CBC WEEKLY RESOURCES

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"What Is The Difference?"

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COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH
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SERMON RECAP

Pastor Gary continued the “Anointed” series by asking a deeply practical question: What makes a Christian life spiritually flavorful, fresh, and compelling rather than stale, predictable, and ordinary? Using the image of barbecue ribs transformed by a marinade or dry rub, he pointed us to the biblical language of anointing, being “rubbed into,” “smeared,” and spiritually marked by God's presence and power. The sermon centered on the holy anointing oil in Exodus 30, where God gave specific ingredients for a sacred oil used to consecrate priests, kings, and holy things.

The message's pastoral heart was a call to pursue more than yesterday’s spiritual experiences. Pastor Gary encouraged us not to live off “old oil” or memories of past encounters with God, but to seek fresh oil, the daily unction of the Holy Spirit that makes us useful in God’s hands. The anointing is not merely for preachers or public leaders; it is for parents, workers, students, spouses, intercessors, and servants in every corner of the church and community.

The message challenged us to recognize that purity precedes true power. The Spirit’s anointing is not poured on the flesh, and carnality dulls our sensitivity to God. But when we walk in humility, submission, holiness, prayer, and dependence on the Spirit, our lives carry a “fragrance” that changes the atmosphere around us. The invitation was simple and searching pursue God for who He is.

II. STUDY GUIDE

Key Points

- The anointing makes the difference. Not every song, sermon, service, conversation, or act of service carries the same spiritual weight. The presence and power of the Holy Spirit bring life, conviction, fragrance, and fruitfulness.

- The holy anointing oil points to a Spirit-formed life. Each ingredient in Exodus 30 illustrates a posture God forms in His people: meekness, steadfastness, humility, purity, and freshness.

- Fresh oil matters. God does not call us to live on old experiences alone. Yesterday's encounters with God are gifts, but today we need fresh surrender, fresh obedience, fresh conviction, and fresh filling.

- Purity protects power. The anointing is holy. A life given over to carnality grieves and resists the Spirit, but a life yielded to God becomes a vessel through which His presence is made known.

Key Scripture

Primary Sermon Text:

- Exodus 30:23–24 — God gives the ingredients for the holy anointing oil.

- Exodus 30:29–33 — The oil is consecrated, holy, and not to be used casually or on the flesh.

Every Verse Mentioned or Directly Referenced by Pastor Gary

- Psalm 34:8 — “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”
- Exodus 30:23–24 — Ingredients of the holy anointing oil.
- Exodus 30:29–33 — Consecration and holiness of the anointing oil.
- Numbers 12:3 — Moses was very meek.
- Matthew 5:5 — “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”
- Ephesians 6:13 — Having done all, stand.
- Leviticus 21:17–21 — Priestly qualifications and bodily defects.
- Exodus 3:5 — Moses removes his sandals on holy ground.
- Ecclesiastes 10:1 — Dead flies spoil the perfumer’s ointment.
- 1 John 2:20 — “You have an anointing from the Holy One.”
- Psalm 133:1–3 — Oil running down Aaron’s beard; unity and blessing.
- Joel 2:28 — God will pour out His Spirit on all flesh.
- Psalm 92:10 — “I have been anointed with fresh oil.”
- John 12:3 / Mark 14:3 — Mary’s costly perfume fills the room.
- Revelation 5:8 — The prayers of the saints are like incense before God.
- Psalm 72:6 — Like rain on mown grass.
- Psalm 45:8 — Garments fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia.
- 1 Peter 1:16 — “Be holy, for I am holy.”
- Acts 6:8, 10 — Stephen, full of faith and power; opponents could not resist the Spirit by which he spoke.
- Romans 8:5–8 — The mind set on the flesh versus the mind set on the Spirit.
- Galatians 3:3 — Beginning in the Spirit, not being perfected by the flesh.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 — The old has passed away; all things have become new.
- 1 Samuel 16:6–13 — Samuel anoints David.
- 1 Samuel 16:23 — David’s music brings relief to Saul.
- 1 Samuel 13:14 / Acts 13:22 — David as a man after God’s own heart.

- 2 Samuel 21 — Philistine giants.
- 1 Chronicles 20 — Philistine giants.
- 2 Chronicles 12:9–10 — Rehoboam replaces gold shields with bronze.
- John 14:6 — Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.
- Ephesians 2:10 — Good works prepared beforehand.
- Deuteronomy 28:13 — The head and not the tail.
- Zechariah 4:6 — “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit.”
- John 1:29 — “The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”
- Psalm 139:24 — “Lead me in the way everlasting.”
- Ephesians 4:12 — Equipping the saints for works of service.

Other Relevant Verses

- Luke 4:18 — “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me…”

General thematic tie: This verse shows Jesus as the Anointed One whose ministry flowed from the Spirit’s power.

- 2 Corinthians 2:14–16 — Believers are the aroma of Christ.

Strong thematic tie: Pastor Gary spoke often about the spiritual fragrance of an anointed life.

