuel 16:13–14 — David is anointed; the Spirit rushes upon David, and the Spirit departs from Saul.
- Psalm 51:10–12 — David's prayer for cleansing, renewal, and restored joy.
- Luke 22:39–46 / Matthew 26:36–46 — Jesus in Gethsemane, the place of pressing.
- 2 Corinthians 1:21–22 — God anoints believers and seals them with the Spirit.
- Revelation 6:9–11 — The martyrs under the altar crying out to God.

Verses Mentioned or Directly Referenced by Pastor Gary

- 1 Samuel 10:1 — Saul anointed by Samuel.
- 1 Samuel 16:13 — David anointed from the horn of oil; the Spirit rushes upon him.
- 1 Samuel 16:14 — The Spirit departs from Saul; a tormenting spirit troubles him.
- 1 Samuel 24:6 / 1 Samuel 26:9–11 — David refuses to harm Saul, "the Lord's anointed."
- 2 Samuel 12:13 — David tells Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."
- Psalm 51:10–12 — "Create in me a clean heart… take not your Holy Spirit from me."
- Romans 3:23 — "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."
- Exodus 28:41; Exodus 30:30; Leviticus 8:12 — Priests anointed and consecrated.
- 1 Kings 19:16 — Elisha anointed to succeed Elijah.
- Luke 10:33–34 — The Good Samaritan tends wounds with oil and wine.
- Luke 4:18 — "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me…"
- Acts 1:8 — Witnesses empowered by the Spirit to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth.
- Acts 4:26–27 — Jesus as God's holy servant whom He anointed.
- Acts 10:37–38 — God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.
- Hebrews 1:9 — "God… has anointed you with the oil of gladness."

- 2 Corinthians 1:21–22 — God anointed us, sealed us, and gave the Spirit as a guarantee.
- 1 John 2:20 — “You have an anointing from the Holy One.”
- 1 John 2:27 — The anointing remains in believers and teaches them.
- Matthew 10:19–20 — The Spirit gives words to believers when they are arrested.
- Romans 9:1–5 — Paul’s anguish for Israel and willingness to suffer for his people.
- Revelation 1:9 — John shares in suffering, kingdom, and patient endurance.
- Revelation 5:8 / Revelation 8:3–4 — The prayers of the saints as incense before God.
- Revelation 6:9–11 — Martyrs under the altar waiting for God’s justice.
- 2 Corinthians 10:1–6 — The weapons of our warfare are not worldly but mighty in God.
- Hebrews 13:3 — Remember those in prison as though suffering with them.

Other Relevant Verses

- Ephesians 1:13–14 — This passage expands on the sermon’s theme that believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit as a guarantee of inheritance.
- James 5:14–16 — This passage connects oil, prayer, confession, and healing, reinforcing the call to humble repentance and Spirit-dependent prayer.
- 1 Peter 4:12–16 — This passage directly reinforces the sermon’s teaching on suffering and persecution for the name of Christ.

Day 1 — Anointed for a Purpose

Reflection Question

Where do you most need to remember that your life is not random, ordinary, or self-owned, but consecrated to God?

Reading

- 1 Samuel 16:13
- 2 Corinthians 1:21–22

Thought

In ancient Israel, anointing with oil was not a private motivational moment. It was a public sign that God had set someone apart for a sacred assignment. Kings were not merely political figures; they were expected to rule under God's authority. Priests were not religious professionals; they stood before God on behalf of the people. Prophets were not inspirational speakers; they carried the word of the Lord.

When Samuel anointed David, the text says, "the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward." The oil did not create the Spirit's power; it symbolized what God was doing. David was being marked, separated, and empowered.

In Christ, believers are also anointed, not necessarily for a title or platform, but for faithful witness. Paul says God has anointed us, placed His seal on us, and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. That means your workplace, home, neighborhood, friendships, parenting, marriage, singleness, and suffering are not outside the reach of God's purpose.

You are not merely trying to "get through life." You are sealed by God and sent into life.

Challenge

Identify one ordinary area of your life: your home, job, relationships, habits, or schedule. Ask, "Lord, how do You want me to live as someone set apart for You here?"

Day 2 — The Difference Between Saul and David

Reflection Question

When your sin is exposed, are you more likely to defend yourself, explain yourself, blame others, or repent quickly?

Reading

- 1 Samuel 16:14
- Psalm 51:10–12

Thought

Saul and David were both anointed. Both sinned. Both failed in serious ways. The difference was not that David was flawless and Saul was uniquely wicked. The difference was how each man responded when confronted.

