THE ANOINTING: YESTERDAY, TODAY, TOMORROW
R.T. Kendall

“If the Holy Spirit were taken completely from the church, 90 percent of the work of the church would go right on as if nothing had happened!”

WHAT IS “THE ANOINTING”?

• The power of the Holy Spirit
• “It’s a gift that functions easily when it’s working”
• The anointing leads to what is good; it blesses and encourages others
• It is carried out with ease and without fatigue or strain
• Self-Edifying
• Can’t turn it on or off
• Next to salvation, the anointing is our most precious possession
GIFTING VS. ANOINTING

- Used interchangeably
- The liveliness of the anointing determines whether that gift works at its best
- We should pray for the anointing on our gift

Anointing; Unction: translated from the Greek “Chrisma”
Dictionary definition: refers to the application of ointment or oil

THE ANOINTING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- Oil (Olive oil that was mixed with spices)
- Consecration of Priests
- Consecration of Kings
- Closely connected to the Holy Spirit
- Prophets were anointed
THE ETERNAL ANOINTING

- Hebrews 9:14
- The descent of the Holy spirit at Pentecost was not the BEGINNING of the Holy Spirit

ACCEPTING OUR ANOINTING

- Stay in your lane!
- The Peter Principle
- Many people are functioning in jobs or positions for which they are not qualified (Secular world and in the church)
- People are promoted by others (and sometimes themselves) to their level of incompetence
- If God doesn’t do the promoting, we are in trouble.
- We move outside of our anointing
EVERYONE HAS AN ANOINTING

• 1 Corinthians: 4:11
• Charismata: “Grace Gift”
• All anointing/gifts are essential to the body of Christ
• Reasons people step outside of their anointing: don’t like it if their own anointing does not result in a high profile
• Don’t let ambition outweigh your commitment to God
• The Holy Spirit often incorporates our natural abilities within our anointing

ACCEPTING OUR ANOINTING

• The person who accepts their anointing has great peace
• The person who wishes they had the anointing of someone else will give with great frustration
• Your anointing is easy in its operation when you function in it without fatigue
• Your sphere of anointing is when you work without having to break a door down to walk through it.
• When you come to terms with your own anointing, you stop looking over your shoulders at someone else’s

REFINING OUR ANOINTING

• Joseph
• Most people want the gifts of the spirit and not the fruit of the spirit
• Trials are what produce the fruit of the spirit
• We want the anointing but we don’t want to go through anything to refine it
Will you accept the anointing that God has given you?

THE LIMITS OF OUR ANOINTING

LIMITS

• Each anointing has its limit. No one can do everything!
• By accepting our anointing and its limits, we are affirming God for making us who we are and affirming ourselves.
BURNOUT!

- What God calls us to do, we can do.
- We promote ourselves to incompetence and not God.
- If we are operating at a level that constantly bring fatigue and "burnout", then more than likely you have moved outside of your anointing.
- Burnout is what we bring on ourselves by taking on what God did not command for us to do.
- For every limit there is a compensation (1 Corinthians 12:18).

CONSEQUENCES OF MOVING OUTSIDE OF YOUR ANOINTING

- King Saul
- Yesterday’s Man/Woman

LIMITATIONS BRING FREEDOM

- “The greatest liberty is in having nothing to prove.”
- When you try to mimic someone else, you are trying to steal their anointing.
- Stop being governed by unrealistic expectations.
- Our expectations for ourselves are sometimes higher than God’s expectations for ourselves.
- Accepting our limitations is crucial in accepting our anointing.
- Unrealistic expectations has it’s root in pride.
- God cannot use us when our aspirations for ourselves reach past His will for us.
SUMMARY

• The Anointing is the Power of the Holy Spirit
• Learn to accept your unique anointing
• Expect that to be a process of refinement
• Stay within the limitations of your anointing

THE ANOINTING - "GLORY"

1. It's when the Holy Spirit comes down on a people.
   • "It's like a liquid FIRE.
2. It's when the Spirit HIMSELF is allowed to take over.
   • You can't work it up - not authentic.
3. It bypasses education, culture and background.
   • It transcend status quo.
4. It CONVICTS
5. It CONVERTS

YESTERDAY'S ANOINTING

...
WHAT IS YESTERDAY’S ANOINTING?

