

ARMED FOR WAR Discipleship Course

SECTION 9 – God’s Anointing & the Covenant Blessing

Lesson 33 - The Anointing & Spirit of Anti-Christ

I want us to look for just a few moments at the life of Jesus. Jesus said, at the beginning of His ministry that the Spirit of the Lord is upon Him because God had anointed Him.

Luke 4:18 *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;*

Everything that Jesus did He did under the power of the anointing of Almighty God. That may seem like a very generic and basic statement, but everything Jesus did He did under the power, influence, and control of the anointing.

Everything Jesus did Jesus did under the power of the anointing.

What is the anointing?

The anointing is the power of God; the anointing is the supernatural divine enablement of God to fulfill a specific task or purpose.

The anointing is not natural; it’s not rooted in man; it’s not rooted in the wisdom of man; it’s not rooted in the concepts of man; it’s not rooted in the philosophies of man; it’s not rooted in the power of man; it’s not rooted in psychology; it is rooted in supernaturalism.

Jesus came with the Spirit of the Lord God upon Him and with the anointing. The Father gave Him supernatural, divine empowerment to fulfill a specific task and purpose; to heal the brokenhearted, to set at liberty them that are captive, the recovery of sight to the blind, and to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord. He received from the Father supernatural power to fulfill His purpose here on the earth.

John 20:21 *So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”*

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How did the Father send Jesus? The Father anointed Him to do the work that He was called to do. Now Jesus is sending the disciples out to do the work of building the church, to do the work of ministry using the same supernatural, divine empowerment that He had. Jesus turned to the early church and said, “You cannot do what I called you to do, you cannot accomplish what I called you to accomplish, you cannot build My Kingdom without this supernatural substance called the anointing. You cannot do it.”

The anointing is supernatural, not natural. Most people in the church don't know the difference between the anointing and talent. They don't know the difference between the anointing and a dynamic personality. The evidence and the fruit of the anointing is that the yolks of bondage are destroyed every single time. The anointing destroys the yolks of bondage, and when you see things that we do in the church that maybe produce crowds but don't transform lives, it is not a manifestation of the anointing; it's a manifestation of something else.

You can get a crowd from doing many different things. You can get a crowd and you can get people worked up into an emotional frenzy to raise their hands for just about anything, but that doesn't mean that there's an anointing present to destroy the yolks of bondage.

I've done the largest survey that I know of in the world; not a formal survey, but an informal one. I asked over one hundred thousand young people around the world, how many of them themselves or knew somebody who got saved in a Christian rock or rap concert, and who is radically serving God today. Do you know how many I found out of one hundred thousand? One person raised their hand. When I questioned her further it wasn't during the traditional concert part, but when one of the groups started truly worshipping God. That's when she got convicted and she gave her life to Jesus Christ. One person out of a hundred thousand. That's not a scientific survey, but even in an unscientific survey, if all of these huge concerts we keep using as a prominent way to reach a generation were really manifesting the anointing, the yolks of bondage would be being destroyed off a generation. But instead we are often manifesting talent, and NOT the anointing.

We have learned to rely and depend on something other than the anointing, but Jesus never relied on anything other than the anointing.

The Bible teaches us in the book of Isaiah that there was nothing about Jesus that would have drawn anyone to Him; that He was actually quite undesirable looking. He wasn't pretty. There was nothing in His natural being that would draw us; and I believe God did that intentionally. So, that mankind would never been drawn to Jesus after the natural man; they were only drawn to Jesus after the spirit man.

John 6:2 *Then a great multitude followed Him, because they saw His signs which He performed on those who were diseased.*

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Why did the multitudes follow Jesus?

The multitude followed Him because they saw the signs which He performed on those who were diseased.

How did Jesus build the church? How did Jesus get a crowd? He operated in supernatural signs, wonders, and miracles. He manifested the anointing. He destroyed the yokes of bondage of sickness and disease and demonic oppression. That's how He built the Church, and He said, "As the Father has sent Me even so send I you."

