

ANOINTING

THERE IS AN ANOINTING AVAILABLE
FOR THOSE....

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TRANSFORMED
WORKING LIFE

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Faith or presumption

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Renewing the mind

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Be strong in the battle

Anointing

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INTRODUCTION

At one of their early international meetings the Board of ICCC (The International Christian Chamber of Commerce) brought this statement:

‘There is an **anointing available** for those with eyes to see and ears to hear the call of God in these times. It is for this purpose that ICCC has been formed. It is a tool for instruction and inspiration to encourage the experience of a release into a new dimension of life; a dimension in which corporate goals, strategies and plans become the outward manifestation of an inward walk of faith.

ICCC sounds a call to fall in line with God’s plans for these times as the key to blessing and development and in order to rise victoriously above the encroaching tide.’

Anointing is what this booklet is all about. It is a significant part of the objective of ICCC - to lead each other into more and more anointing of the power of the Spirit for our working lives. This is so that the plantation of tall trees, spoken about in the initial prophecy given to Gunnar Olson (the chairman and founder) for ICCC, can come into being.

The prophecy:

(Given to Gunnar Olson for ICCC on Sunday 21st July 1985 anonymously.)

‘This is the time when this new thing shall be done. It is a plantation which is clean and pure. I see great trees and many smaller trees and bushes. The big trees will protect the plantation when the storm is breaking loose. This is a shelter for many people. No one will be able to touch what I am now doing. The enemies will try to destroy, but I will hit them on their fingers. They will not succeed. Here is neither high nor low ... only Jesus. The Lord will use these for many remarkable miracles. The trees and bushes are full of fruit and berries containing great power.

When people see what I am doing, they will envy you, but they shall not be able to enter in. The Lord is showing the kingdom which cannot be shaken. He will send it down to all those who believe that the Lord is faithful and

real, already here. It shall not be taken away from the Lord's people and will remain when Jesus comes. It shall not be capable of being shaken here on earth.

Many who think that they have much to offer will become very small when they come, because what they bring cannot last.

There are many things to be shown, many things to be experienced.

Do not let what I am doing rock you out of balance. I will do unusual things. Just remain calm and in peace. They have not heard and understood the Holy Spirit. I will protect you in spirit, soul and body and put My wall of fire around you. You will grow in the Spirit in a new way. The Lord will give you new gifts. You will be able to communicate with your dear ones in the Spirit and they will understand completely. The Lord will speak.

You will be bestowed with a wisdom that will astonish many. You will see My power in such a way that you can only be at rest. You will be like a child who only is ... not leaning on your own understanding. Remain in the purity of heart, the faithfulness, the rest ... lest you lose your orientation. You are My servant, and you shall feel that you are completely free, completely happy and fulfilled, dressed in My glory as when I polish My jewel. The Lord will use you specially.

Keep your eyes on the Kingdom that cannot shake .. that begins here .. that the Lord sends to all those who hold Him for faithful. It begins already here and shall not be taken away from you.

The golden chain that is about to be closed with the last link tells that all is finished. When the last link is put into its place, all has been fulfilled.

This will come to pass when My servant has gone to be with the Lord.'

(The last two statements referring to the golden chain and saying these things will come to pass when My servant has gone to be with the Lord are thought to cross refer to the vision given to the FGBMFI and Demos Shakarian.)

ICCC is a ministry for these times - with a message for these times - there is an anointing available for those in the marketplace - and we certainly need it.

CHAPTER 1

YOU ARE WORTHY TO BE ANOINTED

There is an anointing available..... for you. It may be far from your current experience and it might seem unlikely, but it is part of your destiny.

Jesus died so that He could bring forth a harvest of anointed children, as we shall see in a later chapter. The times are urgent for the sons of God to come forth in their anointing.

'For we know that the whole creation groans and labours with birth pangs together until now.'
Romans 8:22

Creation is groaning because it was subjected to death and decay as a result of the fall of man. Now creation is groaning, waiting for its redemption. What is coming upon the earth is part of the redemption process.

We, the born again children of God, have our part to play as time moves towards the climax of all history.

We were born for a time such as this, a time when the powers of evil and darkness will be destroyed, when 'Babylon' will fall in one hour. We are called to live in the fullness of everything the Lord has done for us in Jesus Christ - NOW.

Yet everything we do will count as nothing without the anointing of God upon it, for we are co-workers with Him.

'For we are God's fellow workers.'
1 Corinthians 3:9

Time to rise up and stand

Today is the day of the Christian in every walk of life and particularly in the marketplace. You are needed to form part of the plantation spoken of in the prophecy quoted in the introduction.

There may be all sorts of things which have held you back up to now - but now is the time to break free and to rise and to stand.

'Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.'

Hebrews 12:1

Without the forgiveness of Jesus, without the filling with the power of the Spirit, we can not stand. But Jesus died that we should find forgiveness for our sin and that we should be free.

'Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.'

John 8:36

Jesus has made us free by the power in the sacrifice of His life - given for you and me. No matter what you have done in the past, no matter how inadequate you feel in the present, Jesus has taken the total penalty of your sin and failure in your place.

He has made you free - free to receive His anointing.

Still in bondage to inadequacy

Sometimes we allow ourselves, or the enemy to hold us in feelings and thoughts of inadequacy and unworthiness. If we dwell in that place, we deny the power and effect of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Sometimes we allow ourselves to continue in sin, or to think that we are hopeless and unusable because of some past sin.

'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.'

1 John 1:9

Once we start to confess our need, once we see ourselves as requiring cleansing and we ask - Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness.

Don't allow your own thinking or the enemy to hold past sin over you - once you have confessed it, He is faithful and just - it has gone, it has been dealt with, it has been covered by His blood. You are free of the sin and the guilt - walk in the freedom.

Neither should we continue in sin. Ask the Holy Spirit to change you - it is

His ministry to go on changing us from one degree of glory to another.