- Yesterday’s anointing is an encounter with God that you experienced previously in your life.
- It felt refreshing and made a difference in your connection to God.
- It made an impact and you’re still riding on it!
- The question is... Is it enough?

COMING TO TERMS WITH YESTERDAY’S ANOINTING

1. Most times, yesterday’s anointing is just a memory?
2. Why does the Spirit subside after a while or seem to be temporary?
   - We grieve the Spirit (Eph 4:30)
   - (Ecclesiastes 10:1) says, Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor. You can’t carry around a bunch of dead things or things of death. Things like bitterness, unforgiveness, and strife, and receive a fresh anointing. You have to let these things go.
   - The sovereignty of the Spirit (Psalms 115:3)
3. You cannot make yesterday’s anointing today’s anointing if the Spirit isn’t willing.
   - God is in TOTAL control.

COMING TO TERMS WITH YESTERDAY’S ANOINTING CONT...

God does not always repeat Himself when manifesting His glory.
THE MOMENTUM OF YESTERDAY’S ANOINTING

- We must recognize that yesterday’s anointing was momentous.
- The anointing flows in God’s timing, and also proclaims God’s timing.
- Momentous does not last!

THE GIFTS AND CALLING OF GOD ARE “IRREVOCABLE”.

- A person who had a tremendous anointing yesterday can continue to see the momentum of that anointing continuing to manifest itself.
- He or she may hastily conclude that “the anointing is still with us” when it is but the momentum of yesterday’s anointing.

A FRESH ANOINTING REPLENISHES THE IRREVOCABLE

- A “FRESH” anointing comes only from continued intimacy with God.
- One of the worst things we can do is to take compliments too seriously.
- You can be well equipped, high powered, eloquent and charismatic... simply blessed in your ministry and you believe you’re pleasing God because your anointing is functioning well. Truth of the matter is that you’re flowing on yesterday’s anointing and there’s nothing fresh about it.
- It’s time to hook the cables to recharge your anointing.
  - Spend quality time with God on a personal level through reading the Word of God and seeking his face in continued prayer.
YESTERDAY’S MAN OR WOMAN

1. A person who ceases to be relevant.
   * Being closely connected or appropriate to what is being done.

2. There is hope for yesterday’s man or woman.
   Getting caught… EXPOSED.
   When our high-handed arrogance and disregard for God’s Word catches up with us.

3. Being yesterday’s man or woman may be a temporary state, but it may mean a time of severe chastening or disciplining.

YESTERDAY’S MAN OR WOMAN CONTINUED…

4. Your attitude in God’s rebuke determines your outcome.

5. Don’t lose Touch with God because God’s approval matters.

ACCEPTED BY PEOPLE BUT REJECTED BY GOD

A person in a place of influence and power can still wield tremendous respect publicly but secretly be rejected by God (Saul in the Bible).

On the other hand, a person can have no platform but have God’s approval (David in the Bible).

(Ephesians 2:10 NKJV) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. As we walk in the anointing of God we go where God wills, do what God wills, and say what God wills.)

REMEMBER YOUR ANOINTING MATTERS!!
WHEN SUCCESS COMES TO SOON

1. Quick success can create a yesterday’s man or woman.
2. A good beginnings is no guarantee!
3. Signs of being a yesterday’s man or woman:
   * Being consumed with jealousy.
   * Trying to destroy another’s credibility.
   * Fearing another person’s anointing.
   * Setting traps for those who threaten you.
   * Not keeping your word.
4. God of the second chance

TODAY’S ANOINTING

- The stigma of the anointing
- Moving outside our comfort zone
- Today’s man or woman
- The loneliness of anointing

THE STIGMA OF THE ANOINTING

- How does it feel to be thought of or irrelevant?
- Are we in touch with what is presently going on?
- Do my words and actions relate to the present context?
- Am I equipped for what is needed today?
EACH GENERATION

- We are tasked to discover in which direction our sovereign Redeemer is moving.
- We must move in the direction in which God is moving.
- We must be able to recognize the move of God.

