

1206 Ministry of the Spirit Extra Notes: The Anointing, Practical Observations¹

“It’s a gift that functions easily when it’s working.” (Kendall)

It seems to be an enabling of the Spirit for the operation of the gifts/services/activities of God (1 Cor 12:4 - 6)

1. The Anointing and the Holy Spirit

- anointing of kings accompanied by outpouring of Spirit, Saul (1 Sam 10:1 - 13), David (1 Sam 16:13)

- anointing the sick preceded God’s healing power (Mark 6:13)

- the water of baptism is the scene of a messianic anointing on Jesus (see also course notes)

2. Accepting our Anointing

- we should see that our anointing is a precious gift

- avoid jealousy of other’s gifts (this is to despise God’s choice)

- do not boast in the anointing (Rom 12:3; 2 Cor 10:13; Eph 4:7). Did Joseph do this (Gen 37:5 - 11)?

- we must accept the limits of our anointing and not exercise selfish ambition (James 3:14 - 16)

- God gives what is just, fair and right

2. Losing the Anointing

- a call with accompanying gift may remain, but God’s approval depart

- example, Saul (1 Sam 10:11 > 1 Sam 15:26; 16:1 > 1 Sam 19:24)

- the operation of the gift may cloak the loss of divine favour e.g. Balaam (Num 23 -24); Judas (Matt 10:1 - 4); miracle workers (Matt 7:21 - 23)

- the paradoxical nature of the working of power without the favour of God is a test of the heart i.e. do we seek success or do we seek God?

¹ Many of these are drawn from R.T.Kendall, *The Anointing*, London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1998.

3. The Anoint and Suffering (see also course notes)

- the anointing stirs up jealousy in others who know they lack God's approval
- e.g. Joseph's brothers (Gen 37:4, 11); Saul to David (1 Sam 18:6ff.), religious authorities and Jesus (Matt 27:11 -18); Jewish authorities and the apostles (Acts 5:17; 13:45)
- this can lead to exile, wilderness, "delay", loneliness, misunderstanding, death e.g. Moses, David, Elijah, prophets, Jesus, Stephen (Acts 6:15; 7), Polycarp, Hus....
- those who are persecuted because of the anointing are refined for fit use by God (2 Tim 2:20 - 21)
- to carry this burden is to carry the cross (Matt 16:24)

4. Jealous for our Anointing

- "You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me" (Ex 20:5)
- where the anointing is not highly regarded, it is easily lost e.g. "And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the LORD had left him." (Judges 16:20)
- valuing the anointing keeps a person in the fear of the Lord less they sin and lose the divine favour (upon the expression of their gifts)
- the Spirit of blessed Sonship always remained on Jesus (John 1:32) because he never grieved the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30) through sin (Heb 4:15)
- always obey the Spirit's voice (Heb 3:7 - 8)
- bitterness (Eph 4:31 - 32; Heb 12:15) and self - vindication must be avoided etc.
- keep free of unconfessed sin (1 John 1:9)