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This booklet is from a teaching series by Luke Brough, Senior Pastor, Elim Christian Centre.

October 2004

THE DIMENSION OF THE SPIRIT

33 is a great age to be. How many here are 33?

It is a good age, you are still fit and strong, you still have your youthful good looks, you still have all of your hair on your head. You are no longer regarded as a youth, but you are not in middle age yet either. It's a great age to be alive.

Now add to this: fame, crowds flocking to hear you wherever you went, the world is your oyster.

If you were 33, could go anywhere, do anything, be anything you wanted, what would you choose?

I wonder how many would choose a cross. A cross is a terrible death, a horrible way to end a life, especially a life that was in its prime. A young man in his prime of life, cut down in this dreadful manner. How can such a horrible event be something good? How can the cross be a victory?

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.
Colossians 2:15

It doesn't make sense to our way of thinking. To die on a cross in our thinking is a tragedy.

For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 1 Corinthians 1:18

The Cross goes beyond all human reasoning.

To understand it we need help. We need an understanding that is different to anything that we can source in the realm of human knowledge.

But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
1 Corinthians 2:14

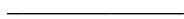
Spiritual things do not make sense to the natural mind, without spiritual illumination.

This is also true in the circumstances of life. We have things happen to us that we don't understand. God says that all things work together for good to those that love Him. But often we struggle to see any good at all. From where we are sitting, it doesn't make sense.

You see, there is an unseen spiritual dimension. In fact, God is a Spirit. We call this realm the spiritual world. There are three spiritual forces in the earth. There is the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of God), there is the spirit of the devil, and then there is the human spirit.

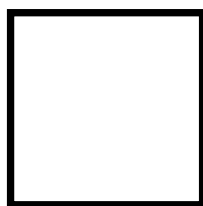
In geometry you can put up two points, and draw a line between the points, you have **one dimension**.

Dimension One diagram:



If we add height, we have a second dimension.

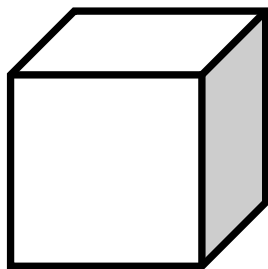
Dimension Two diagram:



The first dimension, a line, is contained and therefore controlled by the second dimension.

Then you add depth, and this gives a third dimension.

Dimension three diagram:



The first and second dimension is contained in, and therefore controlled by the third dimension.

The material world and the whole earth belong to the third dimension. All we see around us is in this cubical world. We have length, breadth, and depth.

Now if the first and second dimension is controlled by the third dimension, **what then controls the third dimension?**

Well, the answer to this question is only found in one place, and that is the Bible.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. Genesis 1:1-2

The answer is the Spirit of God.

The earth was in the process of creation, but it was not evolution. There was another dimension mentioned here. Here is a dimension that is not contained in the other dimensions.

There was a spirit life, a spirit dimension:

- The Spirit dimension birthed everything we know of creation. The Spirit of God was at work.
- And He still is at work today. He is working in your life and in mine. We may not see Him but He is there.

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8

As you do not know what is the way of the wind, or how the bones grow in the womb of her who is with child, so you do not know the works of God who makes everything. Ecclesiastes 11:5

God who is a Spirit controls everything.

He made the third dimensional realm. It doesn't contain Him. This is why miracles happen.

The disciples were sailing across the waters, old Pete; he is a seasoned sailor (a fisherman). He is on the lookout. He blinks, wipes his eyes, and pinches himself. It's 3 in the morning. He thought he was dreaming. Having a nightmare.

"Hey fellas, do you see what I see?" "Oh no it's a ghost." They thought that Davy Jones was coming to take them home.

Jesus was walking on the water, people don't do that. It is not normal.

Peter thought, "I wouldn't mind doing that, that looks fun. Lord, can I have a go."

"Sure Pete." And while he had faith, and kept his eyes on Jesus, he walked on water.

This was real water, not a reef that came out from the shore as some want to believe. How did Peter do this? Why didn't he sink? How did He overcome the third dimension?