Saul often protected his image. He blamed others, justified himself, and seemed more concerned about how he appeared before people than whether he was right before God. David, when confronted by Nathan, said plainly, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Psalm 51 shows us the inner life of a repentant person: “Create in me a clean heart… renew a right spirit within me… cast me not away from your presence.”

In the ancient world, kings often avoided accountability. They were accustomed to power, control, and public honor. David’s repentance was therefore deeply countercultural. He did not use his throne to escape conviction. He let conviction bring him low before God.

This is one of the most practical ways we steward the anointing: we stay correctable. A tender heart is more important than a polished image. A repentant person is safer than a gifted person who refuses correction.

Challenge

This week, practice immediate confession. If you sin against God or someone else, do not delay, deflect, or minimize. Name it honestly and seek reconciliation where needed.

Day 3 — The Place of the Press

Reflection Question

What pressure in your life might God be using to produce deeper dependence on Him?

Reading

- Luke 22:39–44
- Acts 10:37–38

Thought

Gethsemane means “oil press.” It was a place associated with the crushing of olives so that oil could be produced. Pastor Gary drew our attention to the profound connection between that place and Jesus’ agony before the cross.

Jesus, the true King, Priest, and Prophet, went to the place of pressing. He was not merely facing emotional stress; He was preparing to drink the cup of suffering and judgment on behalf of sinners. Luke tells us He prayed in agony, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Oil in Scripture was used for anointing, cleansing, healing, and light. Jesus fulfills all of these. He is the Anointed One. He cleanses us from sin. He heals our deepest wounds. He is the Light of the world. Through His suffering, the Spirit would be poured out upon His people, empowering the Church to bear witness.

Pressure is not always punishment. Sometimes pressure is where surrender becomes real. Sometimes the crushing place becomes the place where God produces spiritual oil.

Challenge

Name one pressure you are currently facing. Instead of only asking God to remove it, ask Him what He wants to form in you through it.

Day 4 — Prayer Fuels the Anointing

Reflection Question

Is prayer currently the fuel of your life, or only an emergency response when life becomes difficult?

Reading

- Matthew 10:19–20
- 1 John 2:20

Thought

Pastor Gary described prayer as the “spiritual petrol” that fuels the anointing. Prayer is not merely something we do before ministry; prayer is where ministry is born. The most Spirit-filled public life flows from a hidden life with God.

In Matthew 10, Jesus prepared His disciples for opposition. He told them that when they were arrested, they did not need to be anxious about what to say because the Spirit of the Father would speak through them. This does not encourage laziness or lack of preparation. Rather, it teaches dependence. God’s people are not left alone under pressure.

John tells believers, “You have an anointing from the Holy One.” This means the Christian life is not lived by human cleverness, charisma, or confidence. The Spirit teaches, leads, convicts, empowers, and reminds us of truth.

Prayer trains us to recognize His voice. Prayer softens our self-reliance. Prayer moves us from performing for God to being led by God.

Challenge

Set aside one specific prayer time this week where you do not rush through requests. Sit before the Lord and ask Him to lead your praying—especially for someone else.

Day 5 — Remember Those in Prison

Reflection Question

If you were suffering for Christ, how would you want the Church to pray for you?

Reading

- Revelation 6:9–11
- Hebrews 13:3

Thought

The New Testament never treats persecution as strange. Jesus warned His followers that opposition would come. Revelation shows us the souls of martyrs under the altar crying out for justice. They are not forgotten. Their suffering is seen by God. Their blood matters to heaven.

Hebrews 13:3 commands believers to remember those in prison as though we were imprisoned with them. This is more than sympathy. It is spiritual identification. The persecuted Church is not a distant category of Christians somewhere "over there." They are our brothers and sisters.

Pastor Gary challenged us not to pray only that persecution would stop, but to pray biblically and deeply: for passion, provision, patient endurance, and a sense of holy privilege in suffering for Christ. The early Church did not pray merely for comfort. They prayed for boldness, faithfulness, and Spirit-empowered witness.

To remember persecuted believers is to take our place in the global body of Christ. It is to let their suffering interrupt our comfort. It is to join the incense of the saints rising before the throne of God.

Challenge

Choose one persecuted nation, people group, missionary, pastor, or imprisoned believer to pray for daily this week. Pray for passion, provision, endurance, and faithful witness.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Opening

Welcome everyone warmly. Begin by acknowledging that this week's message may have stirred conviction, compassion, and renewed awareness of the persecuted Church.

Invite the group into a moment of prayer using these themes:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to make the group humble and teachable.
- Ask God to deepen repentance, prayer, and compassion.
- Ask the Lord to help the group not only discuss the sermon but respond faithfully.

