

Pray for Anointing

Series: How to Pray for Your Pastor

1 John 2:20-22

Introduction

- There is a presence and a power that is needed ... in our service to Jesus.
 - (e.g.) DL Moody was used greatly by God to bring the gospel to many people throughout his lifetime ... but a turning point for him was an encounter he had with 2 elderly ladies in his church that prayed for him.
 - After church one Sunday, these 2 ladies said: “We have been praying for you”
 - But Moody replied: “Thank you! But pray for the people ... I’m doing alright!”
 - “No, we’re praying for power and anointing upon you!”
 - He was like: “What do you mean? I have a successful ministry! The largest church in Chicago and things are growing”

- But the ladies would say this to him each week for several months ... and so he too began praying for anointing in his life ...
 - But then one day Moody writes in his journal about a change that happened to him in the place of prayer ...
 - He was walking down Wall Street in NY during the same time that these women were praying for him in Chicago ...
 - And he felt led to pray ... so he went to his friend’s house in NY and began spending time in prayer ...
 - Suddenly he was spending HOURS in prayer and worship before the Lord that day ...
 - A new hunger for God began to grow in him ...

- A new love for Christ ... His Church ... and the gospel began to grow ...

- And he said that after that experience ... something changed in his ministry.

- After weeks of asking the Lord for anointing and a breakthrough ... it happened.
- In his own words: “I cannot describe it ... I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand.
- “I went to preaching again.
- The sermons were not different ... I did not present new truth ... and yet now, hundreds were converted.

- There was a difference now in FLOW and effectiveness in ministry.

- What these women were praying for their pastor ... was anointing ...

- You know when it’s there ... and you know when it’s not there ...
- **THERE IS A POWER ... A PRESENCE ... AND AN EFFECTIVENESS THAT ANOINTING BRINGS UPON A PERSON ... AND A PLACE!**

- And that’s what we want to see growing within our ministry ... an anointed power and presence that is marked by a deeper love for Jesus.

- AND THAT’S WHAT WE WANT TO BE PRAYING FOR TOO :)

We’re in a series on “How to Pray for Your Pastor” ...

And what we looked at so far was the need to pray for ...

- Protection
- Rest ...
- And today ... we’ll look at how we can PRAY FOR ANOINTING (repeat)

So open your Bibles to 1 John 2 ... and we'll look at how to pray effectively for anointing :)

- So what does it mean to pray for anointing for your pastor?

It means praying for intimacy

- There is a connection between anointing and intimacy with the Lord.

1 John 2:20 ESV But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge. [21] I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. [22] Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

- This gives us a foundational understanding of anointing in the New Covenant.

- First of all, we learn in verse 20 that anointing is connected with the Holy Spirit.
 - So on one level ... all of us who have the Holy Spirit are anointed by God
 - But there is another element of anointing that we will explore today.
- These verses teach us that this basic anointing is connected to TRUE KNOWLEDGE of Jesus Christ.

1 John 2:20 ESV But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

- Jesus IS the Truth and the Spirit GUIDES us into all truth ...

- And it is the Spirit that guides people to Jesus!
- You see, one of the key roles of the Holy Spirit is the REVEAL TRUTH ... and to reveal JESUS to people.

- So a sign that the Holy Spirit has been working in your life is when you KNOW the TRUTH that JESUS is Christ and Lord of all!
- So the Spirit ... His gifts in our lives ... His fruit in our lives ... and even signs and wonders ... are meant to POINT PEOPLE TO JESUS!

[21] I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth. [22] Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

- So this knowledge of Truth ... and this knowledge of Jesus is NOT just an intellectual knowledge.

- It is speaking of a PERSONAL and INTIMATE relationship with Him.
- You see, there is a difference between knowing **ABOUT** someone ... and truly KNOWING someone.

- *(e.g.) All of us can say “I know Barak Obama” ... I know George Bush*

- We are saying: I know who he is ...
- But that knowledge is intellectual ... and NOT based on intimacy.

- Because if we asked Obama (do you know who YOU are) ... do you know Eddie Byun? He’s say “WHO?” “Eddie Murphy?”
- True knowledge with Jesus is based on intimacy with Jesus!

- Jesus even warns us in Matthew 7:21-23 that we can DO a lot of service for Him ... but never really have an intimate relationship **with** Him.