The reason is that the spirit dimension contains and controls the other three dimensions. This is why Jesus could walk on water, and raise people from the dead, heal the sick, command the waves to cease, multiply the loaves and fishes. And later the disciples learned how to move in faith, and they also saw miracles. They did things that were impossible to do in natural power. And every now and again by faith we touch into this realm. Not as often as we should or could, because sadly we are so often governed by the thinking of our minds.

Satan has spiritual power.

God is not the only one to have spiritual power. Satan lives in this realm also. In other religions, Buddhism, Hinduism, witchcraft, spiritism, they all have miracles. Remember the story of Moses at Egypt. He threw down his rod and it became a serpent.

So Moses and Aaron went in to Pharaoh, and they did so, just as the LORD commanded. And Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh and before his servants, and it became a serpent. But Pharaoh also called the wise men and the sorcerers; so the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For every man threw down his rod, and they became serpents. But Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods. Exodus 7:10-12

God's power was a greater power. Aaron's staff swallowed up theirs.

How did they do it? Men with wooden staffs made real snakes. Pharaoh's sorcerers knew how to join with the demonic power of satan, spirit power, and to take authority over the physical realm. They understood the spirit dimension, but the problem was that the spirit they were linking with does not have salvation. Salvation is only through the Spirit of God.

People have a spirit.

God is a spirit, satan and the angels are spirit beings, but man is a mixture of both.

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

Everything else God created, He just commanded it into being, and it happened, but with man, He did something different.

- He took the lowest, and mixed it with the highest.
- He took the productive soil of the earth He had created, so that we could produce and be fruitful, and multiply this earth,

But, He then breathed His life giving Spirit into man. We are not common animals, we are different to the rest of God's creation. We have a spirit dimension. We have been created a body, soul, and spirit.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Not only do we have a spirit, but also our spirit was created to link with the Spirit of God.

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him. 1 Corinthians 6:17

We are joined to God, like in marriage. In marriage, the Bible says that two become "one flesh." With God, because He is a spirit, we are not joined as one flesh, but as "one spirit." We may ask, "How can my sinful heart (spirit – the words are interchangeable in Scripture). How can my sinful heart be joined with a holy God?"

Well the Bible says that before that can happen, our heart or our spirit must be "born again." Our old sinful heart is washed clean by the blood of Jesus and we are made new.

When man sinned and was separated from God, a barrier came between them. Man's spirit lost its communication with God. We lost the capacity to function with God in the spiritual dimension. So man tried to do his best, educate himself, tried to live right, be religious, do good works, but he could just not get it right.

Unfortunately, without the power of God's Spirit, man was no match for satan. We are no match for someone from the spirit realm; the dimension of the spirit contains and controls all of the other dimensions.

- Over and over we read in Scripture where even God's chosen people Israel couldn't stand against him, "but Israel did evil in the sight of God." They tried, and failed.
- Without God, man is not equipped to retain authority; we only have authority when we are under God's authority. Outside of that we are just puppets in satan's hand. The Bible calls him "the ruler of this world" but it is only ruler with a little "r."

The devil's rule is not in righteousness and justice, but in evil.

A recent survey showed that many who call themselves Christians do not believe in the devil. *"We are to intelligent to believe that stuff."* We may be the most educated, intelligent society this world has ever known, but we are the most violent. Education remains in the realm of the third dimension; it does not affect the spirit dimension. Education is very important, but it is not as important as understanding the spirit. The disciples were not educated, but moved in the spirit realm. The church was not birthed in a classroom, it was birthed through a mighty encounter with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. Acts 4:13-14

We believe in the devil, Jesus believed in the devil. It is why He came.

He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

1 John 3:8

This is why His death is "Good News." Man was created with a spirit capacity; it is only as the human spirit links with the Spirit of God, that man has authority, harmony, and peace with this world.

Faith is the language of the spirit. The Bible is not a common book, but it talks about God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit.

How can we understand spiritual things? How can we know the ways of the Spirit? Well the language of the spirit is the language of faith in God. Every believer is required by God to walk in faith. It is essential to the Christian life.

