

You Were Made for This: Discovering the Anointing God Placed in You

There is a moment in the Gospel of Luke that deserves more attention than it typically receives. Jesus, standing in a synagogue in Nazareth, unrolls the scroll of Isaiah and reads a passage about the Spirit of the Lord coming upon someone to proclaim good news to the poor, freedom to prisoners, sight to the blind, and release for the oppressed. Then he sits down, looks at the room full of people staring back at him, and says that what they just heard has been fulfilled in their hearing.

This was not a casual announcement. It was a declaration of identity and mission. Jesus was saying, in the plainest terms possible, that everything he was about to do, he would do under the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.

That matters enormously for how we understand our own lives.

The Anointed One and the Little Anointed Ones

The word translated as "anointed" in that Isaiah passage is the Greek word *krio*, meaning to be set apart and consecrated for a sacred purpose. It is the root of the word *Christos*, which is where we get "Christ." Jesus Christ does not mean Jesus was a man with the last name Christ. It means Jesus, the Anointed One. The Messiah. The one set apart by God, empowered by the Spirit, for a specific and sacred work.

Here is where things get personal.

When the early followers of Jesus began spreading throughout the known world, people started calling them Christians. That word carries the same root. Christians, at its core, means little anointed ones. People who belong to the Anointed One and who carry that same anointing into the world around them.

This is not a title reserved for pastors, ministry professionals, or people who stand on a platform on Sunday mornings. In John 14, Jesus makes a promise to his disciples, telling them that the Father will send an advocate, the Spirit of truth, who will live not just with them but in them. He emphasizes this with striking clarity, telling them he will not leave them as orphans, that he will come to them, and that on that day they will understand the deep unity between the Father, the Son, and those who follow.

The apostle John, writing years later to a group of ordinary believers trying to figure out how to live faithfully, echoes this promise. In 1 John 2:20, he tells them they have received an anointing from the Holy One, that it remains permanently in them, and that this anointing

teaches and guides them. The word "permanently" is doing a lot of work in that sentence. This is not a temporary empowerment for the spiritually elite. It is a lasting gift for every person who has surrendered their life to Jesus.

Gifts That Were Never Meant to Stay Inside You

In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul lays out one of the most important frameworks in all of Scripture for understanding how the church is supposed to function. He describes a body made up of many parts, each one different, each one necessary, each one placed by God exactly where he wanted it. The foot cannot decide it is not part of the body because it is not a hand. The ear cannot opt out because it is not an eye.

Paul makes a statement in that chapter that should stop every passive churchgoer in their tracks: to each one, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. Not for the individual. Not to be stored away. For the common good. For the benefit of others.

An apple tree does not eat its own fruit. It produces fruit for others. In the same way, the gifts the Holy Spirit places in you are not designed to stay inside you. They are meant to flow outward, to serve, to build up, and to display the character of Jesus to a world that desperately needs to see it.

Finding What God Put in You

So how does a person actually discover what they carry? There are four places worth examining.

The first is spiritual gifts. Paul references these in Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12, and Acts 2. These are supernatural capacities given by the Holy Spirit, things like encouragement, generosity, hospitality, leadership, teaching, and others. If you have never explored what your spiritual gifts might be, that is worth pursuing with genuine intentionality.

The second is natural talent. One of the first people in all of Scripture described as being filled with the Holy Spirit was a craftsman named Bezalel, anointed specifically to build the tabernacle using his skills with wood, metal, and fabric. God did not replace his natural abilities. He breathed on them and made them extraordinary. Whatever you are naturally good at, that ability is not separate from your calling. Submit it to God and watch what he does with it.

The third is personality and design. Psalm 139 describes God knitting each person together in their mother's womb, a process that is deliberate, precise, and deeply personal. The way you are wired, whether you are energized by large crowds or quiet conversations, whether you thrive behind the scenes or in front of people, is not accidental. It is part of how God designed you to contribute in a way no one else can.

The fourth is life experience. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians that God comforts us so that we can comfort others with the same comfort we have received. The hardest chapters of your story are often the very places where your most meaningful ministry will emerge. What you have survived, grieved, and walked through has shaped something in you that someone else urgently needs.

The Blessing Waiting on the Other Side

In John 13, after washing his disciples' feet and calling them to do the same, Jesus makes a promise. He tells them they will be blessed if they serve. Not that they might be blessed. Not that it is a possibility. They will be blessed.

The blessing is not incidental to serving. It is inseparable from it. God uses the act of showing up, giving your time, offering your gifts, and stepping outside your comfort zone as the very means by which he transforms you from the inside out.

You were not placed where you are by accident. You were given what you carry on purpose. And the world around you is waiting for you to show up with it.

Here is a list of all scripture references mentioned or alluded to in the sermon:

- Mark 10:45
- John 13:15
- Luke 3:21-22
- Luke 4:1
- Luke 4:14-21
- Acts 10:37
- John 14:16-20
- John 15:26
- 1 John 2:20
- 1 John 2:27
- 1 Corinthians 12:4-7
- 1 Corinthians 12:11
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
- Romans 12
- Acts 2
- Psalm 139:13
- 2 Corinthians 1:4
- Romans 8:28
- John 13:15-17
- Matthew 28:19
- Ephesians 4:13

****Alluded To Without Direct Citation****

- Exodus 31:1-5 (Bezalel anointed by the Holy Spirit for craftsmanship)
- Genesis 50:20 (Joseph and his brothers, what was meant for evil)
- John 15:8 (bearing much fruit as disciples)