'But we.... Are being transformed into the same image (as Jesus) from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.' 2 Corinthians 3:18

Change of thinking

It is time we made a fundamental change in our thinking - it is time to agree with the scripture and with the plan and purpose of God - to make us like Jesus - in the same image. It is time we confessed our sins and failures, laid them at the foot of the cross, and got up calling upon the Spirit to change us from glory into glory.

Not worthy

You and I will never be worthy in our strength, but it is God's intention that the Spirit make us like Jesus, and Jesus is undeniably worthy. Now is the time to stop being entangled by sin and by our own negative thinking. Now is the day to call upon the Lord and be changed, step by step into His likeness.

Made worthy

We are worthy to receive the anointing of God - because of what Jesus has done for us. No longer can we say, 'I am not worthy,' for we deny the efficacy of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Please increase your expectation. If we wallow in thoughts and feelings of unworthiness we are never going to manifest the anointing of God. We need to recognise that God, through His grace, chooses the weak things of this world. You and I have been chosen, washed clean and set aside - to bear fruit.

You may already be very anointed - expect the increase.

You may be a little anointed - expect the increase.

You may feel totally lacking in anointing - expect change and expect to start to receive - even as you read on through this booklet.

Our thinking plays a vital role

The way we think is the way we are - so the scripture defines an evil man in Proverbs 23:7 Yet here is a vital principle - the way you think is the way you are.

Many of us have thought:

‘I am not worthy to receive God’s anointing’ and so we have not received God’s anointing or not been aware of it, the effect is the same.

We have been immobilised by our own thinking.

It is time to renew our minds to line up with the gospel of grace. As you read on let your mind be renewed with a fresh revelation of the Lord’s anointing and His intention for you.

The blood of Jesus has made you worthy to receive your inheritance as a blood bought child of God. This is God’s intention - from the beginning.

‘And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose. For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.’
Romans 8:28-9

Once you have responded to the call to be saved, then, you are predestined to be made into the image of His Son. Let us agree with the principle and allow ourselves to be changed into His likeness bit by bit.

CHAPTER 2

HIS WORK NOT YOURS - GET RID OF PRIDE

The concept that WE are able to do something FOR the Lord can be rooted in human pride and has the tendency to deny His Lordship.

Jesus is the head of the body and He has the right to tell us what to do. The idea that WE out of OUR strength or ability can DO something FOR Him is dangerous thinking.

We have nothing to commend us and nothing to offer.

The truth is that we have nothing to commend us - when He looked upon us in sin, we were not lovely or loveable, rather we were in desperate need of a saviour.

He looked upon us with grace and with His favour, not for what He could get from us, but reaching out in love He saves those who place their trust in Him.

Pride is an enemy

Humans are easy prey to pride. We like to think WE have achieved something, WE are worth something.

The key truth is that we are valuable IN Him - it is what He has done for us and put within us that makes us everything we are - all the glory and all the honour goes to Him.

'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' 1 Peter 5:5

If we retain pride within our souls then God resists us. We as individuals and as a corporate body need to think soberly about ourselves. A church that thinks it is going to establish the Kingdom for Jesus has elevated itself above the head. Jesus said, 'You can nothing without Me,' and in Psalm 127:1 it says, 'Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain that build it.'

Examples of pride might be:

Pride says:

Humility says:

I AM important

Jesus is everything

I AM very anointed

By grace the Spirit sometimes uses me

MY work in the Kingdom

By grace He calls me to be a fellow is strategic and vital worker with Him.

Beware of the inner thought life - very few would openly use the words under the label 'pride' but what are our inner thoughts?

We could not expect to receive the fullness of the anointing and to operate in the fullness of that anointing if our hearts and minds are full of pride.

Get rid of the secret thoughts

Very often pride is something that goes on within the boundaries of our minds and does not show itself to the outside world. We need to be broken people - that is broken of thinking too highly of ourselves.

'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 the measure of faith.'

Romans 12:3

The passage goes on to say we need each other, we are a body which is dependent on the other parts. We have gifts that differ - lets use them for the benefit of the body. If we need each other - and we do - what place is there for pride? Can the eye say to the hand, I have no need of you, or the head to the feet, I have no need of you? No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary. (1 Cor 12:21-22)

The truth is this - I need you and you need me. I need you for the manifestation of the Spirit through you, and you need me for the manifestation of the Spirit through me. God has designed it this way to help keep us from pride.

Jesus the role model

Again Jesus is our perfect example. He was not proud - although if anyone ever had reason to be proud, it would be Him. However if He had been proud He would not have gone through the crucifixion, laying down His life for others.

Jesus said:

'Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' Matthew 11:29

Jesus was humble and meek when He walked on the earth as a man, as a Man. He shows us the way - be gentle and lowly in heart like Him.

'And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.' Matthew 20:27-28

The full power of anointing was seen in Jesus. Here Jesus tells us the way - be like Him.

Have a heart to serve the body of Christ

Perhaps you need to ask the Holy Spirit to increase your desire to be a blessing within the body of Christ and to unbelievers, for we do not naturally want to serve others. Yet this heart to serve is one of the fundamentals which must be in place, if we are going to see the full benefit of God's anointing power.

Jesus is God. Jesus could easily have taken a position regarding His deity, but the scripture says:

'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus. Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it something to be held onto to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond servant, and coming in the likeness of men.' Philippians 2: 5-6

Jesus did not count on position - *'And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.'* Philippians 2:8

Let this mind be in you

This same mind - this mind of Jesus which is quick to serve and does not lord itself or count upon position.

These first two chapters of Philippians give a call to right thinking. You are loved and cherished by God, you are of tremendous value to Him. Therefore be a blessing to your fellows. Reach into the Lord for all the things He has prepared for you so that you can be more and more of blessing.

'He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.' John 12:25

Love, love and more love

We can't move on until we understand that what we are saying is this, love is the key factor.

We will not be able to serve one another unless we love one another and we will not be able to love one another unless we first love Him.

'This is the first and great commandment. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your souls and with all your mind.'

'And the second is like it: you shall love your neighbour as yourself.'

Matthew 22:37-39

Love, love and more love is what we need.