"We are saved by faith, we walk by faith, we pray in faith." We are to come to God without unbelief. Life is a journey of faith.

And everything that does not come from faith is sin. Romans 14:23

The importance of faith cannot be overemphasized. Throughout Scripture, faith is emphasized as the necessary ingredient for man to deal with God and to live successfully.

Faith is to *"see Him who is invisible."* Faith deals with two areas, the invisible future and the invisible present. Both are invisible to the natural eye, but not to the spiritual eye. Faith can see a reality that is invisible. This also relates to the area of the impossibility.

Experience tells you that it doesn't happen. Knowledge tells you that it can't happen. The facts tell you that it won't happen.

Yet, your faith tells you that it is a reality, it will happen.

You can see it happening against all the odds.

You need faith for what you cannot see, not for what you can see.

The Holy Spirit joins with us to increase our faith. He gives us the Word of God, and dreams and visions. He is trying to get us to push back the walls of human thinking and stretch out into the dimension of the spirit. The unseen realm.

Because we are a mixture of spirit and flesh we don't find this easy. It is easier to believe what we see. But faith is the language of the Spirit and without faith it is impossible to please God, because God is a spirit.

The challenge for us is to develop in the dimension of the spirit:

- We send the body and soul to school. We feed it, train it, exercise it, educate it.
- What are you doing to develop your spirit? This is far more important.

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Imagine yourself tramping a great mountain range. Something like the Southern Alps that divides the land, e.g. the South Island, on one side we have the Canterbury Plains. In the summer there are miles and miles of dry land. There is not much vegetation, it is hot and dry. But when you get to the top of the range, what a contrast! The West Coast is lush and green. It is no longer dry, it is wet and the land is fruitful. There is a marked difference where the mountain range divides the land.

The day of Pentecost divides the Word of God, just like the Southern Alps divides the South Island.

Before the day of Pentecost, we have the Old Testament. There were moments when men and woman knew an anointing of the Holy Spirit. But it wasn't consistent. Then Jesus came, and we see the life of Jesus, (God came down to earth, in a human body). Jesus lived a good life, He knew the Word of God, He debated the Scriptures with the scholars of the day, but performed no miracles until the Holy Spirit came upon Him. Apart from those close to Him, He was unknown through this time, 30 years. But after the Holy Spirit came on Him, everything changed. In 3 years everybody in that region of the world knew of Him.

The difference was the Holy Spirit.

But Jesus, while on earth, was limited. He limited Himself to a human body, just like we have. He was restricted to one place at any time, to just a few people. So He said to His disciples.

I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:12-14

How will this be possible?

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. John 14:16-17

Jesus said that He would give us another Counsellor, another the same as Him.

Then just before Jesus ascended into Heaven, He spoke to His disciples.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:4-5 & 8

And we know what happened.

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts Ch. 2:1-4

The name Pentecost means 50. It was a Jewish feast that came 50 days after the Passover. It celebrated the giving of the Law in Mount Sinai to Moses.

- The Law was their guide, their school master. It was their guide to life. They showed they were God's people by keeping His Law. It was hard, dreary, legalistic, religious.
- It was a hard school master, it could never be pleased.

But Jesus said that He came to give abundant life. The Law told them God's demands, God's requirements. The Law told them that they were sinners.

The Law brought them under condemnation because they couldn't keep it.

But, on the Day of Pentecost, something happened. Jesus not only dealt with our sin problem with His dying for our sins on the Cross, but He also sent us a power by giving us His Spirit.

There are four steps in our Christian initiation. Four steps we should all know in our lives.

- 1 **Repentance.** Where we turn from our old life and turn to God. The picture is the people of Israel leaving Egypt.
- 2 The next step is to **receive Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.** The picture here is the wooden staff of Moses being lifted up. The staff was the instrument of their salvation. The waters parted.
- 3 The next step is **water baptism.** The picture is the passing through the waters of the Sea.
- 4 Then there is the **Baptism in the Holy Spirit.** The picture here is the giving of the Law.