LUKE 5:39

- “And now one, having drunk old wine, immediately desires new; for he says, ‘The old is better.’”

- Jesus is using an analogy –
  - Old garment on New garment
  - New wine in old wine skins

- Jesus is speaking in parable – but what was he really saying – how is that relevant to us today?

OUR CHALLENGE

We like what is familiar
- Old Hymns/Songs
- Old Style of Preaching
- Old way of doing things
STIGMA

a mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality, or person.

(in Christian tradition) marks corresponding to those left on Jesus' body by the Crucifixion, said to have been impressed by divine favor on the bodies of St. Francis of Assisi and others.

Galatians 6:17
17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.

THE COMFORT ZONE

• We cannot go back to yesterday
• What we think is valid today is whether we “connect” to it
• What we “connect” to is often linked to our past
• We tend to be suspicious no matter how valid his or her point may be
• We have to be willing to accept truth, even if it is from an enemy

THE COMFORT ZONE

The Challenge of being in the Comfort Zone

The question -

How far are you willing to go in your commitment to Christ?

We must be willing to follow truth no matter where it leads us.

This is the only way you and I can recognize and experience today’s anointing.
CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY

- The anointing
- Characterized as both continuity and discontinuity
- Continuity - things that continue without changing
  - The Gospel - the Sun rising and setting, tides rolling in on beach, God
  - There is a scarlet thread that runs from Genesis to Revelation that shows the blood of Jesus in every age and on every page.
  - The Gospel message must never change

- Discontinuity - the manifestation of God’s anointing that may have no obvious precedent
- That it had no precedent doesn’t invalidate its authenticity
- It may appear and disappear
- Just because it does not last long does not mean it wasn’t right at the time
- Fear - being afraid that the Spirit will come and afraid that it will not come
- It is easier to deal with the familiar or the nostalgic or what plays into our comfort zone
- The move of the Spirit may be too difficult for some of us to deal with... A stigma too great.

STAYING WITH THE FAMILIAR

- In our comfort zones, we avoid any stigma.
- We are focused on - What will they think? What will they say?
- If we remain in our comfort zones or thinking about what others say, we will totally miss today’s anointing - stop looking over your shoulder
- Discontinuity - that is what threatens us - when there is no precedent that we can put our finger on.
- The precedent for the unprecedented, is biblical – Hebrews 11 – not one person had the luxury of repeating yesterday’s anointing
STAYING WITH THE FAMILIAR

- Not knowing where we are going, yet knowing we are following God, can be the most painful.
- The stigma is knowing you have heard from God but having to do what no one else may be required to do.
- Things that make you go “Hmmmmm” – Was the Bible given to replace direct and immediate revelation from God or was it given to correct abuses?
- Should we suppose that our knowledge of the Bible is so complete and sufficient that we are above needing such revelation?

- Is it comforting or scary to know that God can speak to us in a clear and direct manner?
- Does Scripture replace the miraculous?
- If there is any word of knowledge or prophetic insight that conflicts with Scripture, we stay with Scripture and reject the word of knowledge – no matter who gave it.
- The anointing will often offend. It will stretch us. It brings together the continuity and discontinuity of God’s dealing with us – the God of the past and the Lord who acts in the “now”.
- Such majesty and mystery are rarely within our comfort zone.

MOVING OUTSIDE OUR COMFORT ZONE

At Home in the Comfort Zone
People don’t want their problems solved; they want them understood
Some people never intend to change – they love feeling uncomfortable – it is a comfort zone.