- James 4:6–8 — God gives grace to the humble; draw near to God.

General thematic tie: This passage reinforces humility, purity, and nearness to God as the posture of a Spirit-filled life.

III. DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL

Day 1 — Set Apart for Holy Use

Reflection Question

Where in my life have I treated what is holy as common?

Reading

- Exodus 30:29
- 1 John 2:20

Thought

In Exodus 30, the holy anointing oil was not casual, decorative, or optional. It was sacred. God gave Moses exact instructions because the oil represented consecration, being set apart for God's purposes. In the tabernacle, ordinary objects became holy when they were dedicated to the Lord. Priests did not anoint themselves for self-promotion; they were anointed for service.

In the New Testament, John says believers have "an anointing from the Holy One." This does not mean every Christian becomes famous, flashy, or publicly platformed. It means every believer is marked by God's Spirit and called to live as someone belonging to Him. The anointing is not about image; it is about ownership. We are not our own.

Pastor Gary reminded us that the anointing makes the Christian life spiritually flavorful and distinct. Without the Spirit's fresh work, we may know Christian language and still live stale, powerless lives. But when we remember that we are set apart, our homes, work, speech, decisions, and relationships become places of worship.

Challenge

Identify one ordinary area of your life to consciously dedicate it to the Lord today.

Day 2 — Meekness Is Strength Under God's Control

Reflection Question

Where am I resisting God's shaping because I still want control?

Reading

- Numbers 12:3
- Matthew 5:5

Thought

Pastor Gary connected the liquid myrrh in the anointing oil to meekness. Myrrh began as hardened resin, but through heat and steam it became liquid and usable. That picture speaks powerfully to the way God forms us. He often uses pressure, wilderness seasons, disappointment, and hiddenness to soften what is hardened in us.

Moses is called the meekest man on earth, but he did not become meek in Pharaoh's palace. He was formed in the wilderness. For forty years, Moses lost the prestige, luxury, and recognition of Egypt. Yet in that hidden place, God made him usable. Meekness is not weakness; it is strength submitted to God.

Jesus said the meek will inherit the earth. That reverses the world's value system. The world rewards self-assertion, dominance, and image-management. The kingdom honors surrendered strength. A meek person can be corrected, led, interrupted, and used.

Challenge

Ask the Lord to show you one area where you are being hardened by pride, defensiveness, or self-protection. Choose one act of submission today.

Day 3 — Stand Firm Without Becoming Harsh

Reflection Question

Am I standing on God's truth with humility, or am I confusing stubbornness with faithfulness?

Reading

- Ephesians 6:13
- Psalm 45:8

Thought

The cinnamon in the holy anointing oil came from trees that grew tall and straight. Pastor Gary used this as a picture of standing firm. The anointed life is meek, but it is not spineless. It bows before God, but it does not bend before every cultural pressure or temptation.

Paul's instruction in Ephesians 6 comes in the context of spiritual warfare. Believers are told to put on the armor of God and stand. This standing is not arrogance; it is rootedness. We stand because Christ has already won. We stand because the truth is not ours to edit.

Psalm 45 describes garments fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia. The image is royal and worshipful. A life that stands with God should also carry the fragrance of God. Conviction without love becomes harsh. Love without conviction becomes compromised. The anointed life carries both truth and tenderness.

Challenge

Choose one biblical conviction you need to stand on more faithfully. Then ask God to help you express that conviction with gentleness and humility.

Day 4 — Bowed Low and Ready to Serve

Reflection Question

Do I see humility as weakness, or as the posture that makes me useful to God?

Reading

- Psalm 133:1–2
- James 4:6

Thought

Pastor Gary described calamus as a plant that grew near water and bent over when the oil within it became heavy. That became a picture of humility. The more filled we are with God's Spirit, the less impressed we become with ourselves. True spiritual fullness bends low.

Psalm 133 describes the blessing of unity as precious oil running down Aaron's head and beard. In ancient Israel, oil marked consecration and joy. But notice the setting: unity among God's people. The anointing is not merely personal; it affects the whole community. Pride fractures fellowship, but humility creates room for blessing.

James tells us God gives grace to the humble. That is not religious poetry, it is spiritual reality. Grace flows downhill. The bowed life receives what the self-exalting life resists. The person who can wash feet, serve unseen, pray anonymously, and honor others is carrying the aroma of Christ.

Challenge

Do one hidden act of service today without seeking credit, recognition, or control over the outcome.

Day 5 — Fresh Oil, Not Old Stories

Reflection Question

Am I living from fresh communion with God or surviving on old spiritual memories?

Reading

- Psalm 92:10
- Romans 8:5–6

Thought

Pastor Gary emphasized that the olive oil used for anointing was to be fresh. Old oil could become foul and attract flies. Ecclesiastes 10:1 says dead flies spoil the perfumer's ointment, and that image reminds us that neglected spiritual life becomes stale. Yesterday's obedience cannot replace today's surrender.

