

Oil of Anointing

November 8, 2012

1 John 2:18-27 “Dear children, **this is the last hour**; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. 19They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

20“**But you have an anointing from the Holy One**, and all of you know the truth. 21I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because **no lie comes from the truth**. 22Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist—he denies the Father and the Son. 23No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

24“See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25And this is what he promised us— even eternal life.

26“**I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. **But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.**”**

Don’t miss this: True Christians are anointed *ones*! The Holy Spirit is the oil—He does the anointing! Matthew Henry said, “The Holy Spirit is compared to oil, as well as to fire and water, and the communication of His salvific grace is our anointing.” We are anointed with the oil of grace; we are anointed with spiritual gifts, and we are anointed with the *fruit* of the Spirit.

•He anoints us to be like Himself;

•He anoints us to secure us to His interest, and

•He anoints us to keep us from lies and the Liar.

Knowing the Truth—Christ—will show up falsehood, as the straight line reveals the crooked, the contrary, and the inconsistent. Truth will fortify us and help us to detect pious frauds and wiles—antichrists—any that oppose the person, doctrine, kingdom, and glory of Christ.

Henry again: “Truth is older than error. The truth concerning Christ that was first delivered to the saints is not to be exchanged for novelties. ...Each successive age has had in it some of the signs of ‘the last time’ which precedes Christ’s coming, in order to keep the Church in continual waiting for the Lord.” True Christians have an inward confirmation of divine truth—through the anointing of the Holy Spirit truth has been imprinted on our minds and hearts. It is durable and lasting oil—an ungent—that does not dry up as does water. It will preserve those from error upon whom it abides.

In 2 Thessalonians 2:8-10 we read about the Antichrist, and in Matthew 24:24 we are warned that even the very elect are in danger of being deceived. We are told of ones who had not the anointing from above and were not therefore true and real Christians; of ones who are permitted to depart so that their insincerity would be detected. These are opposers of sacred truth—ones who were:

- entertainers or mere professors—**not what they pretended to be**;
- not inwardly as we are—not what we are,
- not of our union with **Christ as the Head**—and **that is** their defection!

Henry: “It is a mysterious portion of providence that antichrists should be permitted; but, when they have come, it is good and safe that the disciples should be informed of them; ministers should be watchmen to the house of Israel.” Remember that we are as far away from the devil as we choose to be (resist in James 4:7); and we are as close to God as we want to be (draw near in James 4:8). If we’re in the family of God—through faith in Christ—**we have an anointing**, and it assures us of His presence, His power, and His peace!

The Expositor’s Bible Commentary says: “Although ‘anointing’ is used only infrequently in the New Testament, both Luke and Paul do use it with reference to the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38; 2 Corinthians 1:21-22). ...John aims his remarks precisely at the innate knowledge of the Gospel that he knows his followers possess. Lies cannot come from God. The antichrists and their followers, the false teachers, are liars. So they do not come—in fact, they cannot come—from God, who is the truth.”

The truth is that we must come to the Father through faith in the atoning work of Jesus Christ the Son. When we come to know Christ as Savior and as Lord, the Holy Spirit immediately takes up residence in us—now the temple of Christ. And dependent upon the room we afford Him and the rule we give Him, the Spirit will reign in our hearts. He will lead us and guide us into all truth; He will impart spiritual gifts to us for use in our ‘calling’—we examined closely last year—and He will develop the *fruit* of the Spirit in us.

Book-ended by ‘love’ and ‘self-control’ the *fruit* include: joy, peace, **patience**, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, and gentleness. Patience and kindness also make up agape’ defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4a “*Love is patient; love is kind.*” Agape’—God’s love—is first of all patient and then after a long time like the entire Old Testament, that long-suffering love is kind. That defines agape’! Speaking of the *fruit* of the Spirit listed in Galatians 5:22-23 Beth Moore said, “They all come with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. You see, we don’t just need more patience, we need more of the Holy Spirit filling us and anointing us.”

Fruit grows on trees (and vines)—certain fruit on certain trees (and vines). The tree just has to be the tree—apple, plum, cherry, pear—to produce the fruit. With the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer, the *fruit* of the Spirit will begin to flourish. We will be filled with the Spirit and the *fruit* of the Spirit will be produced in us to the extent that we allow Him to fill us up. The Holy Spirit will produce the *fruit* as we submit, as we yield, as we allow. Fruit will be there and it will be evident, because He will cause it to be so!

The problem: There is spiritual hunger out there, but the world is striving to be spiritual without God—embracing myths, spiritual rituals, and eclectic experiences. The world is being lied to by the antichrists, false teachers and by the evil one. God loves the world and made a way for their salvation. They need what we have: forgiveness of sins and reconciliation to the Father through Christ. “We are the only ones who claim a supernatural transformation,” said Ravi Zacharias. “Why do so many ‘Christians’ not show it?”

► We have only to read about Jesus in the Gospels to see what His response would be to one who did not bear ‘fruit’. In Matthew 21:18 Jesus was on His way back into Jerusalem from Bethany early in the morning and he was hungry. Verse 19 says: “*Seeing a fig tree by the road, he went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it, ‘May you never bear fruit again!’ Immediately the tree withered.*” The Lord cursed this fig tree because, though it was loaded with leaves suggesting fruit was present under them, there was none. When Jesus saw the leafing fig tree He was expecting its fruit to refresh Him and His disciples. But the fig tree was only posing as a refresher—it had no fruit—and He put a curse on it.