Mark 16:15-18, 20 *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. Amen.*

The disciples went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word with accompanying signs. Jesus was sent with signs, wonders, and miracles; with the anointing to destroy the yokes of bondage. And that's how we are to go.

We live in a day today when we have begun to rely on things instead of the anointing. We live in a day today when we spend so much time and energy in the church coming up with plans and programs and message, relying on things instead of the anointing.

Many churches spend a lot of time wondering how they can grow their churches numerically. They spend time wondering if they should maybe do this thing or that thing; maybe they should change the way they do their services, or maybe change the ministries they offer. Maybe they should get on their faces before God, begin to fast and pray seek His face and find out what does God say they're supposed to be. They focus on getting the crowds, instead of focusing on seeking His presence, His anointing, and letting God be God to change and transform the people's lives. Then they begin to cater to the people and they begin to rely on things instead of the anointing.

I was in England and I was teaching some of these principles. Many of the people in the meeting had been through an entire year of school on creative evangelism. I was teaching these principles about relying on the anointing and how often today we rely on those things that are instead of the anointing. I asked them this question: You spend all this time on creative forms of evangelism, but if when you walked down the street and your shadow touched people and they got healed, if when cloths that touched your body could be carried hundreds of miles away and touch

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somebody else and demons would come out, if when you opened your mouth and spoke multitudes would get saved every time you preached, if everyone you laid your hands on got healed and deliver, how much time would you spend coming up with creative forms of evangelism?

Don't get me wrong. I love drama, I like using creative forms of preaching the Gospel. Every head, about a hundred and fifty, in that place just dropped. There was dead silence in the building. I thought to myself, "I'm in a little trouble here." Slowly, one by one, after about a minute, they started lifting their heads up. Tears were coming down their faces. One after another said to me, "None." I said, "Then your own hearts have condemned you. The reason you're going for all those other things is because you don't have the anointing. The reason you spend so much time and energy coming up with creative ways of presenting the Gospel is because you're lacking the anointing that destroys the yolks of bondage. You're lacking the anointing, and you're now relying on things instead of the anointing."

I know some of you are squirming right there in your seats. Let God penetrate your wrong thinking; penetrate your dependence upon the methods of man. Many believe that they don't have access to the anointing or that they cannot walk in a strong anointing because they lack certain gifts, and therefore rely on things other than the anointing. I understand the reason they're relying on these things is because they haven't learned to access the anointing, but that doesn't give them an excuse for not having it. Jesus said, "As the Father has sent Me, even so send I you."

1 John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.*

What does the word "anti-Christ" mean?

The word Christ means the anointed one and His anointing. The word anti does not mean against, or opposed to. The word anti there means instead of.

The spirit of anti-Christ, which it says is loosed in our day, is the spirit of instead of the anointed one and His anointing. It is instead of the anointing. The spirit of anti-Christ is that spirit that will cause people in the church to rely on things instead of the anointing. That is the spirit of anti-Christ. They will try to fulfill the purpose of God, they will try to do the work of God, and they will try to fulfill the mission of God without a reliance and dependence upon the anointing.

1 John 2:15-19 *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 18 Little*

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children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour. 19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.

Who were these that went out? They were those who do not rely upon the anointing. These are those who rely on things instead of the anointing. These are those who still in their heart of hearts love the spirit of the day, love the spirit of the world. These are those who bring in to the church the spirit of the world under the guise of evangelism, reaching a generation, and cultural relevance, but they're carrying not the spirit of Christ. They're carrying the spirit of anti-Christ because they're causing the church to rely upon everything and anything instead of the anointing. They may have been born again, they may have had an experience with God, they may have been touched, they may preach the right things, but I'm telling you in the name of Jesus that those who are trying to lead God's people away from a reliance and dependence upon the anointing are under the influence and the control of the spirit of anti-Christ. The anti-Christ spirit comes out of the church, and it is that spirit which causes us to rely on things instead of the anointing.

For Further Study:

1 John 2:20 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*

1 John 2:27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as 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.*