Now there are five different interpretations of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1. **Historical View** - This view says that Jesus did come to baptise in the Holy Spirit, and this happened firstly on the Day of Pentecost with the Jews, then in Acts Ch. 8 with the Samaritans, and finally in Acts Ch. 10 with the Gentiles. Remember Jesus said the Gospel must first go to the Jews, then Samaritans, then Gentiles.

The problem I have with this view is,

- (a) Peter said that what happened on the day of Pentecost was not just for the Jews, but for everyone, *"The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call."* Acts 2:39
- (b) Secondly, the other verses that don't support this argument are that both Paul and the Christians at Ephesus had experiences of being baptised in the Holy Spirit separate from their salvation (Acts 9:1 – 19 & 19:1 – 7).

It is difficult to come to the conclusion from the Bible that this was just an historical event.

2. **Sacramental View** - This view says that the church, having received the Holy Spirit, has the power to pass the Holy Spirit on through a "sacrament ritual, ceremony" e.g. confirmation or Baptism

So at Confirmation the Priest wears on his head a garment with the symbol of the flame of Pentecost. He says, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit."

The problem is, the great majority of those confirmed, don't seem to receive the Holy Spirit. For many it is the end of their contact with the church. It was just empty hands on an empty head.

3. **Evangelical View** - This is that being "born again" and being "Baptised in the Holy Spirit" are one and the same thing.

When you became a Christian, you received all there was of the Spirit of God. You cannot have more of a person, you either have them or you don't. Good argument.

- Now this view is not consistent with those Scriptures we read, where there was a distinct separation of events in the Apostle Paul and the Christians at Ephesus.
- It is also possible to know a person in different ways. You can know a person as an acquaintance, and then later as a husband or wife, or a friend or employer.

You can know Jesus as your Saviour, but not know Him as the one who provides, or heals, or Baptises in the Holy Spirit. It is a different experience of God.

4. **Perfectionist View.** The teaching of the holiness movement. This teaches that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second blessing that leads to entire sanctification. Perfect holiness, after which you will not sin.

After the second blessing you cannot sin, tempted but can't sin. Unfortunately, it doesn't work, we still sin. There is no magical second blessing that lifts you from ever sinning again. In fact, as we walk closer to God, we become even more conscious of our sins.

5. **Pentecostal View.** This says that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, was not just an historical day in the history of the church, but is a promise for every believer to have.

It is not necessarily, but can be, something that is experienced at salvation, but in many cases, as we have read in the N.T. it is not. It can be separate from our salvation by sometimes hours, days, weeks, months or even years. And that the evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues.

Now there are two things that I struggle with some Pentecostal beliefs.

(a) Some say, that you do not have the Holy Spirit, until the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This is not so, every “born again” Christian has the Holy Spirit. There are no 1st class and 2nd class Christians, those with the Holy Spirit and those without.

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. 1 Corinthians 6:19

But baptism means, “**to immerse, flood, fill.**” Many Christians have never experienced this.

(b) The other point I struggle with is, “that tongues is the evidence of the Baptism”.

Some Pentecostals say that if you don’t speak in tongues, you haven’t received, and they have a very good argument from Scripture for this view.

There are five instances recorded in Acts of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

- (i) The Day of Pentecost, evidence was tongues.
- (ii) Samaritans, no tongues but Simon saw something so he knew they had received.
- (iii) Cornelius, evidence was tongues.
- (iv) Paul, no tongues but we know he spoke in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:18
- (v) Ephesians, they spoke in tongues. Acts 19:6

There is a good argument from Scripture that tongues is the sign, but tongues is only one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

All of the gifts are evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Tongues is a sign, not necessarily the sign.

So here are five views of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which one is right?

Well there are two tests that we must always use - Scripture and experience.

- We must always try to bring these two things together.
- It must be both doctrinally correct, and outworked in experience.

Which one works?

Now remember, we are not talking about the evidence of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Every Christian has the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives is His character. In other words “The Fruit of the Holy Spirit,” not the gifts.

Remember Jesus said, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.*” The power is healing, miracles, tongues, prophesy etc. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes, we will do the things that He was doing.

So which one of these views are right?