Love for each other is essential, but not natural. It is natural to love our spouse and our family - but even that is often damaged by being in the world. We should love all the brethren, but the truth is there are people we don't like and people we would rather avoid.

Love comes from the Spirit of God. Rather than just accept that we don't have much love for the brethren - or at the very least we could have more love for the brethren, why don't we ask for it.

James says: *'You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.'*

James 4:2-3

It is true - we are normally far more concerned about ourselves than we are about the Lord or about each other.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to fill us with more and more love for the Lord and more and more love for the brethren. Perhaps we ought to adopt it as a regular prayer!

CHAPTER 3

ANOINTING IS FOR EVERY BELIEVER

Just look at typical thought patterns:

‘Surely anointing is for those in full time ministry!’

Then we make that say, surely anointing is only for those in full time ministry - and we exclude business as a form of full time ministry of course.

‘Surely anointing is for a chosen few’

Then we quickly exclude ourselves from the few. (Or we include ourselves and fill with pride.)

How easy it is for our thinking to slip into unbiblical positions. The trouble is that our thinking often compares what we read in the scripture to our experience, and, then tends to bring the truth down to the level of that experience instead of raising our expectation for greater things.

Result - passivity, we don’t expect to receive much anointing, if any, and that becomes our experience almost by default.

The scripture is good for reproof - it is good for correction - it is time to start believing the scripture above our experience and thus avoid the pitfall of wrong thinking

What does the bible say?

‘But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all.’

1 Corinthians 12:7

This is the truth - the manifestation of the Spirit is given to all. Now it may be true that you have not yet experienced any such manifestation - but nevertheless it is there ready for you to appropriate by faith.

Different gifts to different people

The scripture goes on to say that different gifts are given to different people - that should be obvious. The body needs the functioning of all the gifts.

Business people particularly need wisdom. Words of knowledge can be very helpful and the gift of discernment vital some of the time. Every body needs to benefit from the various gifts of the Spirit at various times throughout life.

Gifts of the Spirit are intended to be a benefit

1 Corinthians 12:7 makes this clear - they are for 'the profit of all.' The Lord intends the manifestation of the Spirit to be beneficial - and He has so designed it that one part of the body can be a blessing to another. We need each other.

Pursue spiritual things

1 Corinthians 14:1 goes even further. Here the scripture says:
'Pursue love, and desire (be zealous for) spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophecy.'

Pursue - literally 'go after in hot pursuit' - spiritual gifts because this is the practical outworking of love, and we are called to love each other.

It should be obvious

It should be obvious that God does not intend all the gifts to flow through one man. We often appoint a pastor, minister, priest or vicar and expect him to be able to do everything that needs to be done in the church. After all, he is paid to do it isn't he!

No wonder so many in such positions are over worked, often to the point of burnout or breakdown. We have gifts that differ. We function best in the areas of our gifting - that is the way the Lord has designed it.

Still in doubt? Read 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31. The church of Jesus Christ is also the body of Jesus Christ. Can an eye say to an ear 'I don't need you?' Where would the sense of hearing be?

We need each other - the degree to which we act as loners is the degree to which we and the body are impoverished.

Anointing is for you

Yes, yes, yes and yes again, anointing is for you. The Spirit of God has gifts to give to His people for the benefit of all. Let us be greedy for all that the Spirit wants to manifest through us - the body will benefit.

CHAPTER 4

YES - ANOINTING FOR WORK

God is the author of work - He gave Adam the destiny of subduing the earth and the specific role of 'keeper of the garden of Eden.'

We share Adam's destiny, but we all have different roles to play - that is different jobs to do.

Adam was able to name every living creature (Genesis 2:20). Adam enjoyed the very presence of God.

We enjoy the very presence of God, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

In the same way that God prepared works for Adam, He has prepared good works for us to walk in - you will find that recorded in Ephesians 2:10. If God has prepared good works for us, then it is totally consistent and logical to think that He will anoint us for those works.

The Lord is interested in your daily job - be it Chief Executive or clerk, housewife or Doctor. He designed you to work, and He designed your work for you.

We know from 1 Corinthians 6:19 that our physical bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit - that means God has taken up residence within us. (See - Inherent Power in this series for a full discussion)
God in the person of the Holy Spirit has taken up residence.

The Lord God dwells inside.

Therefore it is important that He, the Holy Spirit, is pleased to dwell in you and me, otherwise He, the Holy Spirit, grieves or is quenched. For that reason it is important to be doing the work God has called you to do. The Spirit will not be at peace if we are not doing the works God prepared beforehand for us to do.

The Lord wants an anointing where He dwells.

In Exodus 31:1-11 we are told that the people who physically made the tabernacle, in which God placed His presence on the journey through the wilderness, were filled with the Spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship.

The physical workmanship included:

Design

Metalwork in gold, silver and bronze

Cutting of precious stones

Setting jewels

Woodwork

Garment manufacture

Manufacture of perfumed oils

.. and anything else involved in making the place where God was going to allow His presence to dwell.

Now lets link this principle through to the New Testament and to us:

Anointing where God dwells

So here is a principle we can follow:

The Lord will place an anointing over the things that make up the place in which He dwells.

Can we see this in the New Testament? Yes indeed.

'But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.'

1 John 2:27

The anointing of God dwells in you. Where?

We know from John 3: 5-6 that when we acknowledge and call upon the Lord for forgiveness of sins, believing Him to be divine, then the Holy Spirit brings rebirth to our human spirit.

In addition to bringing new life where death and darkness had reigned, the Holy Spirit takes up residence within us - living in our human spirit - in fact making us one spirit with the Lord.

1 Corinthians 6:17 says: *'But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.'*

So we can see that the Holy Spirit has taken up His residence in our human spirit and as we allow Him to, He will affect our souls and even quicken our mortal bodies.