[21] “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’

- The scariest words to ever hear from Jesus: DEPART from me ... I never knew you!

- (e.g.) And even Richard Baxter (a Puritan preacher) in his book Reformed Pastor speaks about the need for ALL believers, even PASTORS to examine our hearts and faith to make sure that WE TRULY KNOW the Christ we preach!

- He begins the opening chapter of his book with the words: “many preachers are now in hell who had said a hundred times to call his hearers to do their utmost to escape it”! (p. 53)

- Do you TRULY know Him? Do you have a REAL, intimate relationship with Jesus?

- That is THE most important thing you must examine in your life ...

- So PRAY for anointing that is the RESULT of true knowledge and intimacy through walking with Jesus!

- Tied in with this idea of anointing and intimacy ... is also seen when we look at one of the definitions of anointing.

- You see, one definition of anointing is to SMEAR with or be covered with to the overflow ... (that’s why in the OT, they would POUR oil over the head of the leaders during the anointing ceremony)

- And THAT’S what we want to see happen to our pastors!

- We want SUCH intimacy with God that results in being SMEARED with the SPIRIT on a regular basis!
- PRAY that we would be FILLED with ... OVER FLOW WITH ... and SMEARED with the Spirit all the days of our lives! (Amen?) :)

Ephesians 5:18 ESV says: And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

- He's saying: if you're going to be filled with something so that it controls you ... don't let it be alcohol ... let it be the Holy Spirit!

- When Paul says ... "be filled with the Spirit" ... it has the meaning of being CONSTANTLY FILLED with ...

- You see ... if we have faith in Christ ... we all have the Spirit in us ... but this command by Paul also reveals we need a CONTINUAL ENCOUNTER with the Spirit ... in the place of intimacy with the Lord!

- Pray for this kind of intimacy ... as we are filled with the Spirit ... SMEARED with the Spirit ... the MARK OF HIS PRESENCE will be heavy upon our lives!

- Pray that we would be a people of His presence ... so that ALL who encounter US ... will encounter the God who dwells within us!

- THAT is anointing! ... an anointing of His presence ... an anointing that comes through intimacy with the Lord! :)

- I pray that often: "God ... anoint me with your presence! May all who encounter me ... encounter YOU!"

- You see ... God is omni-present ... YES. He is everywhere ... but there are times when you realize that you are in His holy presence and EVERYTHING CHANGES!
 - There is fear ... reverence ... WORSHIP ... and life change that happens in the presence of the Lord!
 - I want to live in His presence in such a way ... that I will ALWAYS BE in His anointed presence ... so that when I meet people ... they will meet God! ... because I'm always with God :)

- Because THOSE WHO DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD LEAVE CHANGED!

- That kind of intimacy results in humility and courage ... clarity and focus ... wisdom and insight ... love and compassion ...

SO PRAY FOR ANOINTING ... through INTIMACY with the Lord!

But that is not all anointing means ...

It also means praying for consecration

- Look at what Jesus says at the start of His public ministry:

Luke 4:18 ESV "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

- There is an anointing that is NEEDED for public ministry.

- Why? Because our service to the Lord must NOT be done by our own power and strength.
 - God's Work cannot be accomplished in the flesh ... it must be done with FAITH and in the power of the Spirit.

- Jesus was ANOINTED to preach ... proclaim ... heal ... and set captive free! :)
- And this reveals another aspect of anointing we need to be aware of ...
 - It is about being CONSECRATED and SET APART FOR SERVICE!
 - Much of the OT's mentioning of anointing for its prophets, priests, and kings were primarily about this kind of CONSECRATION for public service.

- Why is it so important to pray for consecration ... and holiness for the pastor?

- Because, as we mentioned in the first sermon of this series (Why Pastors Need Intercessory Prayer)
 - ... pastors are more visible
 - ... have greater influence because of their public platform
 - ... THEREFORE ... there are greater consequences if they fall!

- *(e.g.) STORY*

- THEREFORE PRAY ... that we would HONOR our call to be SET APART FOR CHRIST and for the GOSPEL WE PROCLAIM!

- PRAY ... that this consecration would result in a greater LOVE for holiness ... and a greater hatred for sin!
- PRAY ... that we would hate compromise and instead live a life ... consecrated wholly unto Him!

And there's one more way to pray effectively for anointing in your pastor's life ... and ...

