OPERATING in the ANOINTING

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A Comprehensive Study Guide on God's Precious Anointing

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If there has ever been a moment in history when the body of Christ and the world at large needs the power of God and God's people are desperate for His anointing, it is now. You see, the anointing is the power of God in operation. It is the bondage-breaking, miracle-working, healing, life-changing power of the Holy Spirit working through a human vessel.

I believe that you are one of those human vessels through which God wants to display His power. I believe there is a mighty call of God and an anointing upon your life. I believe the Holy Spirit wants you to walk in the fullness of His power in everything you do and that He wants to manifest His miracle-working power through you for the benefit of others and to the praise of His wonderful name.

We must have the power of God, the anointing. As believers, at the dawn of the twenty-first century when the days are growing darker, we know how to share the light of God's love and the blessing of His power with the world around us. The powers of evil in the earth seem to be working overtime these days, and we can only defeat them with the power of God. Again, we *must* have the anointing. We must perceive it spiritually and understand it as best we can with human minds; we must know how to move and function in it so God can use us to His maximum glory, to our maximum potential, and to the maximum benefit of those to whom we minister.

I have developed this study guide to help you understand what the anointing is and how it operates. I pray this material will bless you with everincreasing confidence to move in God's mighty anointing.

INTRODUCTION





You Shall Receive Power

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you. ACTS 1:8

cts 1:8 promises that we will receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon us. This promise is essential to understanding the anointing. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, we are in God's presence. But God's presence is not the same as His anointing. God's presence is His glory and His person; His anointing is His power.

In Hebrew, the word "anoint" is *mashach*, which means "to rub in." The Greek word is *chrism* and means "to smear." When we receive the anointing, we are, in a sense, "smeared" with His power, which means that He is not only upon us but within us, as oil would be rubbed into and absorbed by the skin.

Simply put, the anointing is God's power. It is the manifestation and the result of his presence.

Without God's glory, we will never have His power. At the same time, the power without the presence will destroy a person; it will become an enemy. So we must have the presence with the power. The glory is given as long as a person is faithful. The power is the gift we receive as a result of the glory of God. Thus, a person can lose the glory and keep the power (for example, Sampson and Saul).

KNOWING GOD'S WAYS

Moses said: "I beseech thee, shew me thy glory" (Exodus 33:18). How did God respond?

And the LORD descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will be no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the father upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and fourth generation. (Exodus 34:5-7)

From the passage above we see:

LESSON 1



- 1. God revealed His person.
- 2. God revealed His divine attributes (who He is).
- 3. The glory of God equals the presence of God equals the person of God.

It is God's presence that transforms our hearts. We come to know His ways as we spend time in His presence.

In Psalm 103:7, we read that God "made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel." Moses knew the ways of God, while Israel knew His acts.

- 1. God only reveals His ways to those who know Him.
- Moses was transformed to know God's ways. His ways are connected to His person/glory/presence. Those who know His ways will never walk away.
- 3. God's acts are connected to His power. Those who only know His acts may walk away.

God says in Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

To know God's ways is to know God. Moses was allowed to know God, and knowing God reveals His ways. The ways of God are not revealed to those who do not know Him.

Let's look again at Moses's story in Exodus. He says to the Lord: "Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest. And he said unto him, If thy presence go not with me, carry us not up hence" (Exodus 33:13-15).

We see here:

- 1. Now God promises His presence.
- 2. Knowing Him is knowing His ways, His presence, and His attributes.
- Once we know His presence and His glory, we will lose sight of ourselves.

God's glory is not manifested in the physical body. The glory is not felt or experienced in the fleshly realms, but only in the heart, in the spirit of a person. What we *feel* is God's power. The glory cannot be felt or described, only known. Moses did not simply want to *feel* God; he wanted to *know* Him.

AN ENCOUNTER WITH GOD'S PRESENCE

After Moses encountered God on Mount Sinai, what happened? "And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him" (Exodus 34:29).

We learn from this verse:

- 1. God's presence cancels self.
- 2. Moses lost sight of self. We regain sight of ourselves when the glory leaves. (When the glory of God left Adam, he realized he was naked. Nakedness is the result of the absence of the glory. Adam and Eve were clothed in glory, thus they did not realize they were naked. So when sin entered their hearts and they lost God's presence, they clothed themselves, for they were accustomed to being covered.)
- 3. It is His presence that transforms us.
- 4. The glory of God changes the heart. It is spiritual. This is the reason Elisha died a sick man. Even though the glory of God was in him, the presence of God did not affect his body but filled his heart, yet God's power lingered in his bones after his death. People can be sick and still carry the glory of God. (Example: Paul's infirmity.)
- 5. People want health, strength, and longevity. They do not think about what is inside. The glory belongs to the inner man, to the spirit.

UNDERSTANDING THE GLORY AND THE PRESENCE

1. The glory transforms us into God's image.

Second Corinthians 3:17-18 teaches: "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."

2. God's presence is experienced in the deep places of the heart.

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me" (Psalm 42:7).

This verse teaches us that the glory of God is like a wave.

God communicates with our spirit; glory is in the depth.

3. God's presence is the shadow of the Almighty.