You could liken our bodies to the Temple, so when we are born again:

Physical body	The outer court
Soul - mind, will and emotions	The Holy Place
Human spirit	The Holy of Holies

In this analogy the Holy Spirit comes and takes up residence in the holy of holies, living in the human spirit. His presence is to some degree held behind a curtain. Yet the truth is that the curtain was torn in two and the way to the holy of holies is open. Regretfully many of us still live as if you cannot enter in, and so our lives are lived out mainly within the realm of soulish thinking - the flesh.

Yet the truth remains. We are able to live in the fullness of what Jesus has done. We can enter right in at any time. As we choose more and more to be led by the Spirit, so our souls and even our physical bodies are more and more affected by the presence of the Holy Spirit. We can become spiritual giants in earthen vessels.

The nature of anointing

Anointing can be likened to taking a piece of cloth and dropping it into dye. The cloth comes out fully associated with the colour of the dye. Again, anointing could be likened to smothering oneself with sun tan oil. The oil is rubbed onto the skin so that they become fully associated together as one, as the oil is absorbed into the skin.

The result is that the object being ‘anointed’ is now fully associated with the anointing.

In our terminology we would say an anointed man or woman looks, sounds, smells and acts just like Jesus. He or she is so fully immersed in the Holy Spirit that he or she has gone far in being changed into His likeness.

Anointing in all you do

So here is the logical progression:

The Holy Spirit lives in you and wants to be so associated with you that everything you do carries His fragrance and flavour - that is His anointing.

In chapter 9 we will look at the effects and benefits of anointing. For now we have established the principle - The Lord wants you to be fully anointed of Him for everything, including your work.

CHAPTER 5

JESUS IS OUR ROLE MODEL

‘Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in this world.

1 John 4:17

‘Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.’

1 John 3:2

‘For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection.’

Romans 6:5

Destiny

The above scriptures confirm that it is our destiny to be like Jesus - the fullness of which we will experience when we meet Him face to face.

In the meantime we are on a journey to our destiny whilst we walk through life:

‘But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.’

2 Corinthians 3:18

Clearly our calling is to be like Jesus and clearly it is something that is being worked out in life now and will reach completion when we see Him as He is.

It is our calling and destiny to be like HIM.

Therefore Jesus is our role model.

Take on Jesus

'Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.' Matthew 11:29

The way we learn from Jesus is to hear and to do the things we hear Him say to us through the scripture and through hearing His voice.

The way we train ourselves to hear Him is foremost by being thoroughly in love with Him. You recognise the voice of one you love and it is easy to desire to please one you love.

The more you love Jesus the more you will hear Him, the more you will want to please Him and the more like Him you will become.

Even loving him is not something we can attain to on our own - we need to ask the Holy Spirit to continually fill us with more and more love for Jesus - a prayer He certainly likes to answer.

Humility

The phrase 'gentle and lowly in heart' can be summed up as 'humble.' Humility is very important to the Lord.

If we are going to take any notice of Jesus as a role model then this is the foremost thing to take to heart. Jesus was not out for glory - though He was entitled to it. Jesus came as a servant. Jesus came to be a benefit to others. Jesus came and died a humiliating death - so that you and I could be saved.

Jesus calls to us and says, *'Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant'* Matthew 20: 26

Jesus, our role model, came to serve. Let us be like Him and have this desire within us. We want to serve the body of Christ.

As we ask the Holy Spirit, He will change us and give us the heart of one who wants to serve the body - then we will be like Him.

The more we are like Jesus, the more that same anointing will be present

CHAPTER 6

JESUS, THE MAN, WAS ANOINTED

How did Jesus perform His miracles?

Was He able to do all those miraculous things because He is God?

Here is an amazing truth that we need to really understand - Jesus did all His miraculous acts as a man - anointed by the Spirit of God. He performed His miracles as a member of humanity - not as a member of the Godhead.

Where do we find this in scripture?

Jesus said of Himself:

*'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.'*

Luke 4:18-19

Here we have Jesus claiming that a prophetic scripture refers to Himself. He reads from the scroll of Isaiah (from chapter 61 verse one and part of verse two). It is a prophetic passage about the coming Messiah. The Messiah, will be full of power because the Spirit of the Lord will be upon Him. We have here the description of a man anointed with power by the Spirit and Jesus announces that He is that man - He is the Messiah.

Jesus walked the earth as a man

'And the word became flesh and dwelt among us.'

John 1:14

'For what the Law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin. He condemned sin in the flesh.'
Romans 8:3

'But made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.'
Philippians 2:7-8

It should be abundantly clear from the references above - Jesus came in the likeness of human flesh - He was a man.

Indeed it was essential in the plan of redemption for Jesus to come as a man. It was God's mandate to mankind that man have dominion over all the earth way back in Genesis 1. It was man who gave away his 'birthright' to satan in Genesis 3. Now it needed a man to come and restore the dominion.

Only Jesus never sinned. Only Jesus has the right to that dominion.

Anointed by the Spirit

Jesus announced that it was the Spirit of God that anointed Him in Luke 4. We know that He was quoting from Isaiah 61 where the same quotation goes on to mention that the Messiah would also proclaim:
'The day of vengeance of our God.'

We all expect Jesus to come again - to come and to rule as the King of kings and the Lord of lords - a day of great blessing for believers, but a day of wrath and vengeance for those who have not bowed the knee.

This same Jesus announced that He was anointed by the Spirit of God - that it was by and through the Spirit of God that He was empowered to do the things He did.

Healed the sick,
Gave sight to the blind,
The lame walk,
Captives released,
The dead raised,
Water turned into wine,
Bread and fish multiplied many times over
if you wrote down all the things that Jesus did, the earth could not contain all the books.

'And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain all the books that would be written.'
John 21:25

Anointed by the Spirit, Jesus did many, many, many miraculous things.

Many more than we can think or even dream of ... Jesus did so many miraculous things the world could not contain the paperwork!

As a man

Here is a magnificent truth - Jesus did all these things as a man - indeed as the Son of Man, not as the Son of God.

This is an essential truth to grasp because we are also members of mankind.

CHAPTER 7

JESUS THE GRAIN OF WHEAT THAT DIED

Now if we turn to John 12:23-24 we will find Jesus making a statement that showed His intentions:

'The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.'

