

THE HOLY SPIRIT “Oil”

I do not believe any other term has as much traffic in charismatic circles with regard to the Holy Spirit as anointing has. We seek the anointing, talk about messages being anointed, anoint each other with oil, share anointed music, and want to know where the anointed ministries are. By our generous use of the word anointing, you would think we were all in an oily mess!

What does it mean to be anointed? What is the anointing? Why does God use olive oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit? Is oil really a symbol for the Holy Spirit? Glad you asked.

Establishing the Symbol-

As water is understood in the term baptism, so oil is understood in the term anointing. When we talk about being baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are saying that the Holy Spirit has qualities like water. When we talk about being anointed with the Holy Spirit, we are also saying that the Holy Spirit has qualities like oil for to anoint means to rub, smear, paint, or douse with oil.

Is oil a bona fide symbol of the Holy Spirit? Let us look and see.

Acts 10:38 NIV

how God **anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit** and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

Acts 10:38 couldn't be much clearer, Jesus was anointed (rubbed with oil) with the Holy Spirit. Jesus of Nazareth was his name, Christ or Messiah was his title (also part of his name).

John 1:41

The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, "We have found the **Messiah**" (that is, the Christ). NIV

Messiah and Christ both mean the same thing: anointed. Jesus was The Anointed One.

Luke 4:18-19

18 "**The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed** me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." NIV

This has often been referred to as the Lord's ordination prophecy. John 3:34 tells us that Jesus received the Spirit in full measure. It was not given to him by portion. Thus, the description of this anointing tells us the full spectrum of the anointing. We will look at this verse in greater detail later.

1 Sam 16:1, 13

1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? **Fill your horn with oil** and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

13 So Samuel took **the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.** Samuel then went to Ramah. NIV

Again, the language of Scripture could hardly be any clearer. Samuel anointed David with the holy anointing oil (Ps. 89:20) and the Spirit of the Lord came upon him with power.

What about this notion of anointing sick people with oil? Does it have any validity?

Mark 6:13

They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them. NIV

James 5:14

Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. NIV

So we see that anointing sick folks with oil as a representation of the healing work of the Holy Spirit was something that the apostles practiced. James tells us to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord. Song of Solomon 1:3 is interesting in light of this mandate.

Song 1:3

Because of the fragrance of your good ointments, **Your name is ointment poured forth;** Therefore the virgins love you. NKJV

Some Facts About Olive Oil-

- Olive oil is composed mostly of oleic acid, a monounsaturated fat (one double bond between carbon atoms). Oleic acid stimulates digestive juice secretion which is why olive oil is very easy to digest.
- Olive oil has a balanced polyunsaturated composition with a linoleic/linolenic acid ratio similar to that found in human milk. This makes olive oil highly suitable for breast fed and weaned infants.
- It is very resistant to oxidation, thus does not go rancid easy.
- It is a good source of vitamin K, which is a coagulant.
- Olive oil is composed mainly of triglycerides (three fatty acid molecules bound to a glycerol molecule). This is a molecular picture of the new birth wherein Father, Son, and Holy Spirit dwell in the believer in a monounsaturated way (one double bond between our carbon parts (soul and body) – the spirit).
- Olive oil has always been placed somewhere between food and medicine. Recent studies have shown that olive oil, as consumed in a Mediterranean diet, can reduce the risk of breast cancer, prostate cancer, bowel cancer, and heart disease.
- It prevents insulin resistance and ensures better control of glucose in the blood.
- It is high in vitamin E and great for the skin. It will not clog pores.

Now, if you had a substance that in the spiritual aided your digestion of the Word, kept your heart from being hardened, regulated your energy level, kept your church from tumorous growth, and was so gentle that its suggestions could be taken as easily as mother's milk, what would you call it? The Holy Spirit!

Num 11:7-8 NIV

7 The manna was like coriander seed and looked like resin.

8 The people went around gathering it, and then ground it in a handmill or crushed it in a mortar. They cooked it in a pot or made it into cakes. And it tasted like something made with olive oil.

Manna is symbolic of the Word of God and the Bread from Heaven, the Lord Jesus Christ. Isn't it like God to make it taste like it was made with olive oil. The inspiration of Scripture and the incarnation of the Lord Jesus were both works of the Holy Spirit. In that respect, you could almost say that they were made with olive oil!

Now that we have established the symbol and have seen why the Lord used olive oil (the best natural oil in the world), we need to ask, exactly what does it mean to "be anointed."

The Consecration of the Priests-

1. The Process-

i. Presentation of the sacrifice:

Ex 29:1-3

1 "This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests: Take a young bull and two rams without defect.

2 And from fine wheat flour, without yeast, make bread, and cakes mixed with oil [*anointing within*], and wafers spread with oil [*anointing upon*].

3 Put them in a basket and present them in it--along with the bull and the two rams. NIV

In the consecration of the priests, the first thing that occurs is the presentation of a sacrifice. Jesus was the sacrifice presented for our consecration.

ii. The washing with water:

Ex 29:4 NIV

Then bring Aaron and his sons to the entrance to the Tent of Meeting and wash them with water.

