

*“In Christ”
We have God’s
Anointing*



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'As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.'

1 John 2:27

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We have His anointing

‘As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you.’ 1 John 2:27

When we consider the nature of God and how He works, it seems it’s easier to grasp the idea of God as Creator, or of Him as a God of love and how He manifests His love to us because the love of God is consistently demonstrated throughout the whole Bible. So when we begin to understand how His anointing works, we start by reviewing something of His love so we can establish a pattern for His divine spiritual function.

We read that *‘God is love.’* (1 John 4:8) And His love is for everyone, *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”* (John 3:16) However His love only becomes personal interaction and a reality with Him for those who believe and obey His Son and thereby receive His Spirit. *‘The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.’* Rom 5:5

Then we may ask, how much of His love has He poured into our hearts, a little or all? Does He divide His love in showing partiality in giving more to some and not to others, or is God impartial? The Bible says '*There is no partiality with God.*'

Rom 2:11

In the same way we know God cannot be divided from His nature to love, as He shows no partiality, since He gives of Himself completely in all He is and does. And since God cannot be separated from His love, therefore it follows that if we have God's love we have God. If we have God and His love dwelling in us we are not without the ability to love others as we have been loved by God. So when Jesus says "*If you love me you will keep My commandments*" He is saying in effect, if you are of God you have His love abiding in you and you will be able to love Me and do as I ask you, for the Father and I are one, and you are one with us. Consequently if we have His life we cannot be separated from Him or His love and the ability to love as we have been loved.

If we have God and His love abiding in us, we live with God living in us. And while we know God is

love we also know that “*God is Spirit.*” (John 4:24) If we are to live with God we need to be born of the nature of God’s Spirit, and we need to receive His Spirit and have His Spirit living in us so that we may be taught of God and led by God through the Spirit’s life giving power to do and to will according to the truth of God.

Therefore as we are to live with God in His Kingdom, we are born of the Spirit so we are made compatible with His life. Jesus said “*Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.*”

John 3:5-6

To live this born again life of God in the Spirit we need the indwelling of His Spirit to assist us and lead us into all righteousness. So Jesus said “*I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.*”

John 14:16-17

The indwelling Spirit abiding in us is necessary as the power of God working in us so we can live as children of God who are doing the work of God. As Jesus said “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.*” Acts 1:8

And this is the witnessed of the Apostle John in his first letter where he wrote ‘*As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.*’

1 John 2:27

A new covenant of God's Spirit

The Old Testament prophet Ezekiel spoke of the day of the Spirit coming to dwell in the children of God. *'For I will take you from the nations, gather you from all the lands and bring you into your own land. Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.'*

Ezek 36:24-27

This giving of the life of the Spirit was not the same as the Spirit was given in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament men were born only of the flesh and were anointed by the Spirit for the work of God. God was external to their life so they needed the anointing of the Spirit to do the work of God. Now in this new administration inaugurated by Christ, we see men born of the Spirit who have the indwelling Spirit so we are anointed with the Spirit who abides in us on a

permanent basis in order to live for God and do His bidding.

This is a time when we see God our Father doing a new thing. In the fullness of time God was doing something special for all those who believed in Jesus, He was doing something that He had never done before. In this present personal powerful anointing there was to be no limitation, there would be no half measures; there was going to be no departure of the Spirit from the child of God when the task at hand was complete. For the work of God was to be a continuous work in the life of those who now walked with God.

As John the Baptist said '*For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.*' John 3:34

Religious practice and adherence to creeds and special prayers and days of sacrifice were no longer going to be what identified believers as God's children. The Lord Jesus proclaimed that true worship was to be in Spirit and truth. (John 4:23) And this was only made possible by being born again of the Spirit. (John 3:6-7) This

new birth prepared the life of the believer to be holy as He is holy. 1 Pet 1:16

According to the New Covenant, the whole life of the believer is due to the ongoing anointing of the Spirit. The giving of the Spirit determined whether anyone was in Christ and had the life of God implanted in them. *'However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.'* (Rom 8:9) So it is the giving of the Spirit which determined whether we are united with God. *'By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.'*

1 John 4:13

If we are in Christ we have all of God's love, and we also have all of God's Spirit because we have the divine nature of God born in us by the Spirit; and this divine nature is dependent on the indwelling Spirit for its very existence in His Kingdom of righteousness.

This anointing we have in Christ is now an ongoing presence of the Spirit because God also continues to abide in those who are in Christ.

So the believer is now the temple of God because the Spirit of God abides in Him. *‘Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own?’* 1 Cor 6:19

The Father gives us His fullness

It is the Father's intent that all His children will be filled up to the fullness of God (Eph 3:19) on a moment by moment basis through the work of His power so we will realise Jesus is indeed dwelling in our heart by faith. If there is an experience of having more or less anointing at different times, it is not because the Spirit is dealing out more or less of His life at any given time. It must then be due to our belief, thoughts or actions.