It means praying for power

1 Samuel 16:13 ESV Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

- So once again we see, in both OT and NT, that anointing is connected with the Holy Spirit.

- And the Spirit releases a power through His presence.

- Because one of the most distinguishable things about anointing is when it comes with power.

- It is hard to define ... but EASY to notice when anointing is on someone's life.

- (e.g.) For example: there are people who are **gifted** in music ... and there are people who are **anointed** in music.

- A harpist who plays for the philharmonic orchestra is gifted ... but David, when playing his harp was anointed ... SO MUCH SO ... that demons fled when David played!

- (e.g.) One of my praise leaders in Sydney was a growing musician.

- He good at guitar ... could sing ... and everything was OK.

- And every since he started, and because he was new to praise leading, he often came up for prayer ... and the prayer team and I committed to praying for him to GROW ...

- But I remember one day ... I walked into the place where we worshipped and the praise team was practicing ...
 - And LITERALLY I sensed a presence and a power in the praise team that wasn't there before!
 - I was like: "Is there a new guy leading praise today?!?!?"

- It was still the same guy ... but literally, from that day, something changed ...

- Again: HARD to define ... but EASY to pick out.
- There was an anointing ... a power from the Spirit that made people more aware of His presence ...

- (e.g.) And I've seen this happen time and time again in ministry since college.
 - There was a praise ministry in Chicago that would travel to different parts of the country during my youth group days.
 - This band was NOT musically gifted ...
 - But they sought the Lord in prayer OFTEN ... would cover over retreats and conferences in prayer DAILY for literally MONTHS before the event happened ...
 - And they were anointed ...
 - So many people would come to know the Lord and commit to ministry through their music and leadership.

- And through them I realized that more than ability ... it is the Spirit's anointing that is MORE important to have in life and ministry.

- More than talent ... it's the Spirit's power that brings life transformation IN people and THROUGH people.

- But as we mentioned earlier, the power the Spirit gives through His anointing has a particular PURPOSE ... and that purpose is to point people to Jesus as we declare the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:8 ESV But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

- God EMPOWERS us with the Spirit ... anoints us ... so that we will be WITNESSES of JESUS to the ends of the earth.

- The power of the Spirit is given so that more people would know the name of Jesus through the DECLARATION OF THE GOSPEL!

- You see, power is given ... for the gospel to advance!

- This is the purpose of signs and wonders as well.

- SIGNS are just that ... a SIGN that POINTS people to Jesus ...
- Wonders ... are given so that people would WORSHIP JESUS ... NOT the messenger ... not the gifts ... but the Giver of all grace .. Jesus.
 - You see, the TRUE mark of a Spirit-filled believer is NOT speaking in tongues ... but using our tongues to praise the name of Jesus and point people to Him!

THE GREATEST POWER THAT COMES WITH THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE AND ANOINTING IN A PERSON'S LIFE ... IS NOT THE POWER TO MOVE MOUNTAINS OR EVEN THE POWER TO RAISE THE DEAD ...

- For there is something GREATER than raising a body from the dead ... and that is raising a SOUL from the dead ... unto salvation in Jesus Christ!

- Romans 1:16 ... I am not ashamed of the Gospel ... because IT is the POWER of God ... for the SALVATION of all who would believe!
- THAT is the power we must PRAY FOR ... for our pastors!

- That they would boldly declare the gospel of Jesus Christ

- ... WITHOUT FEAR
- ... with complete FAITH
- ... to exalt JESUS!

- Pray for anointing ... and the POWER of the Spirit ... and the POWER of the gospel ... to be the mark of their ministry and their lives! :)

Conclusion

- I truly believe PASTORS would be more effective ... more anointed ... and the Gospel would reach more people ... IF MORE PEOPLE PRAYED FOR THEIR PASTORS ...

- So PRAY FOR MORE ANOINTING IN OUR LIVES!
 - More of His presence to be manifest in our lives ...
 - More of His power to flow through our lives ...
 - And more intimacy with Him ... so we we'll fall in love with Jesus :)

Let's pray ...

But to begin ... we must ask: Do YOU TRULY know Jesus? Does He know you?

- Will you hear the words “Depart from me ... I never knew you?” when you stand before Him on judgment day?

- A true relationship with Jesus can begin for you even today ... through faith ... and repentance

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