So it is with some professing Christians who have leaves—the Christian T-shirt, bumper sticker, or cross necklace—but no *fruit* is present. They are imposters, phony and posers, and often they are in the church. And underneath they are mean because, though they boast refreshment, they have none: Someone has said, “There is nothing more distrusting than a mean Christian.”

If judgment, strife, and criticism are coming from a Christian—run from it—it is carnal and causes division. If that Christian is spouting unloving, discouraging, faithless and *fruitless* words, hang up the phone or turn and walk away. One of the quickest ways to see what people are made of is to listen to them. But we must be right in our own inner motives—giving complete control over our own spiritual gifts and our *fruit* to the Spirit of God—only He can develop *fruit* in us so that we practice the ministry of reconciliation. “Our spiritual gifts don’t show who we are, but our *fruit* does,” said Joyce Meyer. “Don’t advertise your Christianity if you don’t have *fruit*!”

The pruning: John 15 talks about pruning—that it is necessary to cut away that which is unproductive. God will prune us when we are producing so that we will produce more, and He will certainly prune us when we are not producing so that we will begin! And God will begin with a trim and He will cut away as much as is necessary—self-effort, self-righteousness, apathy, and indifference must go! Meyer calls this: “Pruned if you do; and pruned if you don’t.”

The Spirit of God sets us apart as holy for God’s purpose by placing us in Christ. And He—the Spirit—initiates the process of sanctification: daily obedience to the Father’s will for our spiritual maturity. All the work done in us by the Spirit of God after our salvation is for our sanctification. When we were saved we were justified—made just as if we’d never sinned—and when we reach heaven we will be glorified; but in between there is a whole lot of sanctifying that needs to go on: to make us holy. Webster defines **sanctify** 1 : to make holy : consecrate 2 : to free from sin. We are:

- 1) a chosen people;
- 2) a royal priesthood;
- 3) a holy nation, and
- 4) a people belonging to God!

1 Corinthians 1:2 “*To the church of God in Corinth, to **those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours.***” Other phrases in Scripture which relate to the meaning of being **holy**, are **pure, blameless, godly**, and being **free from willful sin**. Since God desires this for us—“*be holy even as I am holy*”—and because He will do the work of making us holy, we are not arrogant in acknowledging our sanctifying ‘**walk**’ toward **holiness**. “God has called every Christian to a holy life. There are no exceptions to this call,” said Jerry Bridges.

Scripture tells us that all of those who have been saved—who call Jesus Savior—have been further **called to holiness**. We must:

- allow the Holy Spirit within to conform us to holiness—the image of Christ;
- pray to be made holy, pure, blameless—free from willful sin;
- recognize that we cannot become holy on our own;
- make our Savior also our Lord—Master, and
- read God’s Word daily, and let it’s truth soak in!

Rev. Adrian Rogers is with the Lord now, but he asks every believer: “Are the things we’re living for worth Christ dying for?” Think this through, and let the Spirit of God give the answer. Remembering that when the Holy Spirit brings conviction to us, it can be a moment of turning or hardening—the choice is ours.

“We must slow down and live more effective lives,” warns Ken Gire. “Trees need winter. ...They need time to strengthen for the growth they experience in springtime. All that green pulpy growth has to harden or the tree will not be able to withstand the seasonal winds that whip against it. ...Growth can be a lonely place, but it is a necessary place.” So in addition to the tree needing to be planted firmly in the truth, to be pruned and encouraged to grow, it will need to produce *fruit* that will refresh those who come under its shade. That’s too much for the tree to do—for the Christian to do—God’s Spirit will do the anointing!

► In David’s much loved and revered 23rd Psalm, there is a line in verse 5b that says of the Shepherd, “*You anoint my head with oil*”. The Shepherd will anoint His sheep with oil. In *Safe in the Shepherd’s Arms*, Max Lucado said, “In ancient Israel shepherds used oil for three purposes: 1. to repel insects; 2. to prevent conflicts, and 3. to heal wounds.” The sheep would just need to stand still and allow the shepherd to smear the fragrant oil all over its face and head.

The oil would do its job. The sheep don’t have to know the value of the oil—what it would repel or prevent or heal—but simply trust the shepherd with itself. Insects can irritate people, but they can kill sheep. They lay their eggs in the sheep’s nose and the wriggling larvae can smother the sheep or harass them to death—because they will not eat or sleep. The oil repels the insects and leaves the sheep free to breathe. In mating season there is conflict and in living in the pasture there is trouble. The oil can allow us to glance off one another in conflict and to slip around each other in pasture without injury. And if there is injury, the oil is applied as a salve!

It is intimacy with the Shepherd, through the Holy Spirit, that we need—up front and personal—to receive all that He has for us. The three barriers to drawing near to and enjoying intimacy with Him are pride, rebellion, and time—we’re in a too much of a hurry—intimacy takes time. Listen to the oil being described in David’s Psalm of Ascent 133:1-3; listen to the beautiful picture it paints!

“How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity!

2 “It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron’s beard, down upon the collar of his robes.

3 “It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.”

The Holy Spirit’s anointing has its practical realization in the ‘walk’ of the Christian in Christ Jesus! And God warns in 1 Chronicles 16:22 “*Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm.*”