

Strike Oil With The Anointing

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I woke up this morning with a song in my head, and I said to my self, “Hey, “sweet anointing,” I should do a column about that; it’s what makes all the difference. I first heard that song at a full gospel meeting in Breckenridge in the early 90’s, sung by evangelist Rodney Howard Brown leading worship at the Gospel Tabernacle:

“There’s a sweet anointing flowing into this place;/ step into the water and see./ It will bless you; it will heal you,/ fill you up to overflowing;/ step in and be made new today.”

The anointing is mentioned often in the scriptures; perhaps most famously in the timeless, 23rd Psalm: “Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.” It’s a picture of healing, abundance, or empowerment.

At full gospel meetings, I heard the word “anointed” often, describing any sermon, song, performance or person that manifested supernatural power to “touch” people spiritually.

It was also associated with presence of God, breaking “yokes” of addiction, bouts of sickness or various troubles besetting people.. Interestingly, the word *Christ* is defined as “*anointed one or messiah.*”

The anointing is explored more thoroughly in Psl 133: “Behold how good and how pleasant it is for folks to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: like the dew of mount Hermon, that ran down upon the mountains of Zion. Then the Lord commanded the blessing: even life forevermore.”

There are instances of the anointing at work in our everyday life, especially in sports. When the announcers rave about Stephon Curry's being "in the zone," as he scores 40 points, they could have said, "Steph's play was anointed. That means flawless, beyond amazing.

The same could have been said about Beverly Sills when she used to hit high notes of silvery purity, making a song as simple as "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star" sound like it was being sung in heaven.

The anointing and its empowerment could be experienced by any Christians humble enough to ask the Holy Spirit to come into their hearts. But the Holy Spirit is a gentleman; he won't come in if not asked. But if asked, he brings with him gifts of incalculable richness. (Eph 4:8) Perhaps His most precious is that "oil of gladness" that lightens every burden.

If we proudly insist upon doing it, "my way," we are in essence saying, 'I don't need you God; I can do it on my own.

I watched a Fred Astaire, Cyd Charisse movie last night, *Band Wagon*, where Fred sang, "I'll face the unknown;/ I'll build a life of my own/ No one knows better than I Myself;/ I'm by myself alone."

That just might be one of the saddest songs ever sung. After all, he could have asked the Spirit for help and been anointed to dance like Fred Astaire.

The grace implicit in the anointing is beautifully portrayed in the worship song of thanks from the wounded man blessed by the loving kindness of the good Samaritan: "He poured in the oil and the wine;/ The kind that refreshes my soul;/ He found me bleeding and dying/ on the Jericho road, And he poured in the oil and the wine." Both oil and wine symbolize the anointing of the Holy Spirit. In an arid land, oil may be as precious as water, because it is an unction that spreads

far and heals deep down. And Isaiah says, “The yoke will be destroyed by the anointing.” (Is 10:27)

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