

Th123 A Study of the Holy Spirit

Th123-28 Spirit-Anointed Preaching and Teaching

Have you ever been deeply moved by the words of a preacher or teacher? Did you stop and ask yourself why you were so moved? A number of factors can cause a minister's message to be effective. One important element is the touch of God, or to put it another way, the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In this lesson, we will consider the importance of a minister being anointed by the Holy Spirit. We will further examine how one may assure that he or she is anointed when they deliver a message from the Word of God.

Jesus set the pattern for how we should minister God's word. Our teaching and preaching should be done in the Spirit's power. Jesus described His own teaching ministry like this: "I do nothing on my own, but speak just what the Father has taught me" (John 8:28). Jesus could so clearly hear His Father's voice because He was full of the Holy Spirit. He began His ministry by announcing, "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, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:18-19). Those who listened "were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law" (Mark 1:22).

Because Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit, the words He spoke were powerful and grace-filled. He declared, "The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). Once He had announced that the Spirit of the Lord was upon Him, Jesus began to proclaim the good news. The Bible says that, "All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips" (Luke 4:22). One day the Jewish authorities sent some temple guards to capture Jesus and bring Him to them. When the guards returned, however, Jesus was not with them. The authorities asked, "Why didn't you bring Jesus to us as we ordered?"

The guards replied, "No one ever spoke the way this man does!" (John 7:46). They had been awed by Jesus' Spirit-anointed words.

The Apostles followed the pattern established by Jesus. They too ministered in the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible says that, on the Day of Pentecost, "all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4). Because of this powerful spiritual experience, they were anointed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus had been anointed in the same way when the Spirit came upon Him at His baptism in water (Luke 3:21-22). And like Jesus, the 120 began to teach and preach with great power. After receiving the Spirit at Pentecost, Peter stood and proclaimed the gospel. His Spirit-laden words made such an impression on his listeners that they were "cut to the heart" and began to cry out, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37).

Throughout the Book of Acts, the other Apostles and preachers spoke with the same power and effect. When the Holy Spirit was poured out a second time in Jerusalem, they were again "all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." The Apostles then "continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus [with great power], and much grace

was upon them all” (Acts 4:31-33). Later, when Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit, “at once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.” His powerful, Spirit-anointed preaching “baffled the Jews living in Damascus...proving that Jesus is the Christ” (Acts 9:20-22).

Years later, in a letter to the believers in Corinth, Paul reminded them how he had preached the gospel to them. “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words,” he wrote, “but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power” (1Cor 2:4).

Today, we should continue to follow the pattern established by Jesus and His Apostles. We too should teach and preach in the power of the Spirit. Paul wrote that God “has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life” (2Cor 3:6). What then must we do that we may become competent, Spirit-anointed teachers and preachers of God’s Word? We must do at least five things:

First, we must *be born from above*. Before one can minister in the Spirit’s power, he or she must be born again of the Spirit. Jesus explained, “Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit” (John 3:6).

Next, before we can preach or teach with power, we must *be filled with the Spirit*. This is what happened to Jesus and the Apostles. It was only after the Spirit had come upon them and anointed them that they began to minister in power. Jesus commanded His disciples to be His witnesses to all nations. But first, He said, they were to remain in the city of Jerusalem until they had been “clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:48-49). The disciples obeyed, and on the Day of Pentecost they received the promised power. We must do the same.

Third, preparation for Spirit-empowered proclamation involves *daily walking in the Spirit’s power*. It is one thing to be initially filled with the Spirit, it is quite another to walk in the Spirit. We do this by being daily refilled with the Spirit. This Spirit-empowered walk is nourished through committed prayer and disciplined Christian living.

Next, if we are to preach and teach with power, as did the Apostles, we must *stay focused on the gospel*, that is, the message of salvation in Christ. Paul called this message “the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Rom 1:16). Remember, the Spirit does not anoint our message but God’s, that is, the good news that Jesus died on the cross for the sins of all people.

Finally, if we are to minister with power we must learn to *depend on the Spirit*. In other words, we must teach and preach with faith and expectancy. As we speak, we should believe that God will fulfill His promise and anoint our words as He anointed the words of Jesus, Peter, and Paul. We should further expect the Spirit to work in the hearts of those listening to our words. Lives will be transformed by the Spirit of the God and by the message of the gospel.

This lesson is **important** because it teaches how a Spirit-filled Christian can experience the Spirit’s anointing when they teach or preach.

The **main truth** we learn from this lesson is that, to be anointed by the Holy Spirit when we speak, we must be full of the Spirit and true to the message of the gospel.

Let's **review** some important truths we have learned from this lesson:

1. What pattern did Jesus establish of how we should teach or preach the word of God?
A. [PAUSE] If you answered, "Jesus established the pattern that our teaching and preaching should be done in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit," you are correct.
2. What caused the teaching and preaching of the apostles and other ministers in the Book of Acts to be so effective?
A. [PAUSE] If you said, "The teaching and preaching of the Apostles and other ministers in the book of Acts was effective because they were anointed by the Holy Spirit," you are right.
3. List five things one must do to ensure that his or her teaching and preaching is anointed by the Holy Spirit.
A. [PAUSE] If you answered that to ensure that our teaching and preaching is anointed by the Holy Spirit we must be (1) born again, (2) filled with the Spirit, (3) daily walking in the Spirit, (4) focused on proclaiming the gospel, and (5) dependent on the Spirit as we speak, you answered correctly.
4. What results can we expect when our words are anointed by the Holy Spirit?
A. [PAUSE] If you answered that, when our words are anointed by the Holy Spirit, we can expect our teaching and preaching to be fruitful as hearts open to the Word, you are right.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to begin to apply its principles to your own teaching and preaching and to teach others to do the same. If you have not yet been filled with the Spirit with the biblical sign of speaking in tongues, ask the Holy Spirit to fill you now and then anoint you the next time you speak the Word of the Lord.

Realize that you too are anointed in the same way Jesus was. Memorize the following verse and claim it by faith: "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" (Luke 4:18).