

Anointed to be all God wants you to be

By Senior Pastor Prince Guneratnam

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).

Jesus knows that in this world we will face and go through trials, tribulations, disappointments, hindrances and opposition. Therefore, He said to His disciples that when He returns to His Father, He will send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit in your life will teach, guide and empower you to live a life of victory. Therefore, when you know someone who has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it means that Jesus has kept His promise and that He is with His Father.

God knows you by name and He knows where you live. For example, Elijah, after calling down fire from heaven and killing the false prophets, ran away in fear from Jezebel and hid in a cave (1 Kings 19:9). But God knew where he was. There, He instructed Elijah to leave the cave and anoint Hazael as king over Syria, Jehu as king over Israel and Elisha as prophet in his place (1 Kings 19:15-16). God also knows your future. You do not have to go to a bomoh or medium to find out the future. God told Elijah, *“It shall be that whoever escapes the sword of Hazael, Jehu will kill; and whoever who escapes the sword of Jehu, Elisha will kill”* (1 Kings 19:17). And God knows the present. Elijah thought that he was the sole surviving prophet but God told him that there were 7,000 others in Israel who had not bowed to Baal (1 Kings 19:14; 18)!

God wants to anoint you by His Holy Spirit so that you can be what He wants you to be. When Elijah found Elisha, he threw his cloak on him as God told him to do (1 Kings 19:19). This act symbolised God’s anointing. I would not be a preacher of the Gospel today if it were not for God’s anointing upon me. I was not born with a halo over my head. I was timid and shy but God knew where I lived and put an anointing on my life. It was when I was 12 years old that God gave me an exciting vision of Jesus Christ. I remember how God touched me then. I cried and tears rolled down my cheeks. But I do not live on yesterday’s experiences. I depend on God’s fresh anointing every day. You need the infilling of the Holy Spirit daily to experience God’s enablement to live victoriously (Ephesians 5:18). Jesus taught us to pray, *“Give us this day our daily bread”* (Matthew 6:11). Just as you need today’s food for today’s work, you need God’s help and anointing on a daily basis. With God’s anointing, you can overcome the challenges in life and your sinful nature that you were born with.

Before the Lord took Elijah into heaven, Elisha asked Elijah for a double portion of his spirit to be upon him (2 Kings 2:9). Elijah answered, *“You have asked a hard thing. Nevertheless, if you see me when I am taken from you, it shall be so for you; but if not, it shall not be so”* (2 Kings 2:10). Elisha saw Elijah being taken up into heaven by a whirlwind and he took Elijah’s mantle that had fallen from him, stood at the bank of the Jordan and struck the water. It divided and Elisha crossed over (2 Kings 2:13-14). When the sons of the prophets from Jericho saw this, they were convinced that the spirit of Elijah rested on Elisha. In John 14:12, Jesus said, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* Note the parallel here. When Elijah went to heaven, Elisha received a double portion of Elijah’s supernatural power. Likewise, when Jesus returned to His Father, He sent the Holy Spirit and His disciples performed many and great miracles.

You can be all that God wants you to be. You are not a victim of the negative traits that you were born with. Do not blame your birth, your circumstances, your spouse or your neighbours for what you are. He has called you to be an overcomer but there can be no victory without a fight. You cannot be triumphant when there is no challenge. You say you are not like Elijah but James says that Elijah was a man with a nature like ours (James 5:17). The difference is the anointing of the Holy Spirit on Elijah.

The Holy Spirit in your life is like a potter. He moulds your life after God's image. God took Jeremiah to a potter's house. He saw the potter making something at the wheel. The vessel that he made of clay was marred and therefore he made it into another vessel as it seemed best to him (Jeremiah 18:1-4). Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah saying, *"O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter?" says the Lord. 'Look, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in My hand, O house of Israel!'"* (Jeremiah 18:6). Like the potter who moulds the clay, God can take the ugly personality, the mixed-up past and the bad traits in your life and change them into something beautiful. You can be freed from your past and your circumstances, to be like Jesus. A wood-carver who made elephants for sale was asked how he made them look so realistic. He said, "Simple - I take a block of wood and remove everything that does not look like an elephant." The Holy Spirit, like the potter and the wood-carver, can shape and make you the person God wants you to be.

The Holy Spirit is still working today. The book of Acts records the acts of the Holy Spirit in the lives of ordinary people. The Holy Spirit came upon the early Church. The apostles were changed men. Saul, the persecutor became Paul, the apostle. The Church was dynamic, evangelistic and missionary in nature. The book of Acts is an unfinished book because the Holy Spirit is still working today in the lives of ordinary man.

You need the baptism of the Holy Spirit in your life. Turn from your old life and accept the new life that Jesus Christ offers. The Holy Spirit can liberate you from all bondages and lift your burdens. *"It shall come to pass in that day that his burden will be taken away from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck, and the yoke will be destroyed because of the anointing oil"* (Isaiah 10:27). With the Holy Spirit's anointing you can be all that God wants you to be. *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," says the Lord of hosts* (Zechariah 4:6).

(All Bible quotations are from the New King James Version).

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