What do you harvest if you plant wheat? Wheat!
What do you harvest if you plant an anointed man? Anointed men!

The message Jesus is giving here is unmistakable.

Unless I die I will remain the one and only fully anointed man that there ever was or will be. If I die - there will be a harvest.

Jesus expectation in dying was this:

IT was you and me and many others like us anointed like Him - able to do the things that He was doing when He walked the earth in the flesh.

Jesus died for a harvest. His death was not failure - this parable shows that it was necessary to release a huge potential increase in the spread of the Kingdom of God.

Potentially thousands and thousands and thousands of anointed human beings - anointed like Jesus.

Thousands upon thousands healing the sick, raising the dead and so on.

Yes, this is what is possible. The price has been paid. The deal has been done. It is up to us to come into all that has been bought and paid for.

This is the calling of the sons of God, this is the calling of the believers - show the world the Kingdom of God by being like Jesus and doing the things Jesus did.

Greater things shall you do

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.'
John 14:12

Jesus clearly expects us to be doing at least the same things as He did, and even greater things.

Whether you want to interpret 'greater' as 'of more significance' or as 'greater in volume' makes no difference. We should be flowing in the same anointing as Jesus flowed in.

This is our inheritance whilst we are on earth - we are to receive the same anointing - we are to do the same works of power.

We are to be the harvest that Jesus died for - the harvest Jesus expected. 'Unless a grain of wheat fall to the ground and die, it remains alone, but if it dies, it produces much grain.'

Death to self

In John 12: 25 Jesus goes on to say:

'He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.'

We will move into the anointing as we die to our own desires. As we see this life as temporary and as we are prepared to 'hate our lives in this world,' so we will be the recipients of eternal life. In the context of this passage - as we die to self we will see a harvest - just as Jesus died for a harvest.

CHAPTER 8

TO OUR ADVANTAGE - ANOTHER JUST LIKE HIM

It must have been totally devastating for the disciples to hear Jesus say these words:

‘But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, “Where are you going?” But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth, IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.’ John 16:5-7

Can’t you just imagine the disciples - ‘how on earth can it be to our advantage for You to go - we want You here with us?’

Jesus the role model and mentor

Jesus had walked with them for three and a half years. He had been their constant companion. He had taught them, led them and shown them Himself. Jesus had worked many wonderful miracles in their sight. They could not possibly have conceived that it was to their advantage for Jesus to leave - yet that is exactly what Jesus said to them.

Are we not like them?

How often do you and I say to ourselves- ‘If only Jesus was here now - everything would be all right.’

Our thinking can become aligned with their thinking. Jesus I want your presence with me.

Yet Jesus said to them, ‘IT IS TO YOUR ADVANTAGE that I depart.’ Here is something we have not fully understood - there is advantage for us if we will recognise it and receive it in all its fullness.

How much of Jesus time would we get?

If Jesus was walking the earth today as a man, how much of His time would you get every day?

Being totally fair to all His children let us assume that He allocated His time equally amongst us.

Let us further assume that there are 500 million born again believers in the world today. When we divide the time available each day between all the believers we would get less than one second per day.

You would not even have time enough to say more than 'Hello' and your time would be up.

Jesus was working to a master plan

Jesus knew what He was saying - although it was going to be hard for the disciples to make the transition, something mighty and marvellous was going to happen.

Jesus was going to send another. Another just like Him. Another who would never leave us and never forsake us. Another helper, counsellor, teacher, just like Him.

This counsellor, teacher, helper would not only be with us but would live inside us.

'The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.'

John 14:17

Living inside

This is Jesus' master plan - God, Himself, in the person of the Holy Spirit will dwell within us. The anointing is within.

No wonder John was able to write:

'But the anointing you have received abides in you.'

1 John 2:27

Jesus said of Himself and the Father,

'If anyone loves Me, He will keep My word; and My Father will love Him, and We will come to him and make Our home with Him.'

John 14:23

How is this fulfilled? In the person of the Spirit.

'But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.'
1 John 2:27

'You were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance.'
Ephesians 1: 13b-14a

The Holy Spirit dwells within us - no wonder we can expect to be anointed to the full.

The Godhead is one

There is a principle found in John 12:

Jesus is speaking: recorded in John 12: 6-9

*'I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known the Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.
Philip said to Him. "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."
Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father?' Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me?"'*

The principle is this:

'For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.'
Colossians 2:9

Here is this wonderful principle - if you know one member of the Godhead you know them all. If you have met the Spirit of God you have met Jesus. If you are filled with the Spirit of God - then Jesus and the Father have made their home with you also.

We have become one with God.

No wonder we are expected to be able to do greater things

Now it should be plain to see -we are expected to be able to do the same things that Jesus did through that same Spirit who raised Him from the dead - now living in you and me.

The risen Jesus - breathed on His disciples and said to them: RECEIVE the Holy Spirit recorded by John at chapter 20:22

RECEIVE NOW - compulsory.

Can you imagine for a moment Jesus saying the same thing to you.

RECEIVE the Holy Spirit.

Is the Holy Spirit welcome?

So this now raises a question.

Is the Holy Spirit welcome inside you?

Do you ever welcome Him?

Do you tell Him He is welcome living in you?

It also raises another question:

Jesus was asked, "Which is the greatest commandment?"

His answer is found in Matthew 22:37

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your mind.'

If you are in doubt about the difference between spirit and soul read ('Inherent Power' in this series.)

The heart refers to both the human spirit and the human soul together. You could imagine Jesus using a zoom camera as He is speaking - we start with the overall view - the total picture, but now we want to focus in on a particular area in the picture - zoom in to the soul.

The human soul is made up of the will, the emotions, and the mind - zoom in again - it is the mind that we want to focus on. Love the Lord your God with all your mind.

Here is where loving the Lord starts - in the mind. You can use your mind to express your love for the Lord in any place and at any time - nothing can separate you from the love of God.

I find it quite easy to express my love for the Father. My human father was not a blockage - and if your human father was a blockage for you - then forgive him and ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to see past the role model your human father set - for the Lord your God is far better than any human father.