God asks Samuel – How long will you mourn for Saul?
It takes courage to move out of our comfort zones.
THE ANOINTING WILL OFFEND

• Our comfort zone is not too disturbed if there is a good precedent for what is happening.
• At the end of the day the anointing will have a stigma. It will offend.
• Part of the stigma is that we cannot present a neat package to our fearful friends and prove God’s manifestation.
• You will lose friends – obey the Lord
• Your pride will be hurt – obey the Lord
• It won’t be easy – obey the Lord

NEW CHALLENGES

• God is testing our ministries – are we doing the same old thing and expecting a miracle or a move in the atmosphere
• New movements – greater stigma – greater loss of friends – obey God
• It is time we unite Word and Spirit

• Dr. Kendall states, “It seems that every generation has its stigma by which the believer’s faith is tested.”
• Why are some of the best, most knowledgeable and most refined of God’s people be put off? Can’t they see genuine men/women of God?
• Kendall says the best of Christians sincerely get put off by the anointing.
• The anointing will not come in a neat and tidy package that plays into our comfort zone.

TODAY’S MAN OR WOMAN

Courage Needed for Today’s Man/Woman
Which is more painful?
• Being yesterday’s man/woman, today’s man/woman, or tomorrow’s man/woman
The reality is –
• Yesterday’s man/woman endures the pain of irrelevance
• Pain of being tomorrow’s man/woman is the waiting
• The pain of today’s man/woman largely comes from the degree of courage required to do the job

Samuel – Blessed to be connect to Yesterday (Eli) – Today (Saul) – Tomorrow (David)
SAVED, YES: PERFECT, NO

• No one is perfect – We do our admirers no favor to let them adulate us or get too attached to us.
• We are going to disappoint them – it is a matter of time.
• Samuel was distanced from Eli by God’s own intervention yet he faced a difficult task of telling Saul, whom he discovered, he would no longer be king.
• Secondhand revelation no longer will do – we must learn to recognize God’s voice so clearly and distinctly that we know we aren’t being deceived.
• It is sobering and humbling...
• How do we recognize God’s voice?

P.E.A.C.E.

• Providence – Is it providential? If God gives a word, it will cohere with His providence.
• The Enemy – What would your enemy, the devil, want you to do?
• Authority – the Bible – What does God’s word say? God will not lead us in a way that does not cohere with holy Scripture.
• Confidence – Does the impression you have received increase or diminish your confidence?
• Ease – Are you being true to yourself?
• If all five don’t fit, I would say that God is not speaking to you. If all five fit, it is a good sign – not an infallible sign.

KNOW GOD’S VOICE

• Today’s man/woman must develop a network, or code, or channel by which they know they recognize that voice.
• PEACE is only the beginning. Eventually, one needs an even more refined instrument through which God speaks clearly.
• Others will not understand but you will know. God and you will have a special relationship and you will get to know him on a more intimate level. Therefore, when he speaks, you will know his voice.
• Today’s man/woman recognizes God’s voice. The real challenge is recognizing the Spirit.
• Today’s servant of Christ must learn to see it early on.
THE LONELINESS OF ANOINTING

• Why me?
• Every leader must learn not to take rejection personally.
• Taking rejection personally causes for more of God’s fiery disciplining.
• When we know we are carrying out God’s mandate, we have an authority that withstands the most vehement criticism.
• We become humbly conscious that God has deemed to elevate us to the Big League – and we follow the path of those lonely leaders who heard from God.

LONELINESS AND TODAY’S MAN/WOMAN

• Loneliness comes with the job
• We need those around us who will not be a rubber stamp and who will warn and rebuke. (Prov. 27:17)
• Today’s man/woman will walk alone. Abraham, Elijah, Moses, Samuel, Paul

THE STIGMA OF BEING MISUNDERSTOOD

• The paramount stigma of being today’s man/woman is probably that of being misunderstood.
• We can cope with a lot of what people say against us – as long as they are in the picture and still disagree. It hurts when they aren’t in the picture and form judgments and perceptions that are based on limited information.
GOD’S GLORY FIRST, THEN RELATIONSHIPS
• All relationships must ever be subservient to God’s greater glory.
• No matter how close we are to others, we must be closer to God.
• The closer we are to God, the more we will love each other.
• Today’s man or woman must get his or her approval from God only.