Of course, to bathe they had to strip first. Their old clothing was put off in anticipation of the new being put on. As they were washed by Moses, so we were washed with the Holy Spirit by Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:5-6

5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,

6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, NIV

iii. Clothed with garments (for glory and beauty – Ex. 28:40):

Ex 29:5-6

5 Take the garments and dress Aaron with the tunic, the robe of the ephod, the ephod itself and the breastpiece. Fasten the ephod on him by its skillfully woven waistband.

6 Put the turban on his head and attach the sacred diadem to the turban. NIV

Before Jesus would allow his disciples to begin their mission of discipling the world, he told them to wait in Jerusalem for the proper clothing.

Luke 24:49

I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." NIV

iv. Anointed with the sacred oil:

Ex 29:7 "Take the anointing oil and anoint him by pouring it on his head." NIV

In like manner, we have been anointed as well.

2 Cor 1:21-22

21 Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. **He anointed us,**

22 set his seal of ownership on us, and **put his Spirit in our hearts** as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. NIV

Much ink and many words have been used in the discussion of whether or not the baptism of the Holy Spirit was the same as being saved or a later work. I think our problem is one of concept and terminology. Being born from above means being a priest to our God.

1 Peter 2:9-10

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. NIV

New birth means belonging to God. Belonging to God means being a royal priest. To be consecrated as a priest required sacrifice, washing, clothing, and anointing. It is all in the work that the Holy Spirit does in regeneration, but they are not all the same thing. The life of the apostles illustrates this well.

The Apostles and the Holy Spirit	
Symbol / Action	Scriptures
Water / Washed	Jn 13:6-10; Acts 2:33
Wind / Breathed on	Jn 20:22; Acts 2:2
Fire / Purification	Acts 2:3
Clothed	Luke 24:49; Acts 2:4
Oil / Anointed	Acts 2:16-18

It is a somewhat simultaneous occurrence, but different things are happening. It is like when I ask Elizabeth to get the girls ready for bed. This usually includes getting them showered, their pajamas on, their teeth and hair brushed. Any one of those alone is not being ready for bed. They are all part of getting ready. So the work of the Holy Spirit in renewal. He is the breath of God that gives us life, the water that cleans us, the fire that purifies us, the clothing that covers us and the oil that anoints us. He is One Spirit, but He does many works.

Psalm 109:18 illustrates for us some of the difference between clothing, water, and oil.

Ps 109:18

As he clothed himself with cursing like as with his garment, so let it come into his bowels like water, and like oil into his bones. KJV

Clothing is put on. Water enters our bowels when we drink it. It runs off our body. Oil comes into the bones through penetration. The picture is one of soaking in. Water takes things off. Oil puts stuff in. But olive oil is only part of the anointing story.

2. The Purpose-

Ex 29:9 NKJV

And you shall gird them with sashes, Aaron and his sons, and put the hats on them. The priesthood shall be theirs for a perpetual statute. So you shall consecrate Aaron and his sons.

The purpose of the anointing is consecration or ordination, a setting aside for holy purpose.

The Holy Anointing Oil-

Ex 30:22-31

22 Then the LORD said to Moses,

23 "Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels of liquid myrrh, half as much (that is, 250 shekels) of fragrant cinnamon, 250 shekels of fragrant cane,

24 500 shekels of cassia--all according to the sanctuary shekel--and a hin of olive oil.

25 Make these into a sacred anointing oil, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil.

26 Then use it to anoint the Tent of Meeting, the ark of the Testimony,

27 the table and all its articles, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense,

28 the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand.

29 **You shall consecrate them so they will be most holy, and whatever touches them will be holy.**

30 "Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests.

31 Say to the Israelites, "This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. NIV

Though olive oil on its own is used as a type of the Holy Spirit, the holy anointing oil is used of the Spirit as well. One way to think of it is that the holy anointing oil is the full work of the Spirit's anointing, while olive oil may represent an aspect of that anointing (such as healing).

Some general things to note about the holy anointing are:

- *It had five ingredients. Five is the number of grace in Scripture. We are anointed by the grace of God.*
- *Though it had many aspects, it was one anointing oil.*

- *A large batch was made and then portions of the large batch were used to anoint.*
- *It was used to set things apart as holy in service to the Lord.*
- *It was an anointing oil for generations. Each generation must be anointed. We cannot live on anointings from past generations.*

Jesus was given a full measure of the Holy Spirit's anointing.

John 3:34

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: **for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.** KJV

Heb 1:9

You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You With the oil of gladness **more than Your companions.**" NKJV

Isa 61:1-3

- 1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,
- 2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,
- 3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor. NIV

Luke 4:18-19

- 18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,
- 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." NIV

Verse 18 is the proclamation of the year of the Lord's favor. The full anointing of the Holy Spirit results in five aspects of ministry: salvation, healing, deliverance, illumination, and freedom from iniquity. The holy anointing oil had five ingredients, each representing these aspects of the full ministry and life of the Anointed One, the Lord Jesus Christ!

The anointing of the Lord is for consecration to service, first to the Lord and then to man. The symbol of oil for the Holy Spirit speaks to us of His fluid, soaking nature and the work he does to set us apart for service. With the anointing of the Lord, we need to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the broken hearted, preach deliverance to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and set at liberty them that are bruised! Amen!