I find it quite easy to express my love for Jesus- in fact much easier since I asked the Holy Spirit to help me. My favourite prayer has become: 'Holy Spirit, fill me with more love for Jesus.'

But I found myself sadly lacking when it came to loving the Holy Spirit. I had never been taught that you could. I had never considered the concept.

Yet the Holy Spirit is just as much God as is Jesus or the Father. The command is to love the Lord your God - it is not restricted to the Father and Jesus.

Maybe we have been put off by the idea that the Holy Spirit wants only to glorify Jesus - I believe that is true - the Holy Spirit wants to glorify Jesus. But that does not mean you cannot or should not love the Holy Spirit.

I want to glorify Jesus, and I am privileged to be able to go and share my faith with many people all over the world - that does not mean that they shouldn't welcome me and love me. Indeed as they welcome and love me we are able to glorify Jesus together.

In the same way we should love the Holy Spirit - after all it is He who has taken up residence within. He is God.

CHAPTER 9

'GO AND DO LIKEWISE' - THE EFFECT OF ANOINTING

'Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.'
John 14:12

Jesus intention is absolutely clear - he wants us to go and do the same things that He did when He walked the earth as a man.

Although the call is clear and Jesus intention is clear, we have a problem. When we consider Jesus, we see the One who was able to meet every need, in every situation. Then we look at ourselves and at our experience and we think to ourselves, 'I can never be like Him.'

Part of the problem is our viewpoint - we are looking at Jesus and seeing all the wonderful things He did and saying, 'I could never do that.' Instead we should look at Jesus and say, 'Little bit by little bit I am being made like Him.'

Start to move

Then we would be able to start to move in the things of the Spirit - we could start to expect to hear God speak - we could start to expect to prophecy and to heal and so on.

The Lord is not calling us to a sudden and tremendous change - although that might happen to a few. The norm is found in 2 Corinthians 3:18 - *'we all are being transformed into the same image (the glory of the Lord) from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.'*

There is a process of transformation going on - that process is making us more and more like Jesus. Today you might not feel very like Jesus and you may feel totally inadequate when it comes to flowing in the Spirit with works

of power. But tomorrow you will be a bit more like Jesus and next week and next month and next year.....

Be faithful in the small things

Start where you are - be faithful with what the Lord gives you. Listen to the Spirit of God and do what He says.

Jesus did what He saw and heard the Father doing - this is the secret of moving in the Spirit - it is very simple. Do what you see and what you hear Jesus doing.

‘However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.’
John 16:13-15

So, here we see exactly the same principle at work.

Jesus said of Himself, ‘Most assuredly I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but whatever He sees the Father do; for whatever He does the Son does in like manner.’

Jesus said. ‘Without Me you can do nothing.’ John 15:5

Jesus is asking us to do what He did. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit to see and to hear what the Father was doing - in the same way we are anointed of the Spirit to see and to hear what Jesus is doing.

It is likely to start with small things - the Spirit may show you something in a small meeting - maybe a prophecy, maybe a word of knowledge. You are going to have to be prepared to make mistakes - because it is always a matter of listening and moving out - and as we learn we are going to get it wrong sometimes.

Don't be put off - those receiving are expected to test the word. If we never move out we will never move on to greater and greater things.

Ask, ask, ask

‘You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and you do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend it on your pleasures.’
James 4:2-3

Two problems emerge from this scripture:

The sin of not asking for more and more anointing, to empower us to be more of a blessing to those around us.

The sin of only asking for things for ourselves.

If you want to move in the Spirit to get glory for yourself - the Lord will not hear your prayer and you will receive nothing.

If you want to move in the Spirit for your own enjoyment - the Lord will not hear your prayer.

If you want to be a blessing to others - if you want your life to bring glory to Jesus and benefit to His body - then the Lord will hear and answer your prayer. He will add to you, bit by bit, more and more opportunity and more and more anointing.

Give it time

Give God time. He will increase you. It can be likened to entering the promised land.

The Jews were not allowed to enter all the land at once - they were given it little by little. (Deuteronomy 7:22)

This is the normal experience. Little by little you will be more and more anointed - sometimes there will be great strides forward, at other times your progress may seem to have stopped or be very slow.

The Lord God is working two things in each one of us at the same time:

- 1) He wants the gifts of the Spirit to come forth in greater and greater measure.
- 2) He wants the fruit of the Spirit to be fully developed in your life.

Growing fruit requires the passage of time and the development of patience.

Love is the major key

The major key in all of this is love.

Firstly, it must be love for the Lord your God in all its fullness. That means being in love with the Father, in love with the Son and in love with the Spirit.

It is the Spirit of God who dwells in you. It is the Spirit of God who is charged with the job of changing you from one degree of glory to another.

It is the Spirit of God who can be quenched by our actions and grieved by our actions.

It is the Spirit of God whom we need to get to know with all intimacy. Love the Lord your God especially the Holy Spirit, who is equally God with Jesus and the Father.

Love you neighbour as yourself. Have this desire within you - I want to bless my brothers and sisters.

Short on love?

Ask! Holy Spirit please increase my love for You and for my brothers and sisters And keep asking.

CHAPTER 10

UNDERSTAND THE TIMES

‘There is an anointing available for those who understand the call of times.’
(ICCC International Board Statement.)

This statement is particularly aimed at people working in the marketplace for that is the ministry for which ICCC was inaugurated by the Lord in 1985.

So if you work in the marketplace - this statement is for you.

Why is there a particular anointing for those called to the marketplace?

We believe that the ruling power in the marketplace of this world is Babylon. This is shown in Revelation 17. A harlot rides a beast with numerous heads. We are told that the beast represents the kingdoms of the world. So there is a ‘harlot’ system which rides on world governmental systems. Later it becomes apparent that it is particularly the merchants - the businessmen who are affected by the downfall of Babylon.

