

THE GIFTS, OPERATIONS AND OFFICES OF THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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INTRODUCTION

The anointing must be protected. You cannot minister successfully without the anointing operating in your life. The word anointing is many times translated as an unction. Every believer has the Holy Spirit inside of them but the Holy Spirit can come upon you with power and grace for a specific purpose or to operate in a God ordained office. Every minister should desire to see the anointing on their life to increase.

"And no matter which you stand in, or what you are called to do, you can have something to do with determining the degree of your anointing. You can prepare yourself for this anointing. If it doesn't come on you it's because you didn't prepare yourself. Furthermore, the anointing can be increased. You can increase the anointing by studying the Word and by being prayerful" (Hagin 93).

Paul the Apostle taught in depth on the anointing and gifts of the Spirit in Corinthians. He sought after the gifts and the Spirit and operated in the anointing at a very high level. "But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way" (1 Corinthians 12:31). If you desire to increase your anointing, follow the steps of Paul and according to Matthew 6:33, when you seek the Kingdom of God, the true gifts of God will be added to you.

I. HOLY SPIRIT GRIEVANCE AND HINDRANCE

The Spirit of God can be grieved in a variety of ways, but it is not due to our quirky ways, different styles of worship or even doctrinal misunderstandings. God looks at the heart of a man. Hardness of heart will grieve the Holy Spirit. People can get so

hard hearted that they ignore the Spirit of God. "Do not quench the Spirit." (1 Thessalonians 5:19). The word quench here is to smother, put out or stifle. It reminds me of a beautiful sweet smelling candle that is covered with a lid until is fades out and smolders.

The Holy Spirit will come upon us and we shall receive power according to Acts 1:8. This power is intended for us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. We are to testify what we know, have seen and experienced. It will grieve the Holy Spirit if you get into pride and testify how great you are rather than the Gospel. The power is to witness which does not mean it is to preach 'at' people with a prideful, judgmental attitude.

Pride Hinders the Anointing

Pride will open the door for disobedience. Pride is the nature of Satan, not the nature of Christ. Satan is the most disobedient creature in the universe. Pride that leads to rebellion and hardness of heart will keep you from the blessings of God. According to Hebrews chapter three, hard hearts will test God just like the Hebrews hard hearts tested God. "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrew 3:12-13). Sin makes you hard and cold to the things of God. It leads you farther from God but a sensitive, humble heart runs after the presence of God. The Power and anointing of God is in the presence of God.

Many ministers get into pride just by stepping out of their office and into the office of another. It can be deadly, spiritually and naturally to step into another office. "Minister where your anointing is – find out where it is" (Hagin 42).

Perfection of the Saints

Ephesians chapter four covers aspects of walking in unity as the body of Christ and how to mature as Christians. It was not written in chapter and verse. As we mature, we learn that deception is from the father of lies. Many translations use the term "corrupt communication." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.

First Corinthians 2:14 goes in line with Ephesians chapter four. Babies do not discern things of value. Children and blind people think the things of God and the Spirit are foolish. The things of God are spiritually discerned or seen and understood. Jesus Christ is mature in the things of God. He was often called the "Anointed One." You may consider Him as the Mature One, Complete One or Perfect One. Perfection of the saints opens the door for an increase in anointing.

If you are moved by the flesh and led by the flesh rather than the Spirit of God according to Romans 8:14, it will hinder receiving anointing to minister in the Spirit. It is disobedience and the way to miracles is made clear with the story of turning water into wine. The Mother of Jesus told the servants "whatever He says to you do it."

II. Five Fold Ministry Offices

Each office has a place in the Body of Christ to equip, mature, develop and perfect the saints. The Master operated in all five offices. These gifts are from God given to the Body to build up, teach and prepare us to operate in unity. Each of the five ministry gifts working together in unity will complete the works of God in the body of Christ.

Office of the Apostle

The office of the Apostle is the Greek word apostolos which means "one sent forth." Jesus is the Apostle of and High Priest of our confession according to Hebrews

3:1. In John 20:21, the first apostles were commissioned. Paul and Barnabas were gathered together with other prophets and teachers in Acts 13:1-3. They were already in the ministry and the Holy Spirit called them to be separated for a specific work.

The signs of an apostle are defined in 2 Corinthians 12:12 which states "When I was with you, I certainly gave you proof that I am an apostle. For I patiently did many signs and wonders and miracles among you."

Apostles lay the foundations for the church to expand according to Ephesians 2:20. My wife worked at a TV studio in Denver for Apostle Lester Sumrall.

Office of the Prophet

Prophet is the Greek word prophetes which means a foreteller or inspired speaker. Prophets function in revelation gifts. In Luke 4:24, the Master identifies himself as a prophet who was not accepted in His own country. In John 4:19, Jesus was identified as a prophet from the Samaritan woman. The prophet does not speak on their authority, but according to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

My spiritual father is Keith Moore. He operates in the office of a prophet and was raised up under two other prophets of our time including Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland.