NO PLACE FOR GLOATING
• Today’s servant has no time nor will give place to gloating when you have been vindicated.
• Good evidence that you and I can be trusted with today’s anointing and today’s stigma is that we mourn when a brother or sister slips or falls.
• The anointing that we desire maybe delayed because of a rival spirit.
• Why do we compete…do we look over our shoulder, whether consciously or unconsciously, and compete with one another.
• This energy should be focused on seeking the glory that comes from God.

NO PLACE FOR GLOATING
• What is your desire?
• Do you want only God’s honor, not man’s?
• Do you have a grudge against anyone?
• Do you care what others are thinking?
• Or do you only care about following the Holy Spirit?
• Today’s man or woman should be more focused on finding tomorrow’s man or woman.
• We must love God’s honor, which includes the reputation of His Church today and tomorrow, it provides evidence we haven’t been duped by the devil.
ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TOMORROW’S MAN/WOMAN

• Are you a symbol of today’s servant of God?
• Are you on the lookout for tomorrow’s man or woman?
• Today’s servant of God must be willing to hear the voice of the Spirit above his/her own personal biases and prejudices.
• It’s not always easy to tell the difference between our instincts, shaped by years of knowledge and experience, and the voice of the Spirit.
• Dr. Kendall thinks that God chooses people whose natural style is quite off-putting.

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TOMORROW’S MAN/WOMAN

• Is God setting up a stigma that is off-putting that people can feel at home in their disgust?
• Is our deep negative reaction to someone’s stigma wrong – could it be a test from God to see if we are willing to use a different lens?
• Have you learned over time that the very person you are about to reject is the very anointing you later were glad to embrace?
• Can you or I recognize set up?
• The offense in some people’s anointing is camouflaged by God’s setup. This way people can rationalize and dismiss the person and feel completely justified.
• Stop listening to well-meaning, sincere people and listen to the voice of God.

ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TOMORROW’S MAN/WOMAN

• Do get side tracked…..
• If we are NOT truly tuned in to the voice of the Holy Spirit, we can let any prejudice of our own charm us to miss the authentic.
• The pain of being today’s man/woman is that you can’t convince another person of what you see unless the same Holy Spirit shows them as well.
• Today’s servant of Christ must therefore put his or her personal wishes – even relationships – to one side.
• We are being tested – little or great, in preparation for the battle royal.
• Part of the sacrifice of being today’s servant of Christ is that vindication usually come tomorrow.
ON THE LOOKOUT FOR TOMORROW’S MAN/WOMAN

• Interesting
• The irony of church history is that those who prepared most for tomorrow’s church were the most remembered; those who wanted to build their own empires became yesterday’s men and women while they were still alive – and hardly remembered afterwards.
• President Ronald Reagan – “There is no limit to how far one can go as long as he doesn’t care who gets the credit.

THE SECRET ANOINTING

• Having the anointing without the crown (position)
• Very Few People know about the anointing
• Other gifts will place you in the place for your secret anointing
• Secret anointing will be displayed before your final positioning

PREPARATION AND REFINEMENT

• Academic Preparation
• Spiritual Preparation
• Refinement does not come by praying for more Holy Spirit; but preparation
ABILITY & LIMITATIONS

- “To thine own self, be true” - Shakespeare
- Accept your ability and limitations

OPPOSITION FROM YESTERDAY’S MAN

- Opposition from those who were on the cutting edge (Saul)
- The greatest hostility to what God is doing now comes from those who were on the front line of what God was doing yesterday

PASSPORT TO GREATER ANOINTING

- SUFFERING - David’s passport to greater anointing
- BUT there is HOPE in it all (Johnathan)
- The secret anointing in you, though you are kept from a high profile will still be a threat to the enemy God chooses for your refinement
TOMORROW’S MAN OR WOMAN

• Having the anointing but not the platform can be very painful
• Waiting Waiting WAITING!!! Refines the spirit

EXPECTATIONS OF OTHERS
ENEMIES FROM WITHIN

• A man’s enemies will be the members of his own household (Matthew 10:36)
• “Are these all the sons you have?” (1st Samuel 16:11)
• “But the Lord looks at the heart”
• Get your sense of self-worth from pleasing God alone
• BUT you won’t be perfect!