In Ezekiel 28 satan is described as the King of Tyre. Tyre is associated with trade.
(Ezekiel 28:5)

Trade should be a great blessing to the world - but trade has been hijacked by the forces of evil. Money has become a God and a spiritual principality. All sorts of evil is practised in the pursuit of money. Trade, which should be good and wholesome and a blessing to everyone, has been taken over in the pursuit of mammon and greed for one’s own gain.

Once man turns his eyes and his ambition away from the Lord and onto money - then all sorts of evil practices flood in and the situation is ripe for demonic influence.

The Lord is going to deal with the situation.

Now the time for the downfall of Babylon is near.

In Revelation 17 and 18 we read of the downfall of Babylon - it seems that Babylon is described as both a harlot and a city! A bit confusing at first sight.

It seems to me that the harlot, called 'Mystery Babylon,' in chapter 17 verse 5 is rather like a false bride for antichrist. We know that satan aspires to the position of God, and in his kingdom he will mimic the things of God.

So it should be no surprise to find antichrist with a bride, and it should be no surprise that the bride is called both a woman and a city. For that is exactly what we find when we consider the bride of Christ. We, the church and the new Jerusalem are both called and described as the bride of Christ.... This is because of the total association, one with the other, that is the church with the New Jerusalem, that they both carry the same title.

So it is with Babylon. The city (presently being reconstructed in Iraq by Saddam Hussein) and the harlot are totally associated with each other in their opposition to God.

There are going to be stormy times ahead

As the time comes for Babylon to fall - and the process has already started - the marketplace will become more and more unstable. Yet we are called to work and witness in the marketplace. This is not a time for getting out - rather it is a time for ensuring that we are hearing God on a personal basis. (Read 'Hearing God Speak' in this series)

Now is the time when the Lord will work miracles amongst us. I believe there are two particular reasons for this - firstly He wants to demonstrate His power and secondly He is raising up Josephs amongst the children of God.

In the time ahead there are going to be those used by God in the same way Joseph was used in Egypt - that is with wisdom and foresight in order to provide for the people. Joseph knew what was coming upon Egypt because he was given the ability by God to interpret dreams. He had wisdom because God gave him wisdom. The church needs people like this now and for the future.

People who know the times and know what to do. (Amos 3:7)

The anointing is the vital ingredient

It is the anointing of God that makes all the difference. It is the anointing of God that makes a way where a way seems impossible.

The anointing is the total association with the Lord and with His ways. The anointing is the rubbing in of His character, His fragrance - so rubbed into us

that we are like Him.

The anointing works in the same way as it worked for Jesus - He did what He saw and heard His Father doing.

Let me give you a recent example:

I work as an accountant giving financial advice. Recently one of my clients was about to reach retirement age. In his pension fund he had just over £1 million.

The cash was in two company pension schemes - one for each of the companies he owned. Although he was about to reach the age for retiring he didn't want to start drawing the pension - because he felt that pension rates were very low and that they would rise within a year or two as interest rates rose.

However, he did want to sell off the two businesses. That left a technical problem. According to UK pension rules he couldn't do what he wanted to do unless he transferred the cash to a private pension arrangement.

In theory there is no problem - unless the fund has too much cash in it. 'Too much' being a calculation related to salary and years of service. Well the checks were made and unfortunately there was too much cash in both funds!

That seemed to be the end of the matter. My client could not do what he wanted. Then, very simply, as I sat at my desk I heard the Lord speak to me - 'Vote him a retrospective bonus.' i.e. go back and increase his salary for a previous year.

That may look obvious, but when I checked the figures it meant going back four years. I had never heard of such a thing, nor even considered it was possible. Neither had the two insurance companies holding the funds! As the companies were very reluctant to release the funds, the PSO (Pensions Supervisory Office) was consulted.

As an accountant the idea of going back four years seemed totally impossible - the accounts for that year were finished, audited and signed off long ago. Yet the PSO agreed - 'yes, you can go ahead, there is no problem.'

It seems that the Lord is much more of a pensions expert than anyone on earth - of course; and that is the point of the anointing. The Lord knows everything there is to know - He can give you that extra edge that makes the impossible possible.

My client was very pleased with the outcome and my commission was substantial.

The way of the future

This is indeed the way of the future. If we had room enough to do so, we could write many accounts of how the Lord has given supernatural information and supernatural wisdom and supernatural resources into business situations.

As Babylon falls there will be upheaval in the marketplace - no matter how clever you are, or how quick footed, it will not be enough. Now we need to know our God in reality in our calling in business life.

Understand the times

The fall of Babylon is said to happen when there are ten kings ruling the earth. (Revelation 17:12) [For an outline of this read 'Explaining the Future' by the same author.]

The ten kings are said to turn upon 'Mystery Babylon' and destroy her. (Revelation 17:16) Then after that, the events of the end times follow.

Who could the ten kings be?

If we could answer this question we would know how near we were to the events we are discussing. When the EEC was first established some thought that it would be the ten kings - especially so when it had ten member states, but now it has many more.

So we are left to speculate:

It is possible that out of the EEC will come ten nations who become the ten kings foretold in Revelation. Perhaps there will be a split in the EEC (now known as the EU).

There is another possible explanation:

In 1972 the Club of Rome issued a world map and called it 'The Ten Kingdoms.' (The Club of Rome is a body of extremely influential world leaders who follow the New Age philosophy.)

On this map the world was split into 10 economic regions, of which Europe was one. Indeed we can see that economic regions are forming, i.e. in North

America, the United States, Canada and Mexico have joined together as one such region. Others are formed or are in the process of forming. Already in North Africa a number of countries have a common currency (The CFA - used by a number of French speaking North African countries).

This could be a possible explanation - whether it is or not, it is clear that the pressures in the marketplace are increasing daily. It is equally clear that the economic forces are receiving increasing political interference.

Now is the time for the sons of God to be different - to stand out from the unbelievers - to start to inherit the Kingdom. For Jesus is coming soon to collect His bride. The day of the judgement of God cannot be far away.

The times are urgent.