Well the only group that I see consistently moving in the power of the Spirit is the Pentecostal group. The group that believes that the Pentecostal view.

If we got it all at Salvation, where is it? There may be minor differences in the Pentecostal views, but it is the only group where the gifts are consistently evident.

But power is more than the gifts of the Spirit. It is also authority, and confidence. Peter who had denied Jesus, after Pentecost boldly preached the Word.

THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit - just as it has taught you, remain in him.

1 John 2:27

What is the anointing of the Holy Spirit?

It is not some mystical something out there. The anointing is the presence and power of God manifested.

We know that God is everywhere, we call it the “omnipresence of God.” He is everywhere, but He is not necessarily showing Himself in an evident way. He is not displaying His power in an unusual way.

But there are times that He manifests Himself in a particular way, according to the need that is there.

One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Luke 5:17

There was an anointing there for Jesus to heal the sick. It suggests that the anointing is not always there in this way. When the anointing of the Spirit comes in this way, He is there for a purpose. His presence is there to minister to people. We need to be aware of His presence, and ready to respond to His agenda. The anointing is the supernatural equipment to get the job done. It is either there or it is not there, you cannot fake it.

We talk about the dimension of the spirit, that has nothing to do with the faculties of the natural man.

We can educate a person about the Bible, but the anointing is not based on a man's education or lack of it. On the contrary, often it is the unqualified people who minister under the greatest anointing.

But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 1 Corinthians 1:27

Success in business or education has got nothing to do with success in ministry, it has to do with the call of God and the anointing of God. Now I am not talking about Bible study. The Bible says that “*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.*”

We use two Greek words when we use the word “word.” One is the word “Logos” and the other is the word “Rhema.” The written Word, we call the logos.

The logos is God's general Word, written to all people in all situations.

The rhema is a specific Word to a specific person in a specific situation.

We are teaching the logos. Teaching Bible truths, principles that apply to all people in all situations.

But someone may be reading, and something here is just God's word to you. You know that God has spoken to you about something specific. This is the rhema. We often say that this is the anointed Word, but all of God's Word is anointed.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness. 2 Timothy 3:16

But it is anointed in that it is a specific Word for you.

So two people can be listening to the same Word, one just sits there, enjoys it hopefully, but the other person is just about jumping out of their seats – God is speaking to them. And this anointed Word brings faith.

1. The Old Testament Anointing

(a) Priests. Aaron and his sons were anointed with anointing oil. They were set apart to serve before the Lord as priests.

“And you shall anoint Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may minister to Me as priests.” Exodus 30:30

The Priest were the mediators between the people and God, you needed a Priest to get to God. When the people came to worship God, the Priest was the one who went into the presence of God. We are anointed as Priests. We can come into God's presence in worship.

(b) Kings. Both Saul and David were anointed to be king.

Example of King Saul

Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head, and kissed him and said: "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance? "When you have departed from me today, you will find two men by Rachel's tomb." "Then the Spirit of the LORD will come upon you, and you will prophesy with them and be turned into another man. And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you." 1 Samuel 10:1-2 & 6-7

Example of King David

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

(c) Prophets.

Example of Elisha

And anoint Elisha to succeed you as prophet. So Elijah went from there and found Elisha. He was ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. 1 Kings 19:16 & 19

In each of these occasions, they were set apart, and empowered by the Holy Spirit for a particular work in the service of God. In the NT, this priestly, kingly, prophetic mantle is on the church.

2. The Anointing on Jesus

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "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 favour." Luke 4:14, 17 – 19

Jesus had an anointing of the Holy Spirit. Nothing He did was because He was the Son of God. The Bible says that He laid aside His royal robes of deity when He came down to earth. When He was a child, He couldn't heal people, walk on water, and multiply Mary's food each week. The miracle ministry of Jesus did not begin until He was baptised in the River Jordan, and the Holy Spirit descended on Him. From that moment on Jesus was anointed to stand in the place of ministry.

You know what has happened throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached - how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Acts 10:37-38

See the God-head in action here; God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power.

I believe that if we want to be used by God in ministry in a mighty way, we need to know a time in our lives where we to be anointed by God.