For instance, before we came to seek after God we experienced nothing of what His relationship with us could provide. When we began seeking Him as our God we became more aware of whom He was and the love He gives freely. When we believed in God's Son we experienced relief from sin's burden, and we felt we now belonged as never before. We also gradually began to be more aware of His love filling our heart. We began to realise that as we desired to have more of God and His love, He wanted to have more of us. And then as we gave more of ourselves to the cross of Christ we found His love growing in us as His life grew in us as a beloved child of God.

God and His love and the power of His Spirit didn't change in this process of our salvation; any increase experienced is due to His life being lived in us as we gave up more of the old life we lived in the flesh. This means that any move back to the old ways of the flesh results in a loss of intimacy and a sense that God was far away. Then His love would not be experienced as much as before. Any act of disobedience or unbelief would have the same effect. So we see it is man who opens himself to God's love and the power of His Spirit by the quality of his walk with God. While God remains the same as He always was and is, eternal and unchanging.

We can be confident that in all our dealing with God, He remains the same. His love and His enabling power are inseparable and follow the same immutable laws of His life. Any limitation we may experience is not due to God but to our lack of belief or obedience. If we don't believe we have His fullness as we seek to abide in Him according to His word, we limit what we can receive; for in this way of the flesh, our faith is not open to His fullness. This is the testimony of the Holy Spirit who encourages us to be filled with

the Spirit. (Eph 5:18) Now why would He do that if it was not possible for Him to remain completely in us?

In the same way, if we don't really believe He can teach us all things, we will not be open for Him to do what He gives Himself to do. If we don't believe we have all of His anointing all the time we obediently follow Him, we limit our experience of His anointing.

If we feel we are experiencing a special level of anointing when we take part in ministry, we may be missing out on the same level of anointing when we are at rest in our normal way of living.

His anointing is His presence. God doesn't offer us good feelings to satisfy our spiritual needs, He offers us intimate fellowship by the truth of His word so we have His power to do His will.

If we have found Christ as our Lord and Saviour, and we don't experience feelings of His love and power, it is not because God has left us as orphans. The problem is with our understanding of His life in us, coupled with the life style we are living which limits our fellowship according to His light and eternal life.

All that is written of the love of God pertains to what He has done and what He continues to do for us. Love is a life given over completely for others, for there is no greater love than this that we lay down our life for a friend. But to really know God's love we need to believe the Spirit is working in us and for us. We need to be given over completely to God, heart soul and mind.

The truth of His word in the Bible tells us that the mind that is fixed on the Spirit is life and peace, and the mind that is set on the flesh is death. (Rom 8:5-6) The Bible tells us we have received His anointing. (1 John 2:27) The Bible tells us Christ now lives in us. (Gal 2:20) Jesus said "*But now I come to You; and these things I speak in the world so that they may have My joy made full in themselves.*" He also said to the Father "*The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.*"

John 17:13. 22-23

If our Father has said that we have all we need to live godly lives, since *‘His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.’* (2 Pet 1:3) Then we need to believe what He has said and have confidence that if we humble ourselves and follow Him, we will be filled up to the fullness of God. (Eph 3:19) His divine word is the measure of what our reality can be, not our feelings. If I am afraid, has God abandoned me? No, for He says He will never leave me or forsake me.

Heb 13:5

Because we are so dependent on God for the power to live as His children to do the greater works of Christ, we will naturally feel inadequate from time to time for we need to grow in Him, but God is always adequate. *‘Not that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything as coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God.’* (2 Cor 3:4) We may even tremble a little as we follow the leading of the Spirit (1 Cor 2:3) but if we go ahead and do the work He has assigned us, we will see ministry that it is *‘in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.’* (1 Cor 3:4) As the

'power of God' is working through us.

1 Cor 3:5

While we are totally without power to do the work of God apart from the Spirit, and we may have to deal with difficult circumstances and feelings of inadequacy, we must remember God is with us so we must accept these words of the Lord to Paul, and follow Paul's response. *'And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.'*

2 Cor 12:9

As those who have received Christ we are told to walk in Him. (Col 2:6) This walk is the ongoing daily living of His life, and we can only walk in Him by the power of His Spirit's anointing. We can walk in Him by His Spirit because we are told; *as he is, so are we in this world.*

1 John 4:17

Since Jesus was filled with the Spirit and never felt fluctuations in His anointing as if the anointing was here one minute and gone the next, we too can know we have the Spirit all the time.