APPENDIX

HOW TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT

The process of being born again is the essential foundation for receiving the Spirit of God. According to John 3: 6 *'That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.'*

Being born again is the result of the entry of the Holy Spirit into the human spirit, bringing that new birth - breathing in new life. (For we are told in scripture that we were all dead in our sins until re-birth.)

The key to rebirth is in recognising Jesus. John 3:16 says -

'For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life.'

Believe in Him and you shall be saved.

Believing in Jesus involves seeing Him as the divine Son of God, come in human flesh. Believing in Jesus sees Him as perfect and sinless, yet taking the penalty for our sins on the Cross in our stead.

Believing in Jesus involves giving Him control of our lives - because we acknowledge that we are now bought at the price of His own sacrifice.

An essential step to this position is praying a prayer along the following lines:

'Dear Lord, I confess that I am a sinner and deserve your judgement. I believe and accept that Jesus is divine, came to earth as a man and took the penalty of my sin in His own body on the Cross. I place my trust in His sacrifice and I ask you to be the Lord of my life. Amen.'

According to Ephesians 1: 13 this happens:

'In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.'

You received the Spirit when you believed - in the form of a seal and guarantee of your salvation.

Now go to Romans 8: 29

'For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn of many brethren.'

The Lord knows the end from the beginning - He knows everything that will ever happen to you and to His world. He knew you would believe in His foreknowledge. Now He has predetermined it - you will be conformed to the image of His Son.

RECEIVING THE FULLNESS

When we come to read Acts 2 we realise that the Holy Spirit came in a discernible way. We read of a rushing mighty wind, tongues of fire resting upon the disciples and of the disciples speaking with languages they had not learnt.

We know that this was an experience additional to the initial receiving of the Spirit. We found Jesus imparting the Holy Spirit to them initially in John 20:22 - 'And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit"'

In John we are reading of the very first impartation of the Holy Spirit to take up residence inside believers - Jesus, now risen from the dead, was now personally imparting the Holy Spirit to His followers. Now this happens when we believe.

The additional element alternatively called, the fullness of the Spirit, the filling of the Spirit and the Baptism of the Spirit can come in many different ways.

Some times a new believer receives the fullness at the same time as he or she first gives his or her life to the Lord.

Some times the fullness comes when we ask for it - maybe in private or by responding at a meeting.

Frequently the fullness of the Spirit is imparted from one believer to another by the laying on of hands.

I would say that the normal experience would be:

Recognise that the fullness of the Spirit is available to all believers.

Desire it.

Ask for it.

Receive it - maybe directly from the Lord or by laying on of hands.

Very commonly there will be some discernible result:

A strong sense of peace

A deep feeling of joy

The ability to speak in tongues

Maybe a manifestation of the Spirit which overwhelms.

If any of these is your experience - then thank the Lord for the fullness of His Spirit - you have received.

Very occasionally people do not receive. Do not give up. There may be some simple blockage which needs to be removed. Maybe some hidden unforgiveness or occult activity. Ask the Lord to reveal it, deal with it and carry on.

CONTINUAL RECEIVING

It is very clear from scripture that it is the Lord's desire that we live lives led by His Spirit. (Read Romans 8)

It is also very clear that things can very easily weigh us down and entangle our lives. (Hebrews 12:1)

Putting these two principles together we can see the need for continually being full of the Spirit of God - so that we can lead lives led by the Spirit and can throw off the things that would hinder us doing so.

We need to continually ask the Lord for the filling of His Spirit. We need to go on receiving and receiving. We should also be people who are continually giving out - through ministry, through encouragement - doing everything we

can to be a blessing to others.

The more we are pouring 'our' blessing to others - the more we will need to be continually receiving.

This is where some quiet time set aside to receive from the Lord is vital. It does not have to be formalised and it does not have to be long, but it does need to be often. We need His constant refreshing, refilling and close presence. We cannot walk alone for we are His co-workers.

MOVING OUT IN THE ANOINTING

Perhaps one of the hardest things to do is to move out in the anointing for the first time. What should I expect? How does it work? Will there be some big sign? How will I know what to bring and when?

For the majority of people, for the majority of the time the anointing is recognised as a still small voice or a misty picture in the mind. This in itself leads to more questions:

Is this really God? Is this really right? How can I be certain? Will what I bring be received? What will they think of me? What if.....

Whilst at first sight this seems unacceptable, there is no alternative to practice. I mean we have to step out with what we believe is coming from the Spirit of God and allow God to confirm or not. In this way we learn to be vulnerable, to die to self and to trust God.

It means we must be prepared to make mistakes and be prepared to let others make mistakes as we learn.

I do not mean by this that we should move with things that come to mind from the flesh. If we are seeking the Lord for something of His Spirit to bless others - then He will lead and guide and teach us.

If we are thinking, 'I want to be seen to be moving in the Spirit' i.e. it is for my glory - then we are on sinking sand.

The moving of the Spirit is by the Spirit - we cannot dictate how He will use us - rather we should be prepared to be used in whatever manner He chooses.

The same principles apply in our working lives. The anointing is available

within our calling. The Lord will speak to us. Then it is up to us to do the things He tells us to do.

This is how the anointing worked for Jesus - He did what He saw and heard His Father doing. The anointing works with us in the same way.

There is a saying that ‘practice makes perfect.’ We will certainly get better and better at moving in the anointing the more we do it. Perhaps there will always be that other voice saying ‘Is this really God?’ It would be strange if it were not so - for the flesh is at war with the Spirit.

The law of sowing and reaping

As we start to move out in the Spirit, or increase the frequency with which we move out, then another law comes into play - the law of sowing and reaping.

‘Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.’
Galatians 5:8-9

Here is a clear call to sow to the Spirit - that is to communicate with and flow with the Spirit - to live a fully Spirit led life. The more we sow, the more we will reap. Why not put this law into practice. Sow and sow and sow again, don’t lose heart, while the seed germinates and grows, you will reap and in so doing, grow to love and trust the Lord more and more.

Let us press on towards the goal - moving more and more in the anointing of God. Let us become the people that Jesus died to release - that harvest of anointed ones, doing greater works within our mandate in the marketplace.