Obviously, this does not mean that we will minister in the fullness of how Jesus ministered. He had the Holy Spirit without measure; no one person has the Holy Spirit without measure.

For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. John 3:34

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. Colossians 2:9

Jesus was an Apostle, a Prophet, Evangelist, Pastor, Teacher. He was anointed to function in all these ministries. You and I do not individually have the ministry of Jesus because He never gave His ministry to one individual. He divided His ministry to the Body. He is the head. The picture we have in Psalm 133.

It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. Psalm 133:2-3

The anointing flows from the head (Jesus) down onto the Body, (the Church).

But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. Ephesians 4:7

As it flows from the head.

It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers.
Ephesians 4:11

We can put people into positions, we can call someone a pastor or a prophet, but these ministries are not filled by appointments. God anoints a person for these ministries. In selecting ministries, our job is to look for those who God has already anointed in these roles.

Now you may say, "I don't think that I am any of those ministries, does that mean that I don't have the anointing?" Under the Old Covenant we saw where God anointed three groups of people, the prophets, the priests, and the kings.

Under the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit came out of an earthly Tabernacle made with human hands, to make our hearts His temple.

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. 1 Corinthians 6:19

We may not all be Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors or Teachers, but we can all minister in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, because we have an anointing.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One. 1 John 2:20

Now there are different kinds of anointing. Jesus said, "*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach.*" There are different anointing, dependant on the different callings placed on people's lives.

Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6

You have to stir up the gifting that comes with the anointing. If you don't use it, you will lose it. If we are faithful with it, God will add to it. Sometimes you are aware in a service that there is a prophetic anointing. You may sense that God is there to heal, or He is just there to let you know that He is with you.

This can be dramatic, such as with the dedication of the temple.

When Solomon finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the LORD filled the temple.

The priests could not enter the temple of the LORD because the glory of the LORD filled it. 2 Chronicles 7:1-2

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. Acts 4:31

It can be dramatic, or it may be just a gentle touch of His presence. This can be discerned in different ways. A breeze, a scent, a quickening.

THE MOVING OF THE SPIRIT

What is the purpose of the anointing? Is it just a fun time, we all fall on the floor, get up and go home? What do these times do?

I believe that there are several benefits to these times.

1. Just enjoy the presence and awareness of God. To know that He loves us and is with us is tremendously encouraging.
2. We learn about the anointing of the Spirit. As we become aware of the anointing, we can then learn about the anointing. The anointing is there for a reason.
3. As we learn about the anointing. We begin to discern different manifestation of the anointing. The anointing is not always the same.
4. Then as we learn about the anointing we can direct the anointing. We can place it where the need is.

1. Enjoying the presence of God

The Holy Spirit is not an "it." He is not just a power. The Holy Spirit is a person, He is God. God the Spirit desires to come and rest powerfully on you personally.

He is a caring, loving person who wants to heal you of life's hurts and empower you with God's wholeness. God is love, so He is a Spirit of love. Jesus said that when the Holy Spirit comes He will testify about Him. The Holy Spirit always glorifies Jesus.

The Word of God points us towards Jesus and the Holy Spirit points us towards Jesus. The Spirit and the Word agree. If something is happening that is contrary to the Word of God, it is not the Spirit of God.

This doesn't mean that everything that happens will be in the Word of God; there are many things in life that are not in the Word, but are part of God's will for us. Things like who you should marry, where you should work, where you should live.

Don't reject something because it is not in the Word, but do reject anything that is contrary to the Word. The Scriptures do not tell all of the ministry of Jesus and His disciples; in fact at the last verse of the Gospel of John it says that Jesus did many other things and if every one of them were written down there wouldn't be room for the books. The question to always ask is; "Does this bring me closer to Jesus or pull me further away from Jesus?" I have no doubt that it draws people closer to Jesus.

Many find it a time of refreshing and this is what the Scriptures said would be the result of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord. Acts 3:19

Joy is another manifestation of the Holy Spirit, and these times of refreshing are often accompanied by joy and laughter.