Psalm 92 speaks of being anointed with fresh oil. Freshness with God is not emotional hype; it is daily dependence. It is the renewed work of the Spirit in our motives, thoughts, relationships, and obedience. It is waking up with a desire to please the Father, not merely to manage religious habits.

Romans 8 contrasts the mindset on the flesh with the mindset on the Spirit. Carnality does not preserve the anointing; it dulls spiritual sensitivity. But the Spirit-minded life brings life and peace. Fresh oil is connected to fresh surrender.

Challenge

Spend unhurried time today asking God to renew your hunger for Him. Consider fasting from one distraction that has been dulling your spiritual appetite.

IV. SMALL GROUP RESOURCES

Opening

Welcome everyone warmly. Begin by inviting the group to pause and become aware of God's presence. Encourage a time of prayer focused on:

- Fresh hunger for God
- Humility before His Word
- Openness to the Holy Spirit's conviction
- Love and honesty within the group

Thematic Recap

Pastor Gary taught that the anointing of the Holy Spirit is what makes the Christian life spiritually fresh, fruitful, and distinct. Using the holy anointing oil in Exodus 30, he showed how God forms His people through meekness, steadfastness, humility, purity, and fresh dependence. The message called us away from stale religion and into a daily pursuit of God's presence and power.

Core Message Highlights

- The anointing is not reserved for pastors or public leaders; it is for every believer.
- God's presence gives our lives a spiritual "fragrance."
- Meekness is strength under God's control.
- Humility bends low and serves without needing recognition.
- Carnality weakens our sensitivity to the Spirit.
- Fresh oil requires fresh surrender.
- Purity precedes true spiritual power.

Icebreaker

Question:

Think of a smell, flavor, or place that immediately brings back a memory. Why is it so powerful for you?

Connection:

Pastor Gary used the language of flavor and fragrance to describe an anointed life. This question helps the group consider how unseen things can have a powerful impact.

Scripture Exploration

Passage 1: Exodus 30:23–33

Theme: Consecrated for Holy Use

Discussion Prompts

1. What stands out to you about the detail and specificity God gives for the holy anointing oil?

2. Why do you think God warned Israel not to treat the oil casually or imitate it for common use?

3. What does this passage teach us about holiness?

4. Where might Christians today be tempted to desire God's power without embracing consecration?

Passage 2: 1 John 2:20 and Romans 8:5–8

Discussion Prompts

1. What does it mean that believers have "an anointing from the Holy One"?

2. According to Romans 8, what are the marks of a mind set on the flesh?

3. What are the marks of a mind set on the Spirit?

4. How can we tell when our spiritual life is becoming stale or flesh-driven?

Passage 3: Psalm 133:1–3 and Acts 6:8–10

Theme: Anointing That Affects the Atmosphere

Discussion Prompts

1. In Psalm 133, why is unity compared to oil running down Aaron's head and beard?
2. What does this suggest about the connection between anointing and community life?
3. In Acts 6, what do you notice about Stephen's character and spiritual power?
4. What might it look like for our group or church to carry a spiritual fragrance that others can sense?

Grand Synthesis Prompt

How do these passages together help us understand that the anointing is both personal and communal? It's something God gives to individuals, but also something that blesses the whole body?

Application: Growing in Personal and Communal Prayer

Personal Prayer Practices

Encourage group members to choose one or two practices this week:

- Begin each morning by asking for fresh oil, not just strength to get through the day.
- Pray through the five postures from the sermon: meekness, steadfastness, humility, purity, and freshness.
- Confess any known carnality or compromise quickly.
- Ask God to make your home, workplace, and relationships places of spiritual fragrance.
- Pray before entering difficult conversations.

Communal Prayer Practices

As a group, consider adopting one of these rhythms:

- Pray over empty chairs, asking God to bring people who need encouragement and salvation.
- Spend time praying for CBC's worship services before Sunday.
- Pair up during the week for a short prayer call or text check-in.
- Pray specifically for marriages, children, students, workplaces, and those serving behind the scenes.
- Ask God to raise up hidden intercessors in the church.

Closing

Prayer Needs

Invite group members to share:

- Where they need fresh oil
- Where they feel spiritually stale
- Where they need courage to stand
- Where they need humility to bow
- Where they need freedom from carnality or compromise
- Who they are praying for to come to Christ

Closing Prayer Prompt

Lead the group in a Spirit-led time of prayer around these themes:

- Consecration to God
- Fresh filling of the Holy Spirit
- Purity and repentance
- Unity in the church

Leader Notes

- Create a safe and honest environment. This sermon may stir conviction, especially around carnality, spiritual dryness, or hidden compromise.
- Avoid forcing anyone to share beyond their comfort level.
- Keep the conversation centered on grace-filled transformation, not shame.
- If someone shares a sensitive struggle, thank them for their honesty and avoid quick fixes.
- Encourage application that is specific and doable.
- Make room for silence. The Holy Spirit often works deeply when groups are not rushing.
- Watch for members who may feel discouraged. Remind them that fresh oil is not earned by performance; it is received through surrender.
- Keep returning to the central invitation: pursue God Himself, not merely what He can do for us.