RESPONDING TO JEALOUSY

• His own brothers were jealous of him
• David was innocent/his brothers thought he was conceited/wicked
• If you are tomorrow’s woman or man, jealousy will come
• How you respond to jealousy will determine your outcome
• “David behaved himself wisely in all his ways” (1st Samuel 18:14)
TEST ONE: SENSITIVITY TO GRIEVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Holy spirit is sensitive
- “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption” (Ephesians 4:30)
- We almost never know we are grieving the Spirit (Samson)
- What happens: The Holy Spirit was away without our knowing
- Result: He temporarily lost his anointing
- Bitterness: The chief way we grieve the spirit
- Response: When sin arises deal with it and reconnect with God

TEST TWO: REFUSING TO VINDICATE ONESELF

- Abishai said to David, “Today, God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won’t strike him twice” (1 Samuel 26:8) Lord Lord
- But David said to Abishai “Don’t destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord’s anointed and be guiltless?” (v.9) He passed the test!
PASSING THE TEST

• Every servant of God must pass this test
• Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge, I will repay," says the Lord (Romans 12:19)
• VINDICATION IS GOD’S ACT! He doesn’t want our help.
• Tomorrow’s woman/man must not pull strings to get where she or he wants to be.

GET THERE ON/IN GOD’S WAY/TIME

• Eventually David was ready
• His secret anointing turned into an outward anointing (2 Samuel 2:4)
• It was a long wait! Nearly twenty years from secret anointing (1 Samuel 16:13) to his public anointing (2 Samuel 2:4)
• It was worth waiting for!

OPENNESS TO GOD’S WORD

• "Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name" Psalm 138:2
• Tomorrow’s woman/man values the Word: they are more precious than gold, than much pure gold: they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the comb.
• Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name: in keeping them there is a great reward. (Psalm 19:10–11)
• God’s Word points toward HIS power and honor:
• Power: Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk: (Acts 3:6) Power in the Name!
• Honor: You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name. (Exodus 20:7)
• I am the Lord; that is my name! I will not give my glory to another or my praise to idols. (Isaiah 42:8; Numbers 14:13-15)
AM I OPEN TO THE WORD??

Let's find out!

AM I OPEN TO THE WORD?

- Some seem more interested in God’s secret will than his revealed will
- Secret will refers to his direct guidance
  - “Whom should I marry?”
  - “Where should I go to church?”
  - “Will I get this job?”
  - “Should I move to a new house?”

AM I OPEN TO THE WORD?

- Some seem more interested in the gifts of the Spirit than in the fruit of the Spirit (i.e. speaking in tongues vs. love, peace and joy)
- Some seem more interested in being inwardly blessed and continually receiving personal help than in saving the lost (Worship and Praise over saving/reaching the lost)
- Some seem to be preoccupied with experience and feeling rather than with teaching and doctrine (God gave us emotions and feelings but also a mind)
- Some seem more interested in public worship than in private quiet times (Public worship vs. private devotions; reading Bible daily; time alone with God, developing intimacy with God)
EVIDENCE OF BEING OPEN TO THE WORD

- We must affirm the full inspiration of the Bible
- All scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2nd Timothy 3:16) (God-Breathed is a direct reference to the Holy Spirit)
- We must esteem the Word as the Lord Himself does (We should give priority to the written Word over a prophetic Word or Word of Knowledge)
- We must be open to truth that we may not want to be true (Stop using the Bible to prove what we have decided is already true. Openness means I will follow truth wherever it leads me, however embarrassing it may be or with whomsoever I may have to agree)

EVIDENCES OF BEING OPEN TO THE WORD

- Will we regard a conversion to Christ as the greatest miracle? (Conversion is the work of the Holy Spirit. The power needed to raise the dead or heal the blind is the same power needed to convert a soul. Conversion is raising the dead)
- We must give the gospel priority over manifestations of the Spirit (We must not become preoccupied with it.)
- We must regard soul winning as more important than changing another Christian to our point of view (Value the unsaved over a theological battle with the saved.)