2. Learning about the anointing of the Spirit

This is a huge benefit we receive in times of corporate ministry under the anointing. Initially everything is new, but as we become familiar with the anointing we learn about it. It is a safe environment to learn under the guidance of the church leadership.

The anointing is not a feeling, but it is felt. It is not people falling to the ground, but people can be overcome by the anointing and may fall to the ground. It is like the wind; you cannot see it but you can see the result of its presence.

In the church service we can learn how to receive, why some do not receive, what happens in these situations, what manifestations we may expect to see, if there is any demonic activity. Often there is a flow back of the anointing onto the one who is ministering as the recipient does not receive the blessing. The anointing can give the appearance of a person being drunk. No wonder the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:18 *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.* The disciples on the Day of Pentecost were accused of being drunk. The Bible encourages us to be filled with the new wine of the Holy Spirit. When the presence of God filled the Temple at its dedication, the Priests couldn't stand to minister (2 Chron. 5:14-15).

There are many exciting discoveries in the ministry of the Spirit, and understanding comes with being in the awareness of the anointing often. The anointing is there for a purpose and we need to discover what that purpose is. If someone is not receiving the anointing there is a reason as the anointing is for every believer.

But you have an anointing from the Holy One. 1 John 2:20

We learn to tune into the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Often we are on the wrong wavelength and church services are a great place to do this.

3. We learn to discern the anointing

Jesus talked about the different manifestation of the anointing that was on Him.

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.” Luke 4:18-19

There is an anointing to preach, to heal, to deliver etc. One day Jesus was out preaching and the anointing to heal was there in such a special way the Bible mentions it as such.

Now it happened on a certain day, as He was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them. Luke 5:17

The New Living Translation says, *And the Lord’s healing power was strongly with Jesus.*

Saul the first king of Israel had a similar experience. He was in a group of prophets, and the prophetic anointing on them came on him.

When they came there to the hill, there was a group of prophets to meet him; then the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. And it happened, when all who knew him formerly saw that he indeed prophesied among the prophets, that the people said to one another, “What is this that has come upon the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets?” 1 Samuel 10:10-11

There are different manifestations of the anointing for different situations.

4. We learn to impart the anointing.

There is an interesting story in the Bible where the Apostle Paul placed the anointing on handkerchiefs, which were then carried to the sick and they were healed.

Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them. Acts 19:11-12

We can place the anointing to where the need is. Jesus would touch the eyes of blind people and placed the anointing directly to the problem. We learn to impart the anointing and learn the barriers that block the impartation. Often the person is so busy praying or singing or speaking in tongues, that they cannot receive. When we pray we are giving out in ministry and it is hard to receive while we are pouring out. There is a time for receiving from God and a time for giving to Him. Trust Him for what He wants to give to you. Jesus promised that He would not give us something bad when we ask for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11: 11-13).

The manifestations are just reactions to His power and presence. It is what is happening inside that is important, and we cannot judge what is happening inside a person by what we see on the outside. God knows how to heal a heart, heal a body, cleanse from sin and release from fears. Look for the fruit. Has the person’s personal relationship with the Lord been affected?

Scriptures to support manifestations:

Trembling; Shaking

Ps 99:1; 1 Cor 2:3; Gen 42:28; Ex 19:16; Ps 2:11; Is 66:5; Jer 5:22; 23:9; Dan 10:10-11; Mat 28:4; Mark 5:33; Acts 7:32; 2 Cor 7:15; Phil 2:12; Heb 12:21

Falling under the anointing

2 Chron 5:14; Dan 8:17; 10:8-9; Acts 9:4; John 18:6; Rev 1:17; Ezek 1:28; 3:23; Mark 9:20; 1 Kings 8:11; Mat 28:4

Joy of the Lord; Laughter

Heb 1:9; Ps 16:11; Is 61:3; Ps 35:9; Prov 17:22; 1 Peter 1:8

Drunken – filled with the Holy Spirit

Jer 23:9; Acts 2:13; Eph 5:18; John 4:14

Breathing; Blowing

Song of Solomon 4:16; Ezek 37:5-6, 9-10; John 20:22