If we walk as He walked (by the Spirit) we should also avoid having feelings of fluctuation in our anointing by believing His word which says He lives in us. *'If we walk in the Spirit we won't gratify the desires of the flesh'*. Gal 5:16

If we abide in Him, we abide in His love, and we also abide in His power by the Spirit of God. If we feel His anointing more when we are consciously serving Him, and not so much at other more pedestrian times, perhaps it is because we don't realise we have all of Him all the time, so we feel we need to have extra anointing when we do His work. If this is true then our idea of God's anointing doesn't conform to the teaching which tells us to walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16) or that we should walk as He walked (1 John 2:6) because Christ is our life. (Col 3:4) *'And it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.'*
Phil 2:13

It is clearly taught that we are to abide in the Spirit because He lives in us all the time, (1 Cor 3:16) and as the children of God we are to be led by the Spirit all the time, (Rom 8:14) so we will know His anointing all the time. Our life as children of God

who are led by the Spirit does not separate or divide so called normal living from our ministry as servants of Christ. The anointing of the Spirit is just as necessary for the normal times; for we need the Spirit all the time so we can love as we have been loved, and walk as Jesus walked when He was amongst men.

If there is any experience of less of the Spirit or times of more of the Spirit's presence, we need to remember we are the ones who limit our experience because we have not taken literally enough what is written about being united with Him. We are to live in the Spirit all the time and should not feel there are times when there is a lesser power of God in us.

When we were born again, God gave us a divine life just like His own life. When He did this He has also gifted us with His enabling power so we could live in obedience and trust, just as Jesus lived. And He has also taken us from the domain of darkness and the flesh and included us in the Kingdom of His Son so that we may be guided by His governance in all we do.

Since our Father has given us everything pertaining to life and godliness, there should be no time when we are not ably filled by His anointing if we are faithful and true. However when we are focused on the mundane aspects of life in the world we have a tendency to forget our abiding in Him and the fact that we are indeed spiritual children of God whose life is the Christ life in us. We often forget we have been dignified in Him with His life now living in us. We often forget we are His Ambassadors and that we are the servant priest of the Most High because we belong in His Kingdom according to His power.

So while we may experience a special anointing from time to time, the cause is not that we need to get more, but that we are not always consciously abiding in Him.

Is there anything more?

What about a special anointing? The question is, can we receive a special anointing above what we already have? Are there times when we can expect the Spirit to pour out more of His enabling power on us, or through us?

The answer is this, and it is clear from what we have already read, if you have all of the Spirit because He came without measure as Jesus gives His Spirit without limit, how can He give us more of all? In our world where words don't mean much, we often talk of giving 110% but this is impossible, all is all, 100% is all there is. Christ has come to live in us; the Father has also come to abide in us, what more do we want or need? The Spirit of God abides in us, we have all of all if He has all of us. We are indeed blessed with every Spiritual blessing in the Heavens. Eph 1:3

Jesus says in effect; don't be concerned that you don't have enough of Me and the Spirit. If I abide in you and you abide in Me, you can do all things through the power of My presence. Trust in Me and do not lean on your own understanding. Believe what is written for your benefit. *"I will not*

leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”
(John 14:18) *“I am the vine, you are the branches;
he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much
fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

John 15:5

Some people wrongly think they only have the anointing when they do the work of Christ; but if He lives in us, this cannot be true. So, how much of His anointing should we have on a moment by moment basis? Surely having His anointing means all His anointing all the time, otherwise how can we be a temple of the Holy Spirit, He is not divided. If we have God our Father, we have Christ and we have His Spirit in full, not just little enough for the normal parts of our day and then more when we do His work.

His anointing has responsibilities

Having said all that, it is important to remember that our anointing is part of our new life in Christ when we receive the divine nature, it is coupled with His awesome power and the privilege to live in His Kingdom under His governance.

In order for us to grow in this new life it is up to us to live in absolute surrender and total obedience as we put our focus on the things of the Spirit and live by the Spirit as we go on putting to death the deeds of the body. This is the process of putting on the life of Christ by the renewing of our minds as we disassociate ourselves from the world we were once preoccupied with, to now find our life preoccupied with life in the Spirit with God in us, and us looking to the things of God.

This will mean we will grow in our awareness of all that God has done for us and in us. We will begin to realise we no longer live as we once did, for now Christ who lives in us. We will grow on our reliance of the Spirit's leading so that we walk according to the Spirit and not according to the flesh. We will seek to do the work of God by His

power instead of doing things according to our human desires and fleshly aspirations.

In this we will come to believe all that has been written for our benefit so that we can be the people God has predestined us to be in the image of His beloved Son. We will be children of light who are walking as Jesus walked. We will be able to say, *“I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”* (Phil 4:13) And we will be able to experience the fullness of His fellowship without any sense of lack or want.

‘But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.’

Rom 8:11

Since we have His anointing we must remember at all times, *‘He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.’*

1 John 4:4

Abide in Him

'As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.'

1 John 2:27

