

Recap from last week Living in the anointing means living a life in response to the leadership of the Holy Spirit. *The anointing is God's empowerment by the Holy Spirit to live out His calling.* Every individual needs to understand how God has empowered you to carry out His purposes in and through you; **We get to take the gifts that are God-given and ask the Lord to anoint them with His presence and power** so that He gets the glory. It's the anointing upon the gift that makes the gift function with ease. I encourage you to keep asking the Lord for a greater anointing and then be willing to be obedient to what he shows you to activate that anointing and steward that fellowship with the Holy Spirit on a regular basis.

- Though the indwelling Holy Spirit takes residence in our lives the moment of salvation by faith in Jesus, *the empowering of the anointing of the Holy Spirit takes place as we believe His word, step out in faith and walk in fellowship with the Holy Spirit.*
- One of the main reasons it's important to discover our anointing in the Lord is so we would be satisfied with how the Father has specifically designed us. As we learn to operate in our design we will not attempt to continuously move outside of our anointing and wonder why we are burned out, or unsatisfied.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NKJV) 21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us [is] God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

Every single believer has an anointing and every single believer has access to the Holy Spirit who distributes the manifestations of His power which are listed in 1Corinthians 12:4-11.

Though you may not carry a permanent endowment of healing, miracles, Godly knowledge etc. the Holy Spirit does. Though it may fall outside what you would consider your anointing I have really good news! The Holy Spirit can release the anointing needed to accomplish Jesus purpose through our willingness to step out in faith and simply be used. In other words your not limited when you walk in the Holy Spirit. (Pat)

We need to be cautioned concerning our God given gifts not to let ambition or comparison with others bring discouragement or cause offense. Some don't like it if there anointing does not result in a high profile or a (seen) gift that is more easily recognized. Nothing will rob from what Jesus wants to do through you like jealousy and comparison. (Coveting)

A high profile anointing could be a speaker, preacher, worship leader or in the marketplace a president, CEO or business owner. An unseen gift could be an administrator, public servant or stay at home mom or a missionary in a remote place.

1 Corinthians 12:12-18 (NKJV) 12 For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also [is] Christ. 13 For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. 14 For in fact the body is not one member but many. 15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 16 And if the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not of the body," is it therefore not of the body? 17 If the whole body [were] an eye, where [would be] the hearing? If the whole [were] hearing, where [would be] the smelling? 18 But now God has set the members, each one of them, in the body just as He pleased.

It really comes down to will we joyfully accept how God has built us and what he has equipped us to do. Will we accept our own anointing or will we let ambition and personal drive for recognition get in the way. *Have you have ever desired something so badly like a position of leadership and upon taking this role you realized you were anxious, tired all the time, overwhelmed etc.* **There is a good chance you were outside of God's anointing and design for your life.** Know your weaknesses, identify others with strengths to surround you.

It is when we attempt to be something that we were never intended to be, or pick up a load that we were never intended to carry that we step out of our design and begin to experience burn out.

You're anointing is purposed to be connected to other believers and will grow and mature in fellowship, accountability and your willingness to submit.

James 1:17 every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

Even the one who does not believe in Jesus Christ has incredible gifts that have been placed in his or her life by the Father. **The difference between the believer and the unbeliever is the believer in Jesus Christ takes it a step forward and offers this gift back to God in order to bring Him all the glory.**

Pray *"Take those things that have been given to me and anoint them with your presence and power by the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit'."* **It's moving our gifts from a place of common grace to a place of supernatural grace.**

I do want to add it doesn't matter what your anointing is, anyone and everyone is purposed to be used in dynamic ways. *The Holy Spirit can take any yielded vessel and bring healing to people, deliverance, sharing the gospel and so much more. The Holy Spirit releases the anointing and any of His power gifts can be released through any yielded vessel regardless of your anointing.*

The Holy Spirit often incorporates our natural abilities and superimposes great grace upon them that they appear supernatural to others but seem natural to those who have them.

- **It's good for us not to focus on our own power or influence** but to keep our focus upon the beautiful one, the anointed One Jesus Christ.
- realize just as imperfect men of God were empowered by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God in scripture you too in your weakness can be overshadowed by the presence and power of God
- **We need to be careful as we view others who have incredible gifts not to be overly impressed.** Honestly we should not be impressed by people, but blessed by the Lord God almighty who is the giver of gifts! **We get ourselves in trouble when we overemphasize the person on whom a gift or anointing rest rather than just blessing God for what he has done in frail, and imperfect humanity.** Look for people's anointing and gifting and bless the Lord for every part of His body because **we are all intended to be surrendered to the head Jesus Christ.**

It's very important that we accept our anointing and press into discovering its fullness as we yield to the wonderful leadership and love of the Holy Spirit. God the Father has given you a most precious gift and it's the way the Holy Spirit sovereignly works in each of us. **All Christians have the Holy Spirit but not all Christians carry the same measure of faith.**

Romans 12:3-4 (NKJV) 3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. 4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

- ☐ Your “measure of faith” is the degree to which you **trust God’s promises and obey His calling.**
- ☐ Your “anointing” is God’s empowerment to fulfill your calling.

□ Faith and anointing go hand in hand — **faith opens you to receive God's anointing, and the anointing strengthens your faith.**

The question is will you and I accept the anointing that God has given us and eagerly desire to grow in the gifts and anointing? *We must carry the tension of being grateful and thankful for the gift given yet press in to the gift so that it can grow. We can ask God for a greater anointing and a greater measure of faith to accomplish his purpose and will.*

Guard your anointing given to you by God because the enemy who is the Antichrist or anti- anointing will do everything in his power to rob the glory that belongs to God through pride, sexual sin and other vices that appeal to the desires of the flesh. Satan will provoke you through bitterness jealousy comparison and This is why it is equally important to pursue the fruit of the Holy Spirit even as you grow in your anointing in the Holy Spirit.

As we learned from scriptures your anointing can be used to minister to one or to multitudes , in the marketplace, in the prisons and in King's castles. The lives of Joseph and David are two incredible examples of the anointing not being limited by position or place.

Steps to Discover Your Anointing

1. Seek God in Prayer and the Word

- Most important-where do you sense His pleasure and where do others experience Jesus Christ through you!
- Recognize where you are gifted and where you are not

2. Pay Attention to Your Desires and Burdens

- What spiritual needs stir your heart? (lost people, worship, teaching, serving,)
- Pay attention to what bothers you or burdens you and ask the Lord to use you.

3. Step Out and Serve

- Try serving in different ministries
- Notice where you sense God's presence most strongly and where fruit comes easiest.
- If lives are consistently touched, encouraged, or changed when you serve in a certain way, that's a sign of anointing.

4. Listen to Confirmation from Others

- Ask friends, trusted mentors and leaders: *“Where do you see God’s anointing on my life?” How do you experience Jesus through me?*

Home groups

1. Can you say you are satisfied with the way God has designed you and the anointing He has placed upon your life?
2. Have you discovered your anointing (where you are empowered by the Holy Spirit to live out your calling, how others experience Jesus Christ through you)
3. Are you functioning on a regular basis in your anointing? Are you asking God to anoint your gifts for the glory of God?
4. Discuss-regardless of your anointing, as believers we all have access to the miraculous manifestations of the Holy Spirit revealed in 1Corinthians 12.
5. Discuss-as your discovering your anointing recognize what bothers or burdens you because Holy Spirit may be speaking.