Thematic Recap

Pastor Gary taught that the biblical idea of being anointed means being set apart and empowered by God for His purposes. Saul and David both received an anointing, but Saul squandered it through pride and blame-shifting, while David stewarded it through repentance and humility. The message called us to fuel the anointing through prayer and to stand with persecuted believers who are under pressure for the name of Christ.

Core Highlights

- Anointing is about consecration, not celebrity.
- Saul and David show two very different responses to sin.
- Repentance keeps the heart tender before God.
- Prayer is the fuel of Spirit-led living.
- Jesus was pressed in Gethsemane, and His people will also face pressure.
- The persecuted Church needs our prayers for passion, provision, endurance, and strength.

Icebreaker

Discussion Question

Think of a time when you were corrected or confronted and it ultimately helped you grow. What made that correction difficult, and what made it fruitful?

Scripture Exploration

Passage 1: 1 Samuel 16:13–14

David is anointed, and the Spirit of the Lord rushes upon him. The Spirit departs from Saul.

Discussion Prompts

1. What differences do you notice between David's anointing and Saul's decline?
2. Why is it important to remember that gifting and calling must be stewarded?
3. What warning does Saul's life give to spiritually gifted people?
4. What encouragement does David's life give to people who feel overlooked or unqualified?

Passage 2: Psalm 51:10–12

David cries out for a clean heart, renewed spirit, and restored joy.

Discussion Prompts

1. What does David's prayer reveal about true repentance?
2. Why do we often find it hard to admit when we are wrong?
3. What is the difference between wanting relief from consequences and wanting restoration with God?
4. How can confession become a regular practice rather than a last resort?

Passage 3: Matthew 10:19–20

Jesus promises that the Spirit will give His people words under pressure.

Discussion Prompts

1. What does this passage teach us about dependence on the Holy Spirit?
2. How does this promise comfort believers facing persecution or opposition?
3. Where do you currently feel pressure to "know what to say"?
4. How can prayer prepare us to be led by the Spirit in conversations, conflict, and witness?

Grand Synthesis Prompt

How do these three passages together show us what it means to steward the anointing through humility, repentance, dependence on the Spirit, and faithfulness under pressure?

Application: Growing in Personal and Communal Prayer

Personal Prayer Practices

Encourage each group member to choose one or two of the following for the week:

- Set aside a daily time of stillness before God before asking for anything.
- Pray Psalm 51 slowly as a prayer of confession and surrender.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to recall one person who needs encouragement or witness.
- Pray daily for persecuted believers using four words:
  - Passion for Christ
  - Provision for what they need
  - Patient endurance under suffering
  - Privilege-minded faithfulness to honor Christ
- Keep a short prayer journal to record what God suggests to you.

Communal Prayer Practices

As a group, consider:

- Pairing up during the week to pray briefly by phone or text.
- Adopting one persecuted region or ministry focus for ongoing prayer.
- Creating space in group each week for confession, not just requests.
- Practicing Spirit-led prayer by pausing before praying and asking God what He wants emphasized.
- Praying Scripture rather than only praying circumstances.

Closing

Prayer Needs

Leave space for group members to share:

- Personal needs
- Areas of pressure or spiritual weariness
- People they are burdened for
- Persecuted believers, missionaries, pastors, or nations on their hearts
- Places where repentance or reconciliation may be needed

Closing Prayer Prompt

Invite several group members to pray as they feel led. Encourage prayer around these themes:

- Humility and quick repentance
- A fresh hunger for prayer
- Faithfulness under pressure
- Strength for the persecuted Church
- Greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit
- Courage to live as those anointed and set apart for Christ

Leader Notes

- Create safety. This message touches repentance, sin, persecution, and spiritual responsibility. Encourage honesty without forcing anyone to overshare.

- Avoid shame-based discussion. The goal is conviction that leads to life, not condemnation that leads to hiding.

- Keep the focus on Jesus. Saul and David are important examples, but Christ is the true Anointed One.

- Make room for silence. Some questions may require reflection. Do not rush to fill every pause.

- Honor different prayer comfort levels. Some people are nervous praying aloud. Encourage growth, but do not embarrass anyone.

- Guide away from extremes. Pastor Gary cautioned against both spiritual apathy and exaggerated spiritual self-importance. Keep the group grounded in Scripture.

- End with practical obedience. Help each person identify one concrete response for the week.

Prayer Protocol Reminder

Do not pressure group members to repeat a scripted prayer. Instead, invite Spirit-led prayer using biblical themes, short prompts, and Scripture-shaped language. Encourage authenticity, humility, and dependence on the Holy Spirit.