

“The ‘Anointing’ and the ‘Coming Upon’ of The Ministry of the Spirit”

The Ministry of the Spirit

February 8, 2026

Review (last wk): "Meet the Messiah—Featuring the Holy Spirit"

"A turning point in redemptive history has been reached, and with it the climactic moment in the history of redemptive revelation. James D. G. Dunn sums it up well: "The experience of Jesus at the Jordan is far more than something merely personal—it is a unique moment in history: the beginning of a new epoch in salvation-history—the beginning . . ." it is clear that the Spirit's role at the baptism was not episodic. The Spirit remains." **Graham Cole**, "He Who Gives Life, The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit", p. 158

...A New Chapter of the Spirit's Ministry, Presence, and Manifestation is beginning! How should that inform our expectations, our receptivity, and our pursuit?

...3 Focal Points Today (from Lk 4)

- (1) There are More than "Natural Forces" in This World!
- (2) There is Something Called "An Anointing"
- (3) The Ministry of the Spirit gets described (in part)(It touches the world in particular ways)

(1) There's More Than "Earthly/Natural Forces" in This World!

...The Mission of Redemption Will Face a Spiritual Opponent

Luke 4:1-2, 13 ¹ And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness ² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. ... ¹³ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Advice from Gandalf: "No, Gimli, I would not take the road through Moria unless I had no other choice". ... "there are older and fouler things than orcs in the deep places of the world".

...Am I aware that there are older, fouler things in our world, than mere humans and earthly creatures?

Eph 6:11-12 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

2 Cor 11:3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. [This, Paul says to Christians]

2 Cor 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

1 Peter 5:8-9 ⁸ Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹ Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

I think there's a HUGE Miscalculation being done in our "Natural-Minded, Western Church-World"!! ...We are attempting to "contend" with Spiritual Forces of wickedness with Natural Weapons, Natural Ideas, Natural Energy!

2 Cor 10:3-4 ³ For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds.

... "Weapons", "warfare", "strongholds" ... "divine power"

...There are MORE Than Natural Forces at Work in Our World ...it will require More Than Natural Forces to Do Life in This World!

(2) There is Something Called "An Anointing"

Luke 4:14-21

v. 14-15 ...the highlighting of a "Spirit-Engaged-Return" ...and he "taught"—Is this the Holy Spirit too, or only the miracles?

v. 18 ***"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to....."***

NOTICE: ...He attaches the activity and impact of His ministry on earth to 3 things: (1) The Spirit of the Lord ... (2) the Spirit being "UPON" him ... (3) the Spirit's "ANOINTING" and Purpose

...The Ministry that IMPACTS/CHANGES these dimensions of Human Brokenness —Is Not because Jesus is the 2nd person of the Godhead! ...Here, he is the "2nd Adam who has some sort of special empowerment from the Holy Spirit"

...There is resulting ministry that comes from these related concepts/experiences—"the Spirit UPON me" and "the Spirit ANOINTED me"

"Anointing by God implies authorization and a specific commission whereby the king now represents the people. ... Cyrus as the Lord's Anointed. Is. 45:1 shows that the title may be used even where there is no rite of anointing and where a ruler of an alien faith and people is intended. The point here is that God gives Cyrus a definite mission that relates to Israel's redemption." (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged - Little Kittel))

Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD clothed Gideon, and he sounded the trumpet, and the Abiezrites were called out to follow him.

1 Sam 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah.

"Here we see the secret of our Savior's success: he preached in the power of the Spirit. This is the secret of any effective ministry. What empowers people who preach the gospel is the animating influence of God the Holy Spirit. The famous Welsh preacher Martyn Lloyd-Jones described this anointing as "God giving power, an enabling, through the Spirit, to the preacher in order that he may do this work in a manner that lifts it up beyond the efforts and endeavours of man to a position in which the preacher is being used by the Spirit and becomes the channel through whom the Spirit works." **Phillip Ryken**, Luke, Reformed Expository Commentary

"Dunn addresses the consciousness of Jesus with respect to the fullness of the Spirit, proposing that Jesus possessed "an awareness of an otherly power working through him, together with the conviction that this power was God's power." **Gregg Allison & Andreas Koestenberger**, "The Holy Spirit", p. 366

NOTE: The "Coming Upon" (a Spirit-Empowerment) is Not Original to PENTECOST! ...and The Idea that "there's an Anointing" doesn't originate with some recent form of "Charismatic Chaos" ...We need a "Biblical Theology of the Spirit" to see this dynamic is in the O.T., in the Ministry of the Christ, and promised (in a 'common way') to the Church Age!

NOTE: This 2-Fold Dynamic of the Spirit “Coming Upon” ...&... “Anointing”—Is NOT Restrained to Jesus!

Luke 24:49 And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

Acts 1:4-5, 8 ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” ...⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

"Many have suggested that Acts 1:8 provides the key to the book of Acts, namely: “you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” Frightened disciples were going to be transformed. Reluctant witnesses, shut away in an upper room, were about to be empowered, inspired and energized. God came upon them in extraordinary power, making them hardly recognizable from their previous state." **Terry Virgo**, *The Spirit Filled Church*, p. 31

2 Cor 1:21-22 ²¹ And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, ²² and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

1 John 2:20, 27 ²⁰ But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. ...²⁷ But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

" Whatever this anointing is, it enables us to know the truth and, in some sense, removes the need for teachers. The anointing probably refers to the coming of the Holy Spirit into our lives. " **John Piper**, "Let What You Heard from the Beginning Abide in You"

(3) That "Anointing" Touches the Fallen World in Particular Ways (v. 18-19)

v. 18 “to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind”

"Let it be declared unashamedly and reasonably that the greatest and most loving thing we can do for anyone is release them from the captivity of sin (Rom 6:22—23), heal them from the blindness of unbelief (Acts 26:17f.; 2Cor 4:4), and set them at liberty from the oppression of Satan (2 Tim 2:26). Efforts at social improvement that neglect this great goal will be looked back on by poor people in hell as a horrible form of ecclesiastical malpractice."

"...to follow Jesus in proclaiming release to the captives, we should be mobilized to help people be released from the captivity of alcohol, drugs, pornography, homosexuality, gluttony. It ought to grieve us that creatures made for God are held captive by a foreign power. Our zeal for the glory of God should fire us to win them back to their rightful sovereign." **John Piper**, "Christ in Combat: Offense by the Spirit"

This Passage describes the Ministry of the Spirit into this fallen world—a Ministry that Continues Through US!!

Acts 26:17-18 "...I am sending you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me."

...What kind of power does it take to overcome the darkness and the "power of Satan"?

Realities that Should Compel Us! ... (1) The Spirit is Upon Me ...&... (2) He has Anointed me!

"Here we see the secret of our Savior's success: he preached in the power of the Spirit. This is the secret of any effective ministry. What empowers people who preach the gospel is the animating influence of God the Holy Spirit." **Phillip Ryken**, Luke, Reformed Expository Commentary

Am I Living a Life that is MINDFUL of "Spirit's Empowerment and Anointing"? —“the animating influence of God the Holy Spirit” ...Am I proceeding into the things God calls me to be and do with this as a conscious reality?