Office of the Evangelist

Evangelist comes from the Greek word euaggelistes which means to announce good news. They are preachers of the Good news about the good things our Good God has given us including healing, prosperity, salvation and victory. Jesus declared that the anointing to operate in this office was upon Him in Luke 4:18. A key aspect of the evangelist is the anointing to get people to come to the revelation of Jesus Christ as their

Lord. The anointing to preach as an evangelist is usually accompanied by signs and wonders. Philip preached Christ to the Samarians in Acts 8:5 where multitudes heeded the things spoken by Philip. He was called Philip the evangelist in Acts 21:8. Philip had developed from a table overseer to the office of the evangelist.

Office of the Pastor

Pastor comes from the Greek word poimen which translates as shepherd. In John 10:11 Jesus declared "I am the good shepherd" and in 1 Peter 5:4 we find out that Jesus is called the Chief Shepherd.

A shepherd is one who leads by example and the sheep follow. There are no offices for cowboys. Shepherds lead sheep where cowboys drive. The office of the pastor or shepherd is to feed, protect, guide, and instruct the sheep.

Office of the Teacher

Teacher comes from the Greek word didaskalos which is one who teaches concerning the things of God and the duties of man. Jesus became the teacher in Luke 4:14, 15 after he returned with power. A teacher is an instructor. In 2 Timothy 1:11, Paul reveals that he was appointed a preacher, apostle and a teacher to the Gentiles. The work of a teacher is to instruct believers in the doctrines of God. "The difference between preaching and teaching is that to preach means to proclaim, but to teach means to explain" (Hagin 49).

III. Gifts of the Spirit

There are nine gifts of the Spirit listed in First Corinthians chapter twelve. Out of the nine gifts there are three speaking gifts for utterance including prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues. Three of the gifts are to perform actions. They are to perform powerful manifestation such as miracles and healings. These include faith, gifts of healing and working of miracles. The final three are when God speaks to reveal manifestations. They include word of wisdom, word of knowledge and discerning of spirits. Wisdom deals with the future plan and purposes of God. Knowledge deals with the present.

The most important of the nine gifts is the one you need at that time. If you are ministering to someone that needs healing, a word of knowledge may not be what is needed for that specific situation. It is necessary to minister by the leading of the Spirit of God under the anointing.

IV. Ministering Under The anointing

There are three key items that the Lord has revealed to me to help me recognize and remain sensitive to the Spirit. I call them the "3 R's of spiritual sensitivity." They are outlined below with brief descriptions and examples.

Recognize the Holy Spirit

If you do not even recognize the presence of the Holy Spirit, you will not be sensitive to Him. Frustration is an indicator that you are relying on yourself. If you lose your confidence you are not preaching in faith which means you are not preaching in love.

When the Spirit manifests, He magnifies Jesus. To grow in the things of God and the anointing requires magnification of Jesus. It is critical not to rebel against the Spirit when you recognize Him. Isaiah 63:10 states "But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them."

This is a form of pride and you will not grow in anointing or have victory with the resistance of the Lord.

Respect or Reverence the Holy Spirit

The reverence and awe of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom according to Psalms 111:10. When you respect the Holy Spirit, you honor the Lord. If Gives the Lord the legal right to utilize you and increase your anointing.

The Spirit is not hard to please or respect. It takes a heart of honor and desire to respect Him. Ephesians chapter four verse 32 defines what pleases and honors the Lord and verses 30 and 31 describes things that displease and disrespects the Lord. Simply put, don't be a mean Christian and you will cover the items outlined in verse thirty-one.

Respond to the Holy Spirit

Faith causes God to respond. For example, Enoch's faith moved God. According to Hebrews 11:6, it is impossible to please God without faith. When you take steps to respond to the leading of the Holy Spirit, it moves on the heart of God and the anointing will increase. A key reason people do not respond to the Holy Spirit is due to being carnal, as babes in Christ. Spiritual people don't live a lifestyle full of envy, fighting, strife, fussing and bitterness. The presence of strife shows carnality which destroys and divides.

It can be easy to resist responding to the Holy Spirit due to pride, religious tradition or requirements of stepping out of your comfort zone. This will hinder the works of the Lord operating in your life. I would rather make a mistake stepping out in error with the right heart than to refuse to respond to the Holy Spirit due to stubborn pride and fear. The Lord uses humble men and women with tender hearts.

It is critical if you want to grow in anointing to be respectful when the Blood, Holy Spirit or the Word of God is mentioned, discussed or read.

CONCLUSION

The anointing of God is very precious and should be regarded very highly.

Protect and keep the anointing on your life and see your ministry grow in power,

authority and success. As you minister, if you want to see the powerful manifestations of

God you will have to walk in humility and stay in your place of grace. Magnify God

when you minister. When the Spirit of God manifests, he magnifies Jesus.

As you stay in your office and out of strife, pride and flesh, you will experience an increase in the powerful anointing of God. Manifestations of the Goodness of God will follow you.

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