OPENNESS TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. (Psalm 51:11-12)
BEING OPEN TO THE WORD VS. BEING OPEN TO THE SPIRIT

- Being open to the Spirit is when He manifests Himself in an immediate and direct manner
- Some of us find it easier to be open to the Word than the Holy Spirit
- Why are some people afraid of the Holy Spirit? (The stigma of Holy Spirit is that by his nature, He Offends)
- Why then should we be open to the Holy Spirit?
  (Answer: We must affirm God as He is: The Holy spirit is God. When our hearts are truly right with God, we will find that God is not offensive at all. We will instead find Him glorious)

SIGNS OF NOT BEING OPEN TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Some Christians are enamored with the gospel but fearful concerning manifestations of the Spirit (Tongues, prophecy, falling down or laughing.)
- Some Christians are keen to manifest the full of the spirit but have minimal interest in the gifts of the spirit (They believe to show love, joy and peace is more honoring to God than speaking in tongues)
- Some love doctrine, teaching and whatever stimulates the intellect but are suspicious of experience (Discipline vs. feelings believe that Paul appealed to the mind (Romans 12:2))
- Some are not excited by public worship unless it focuses on the old hymns, at least 100 years old (They believe real worship is best during quiet time. They came to church to praise God through hymns but mainly for preaching and teaching)
- Some are convinced that having the Word is to have the Spirit in equal measure as well: therefore any emphasis on the Spirit implies they don’t already have the spirit
- Finally: Every Christian has the Holy Spirit BUT Paul does instruct the Corinthians to “eagerly desire the greater gifts” (1st Corinthians 12:31)
OPENNESS TO THE SPIRIT: WHAT IS OPENNESS TO THE SPIRIT?

- It is humility—recognition that I do not know everything or have everything.
- It is the conscious desire to find God wherever He is (to recognize Him as He appears and not miss anything that could be received from Him).
- It is knowing that God is willing to give me so much more as long as I admit my poverty as opposed to saying “I do not need a thing. Be open to Him.”

Remember the only link between us and the throne of grace is the Holy Spirit.

WHY BE OPEN?

- Because God still speaks today.
- The Holy Spirit continues to speak clearly, directly and immediately through prophecy, Word of knowledge, vision and audible voice.

HOW CAN WE BECOME OPEN IF WE FEAR WE ARE NOT OPEN BUT WANT TO BE?

- Be sure there is no unconfessed sin in your life (1 John 1:9).
- Be sure there is no bitterness or grudge against anyone (Ephesians 4:31).
- Be sure you do not speak against anyone (James 3).
- Be sure you have a life of solid prayer and Bible reading (Luke 18:1-2, 2 Timothy 2:15).
- Walk in all the light God gives you (1 John 1:7).
- Learn to know the Spirit’s voice (Hebrews 3:7-8).
- Develop a familiarity with His ways and the ability to recognize His presence (Hebrews 3:10-11).
TOMORROW’S ANOINTING

• Saul became yesterday’s man because he did not keep the Lord’s command.
• Yesterday’s man/woman always has their own excuse why they didn’t obey.
• Tomorrow’s man/woman embodies both the Word and the Spirit.

THE MARRIAGE OF THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

• If the Word and Spirit come together in the church, both emphasis and experience will be the happiest event in many years.
• Silent Divorce: We have separated the Word and the Spirit.
• However, the Word and the Spirit cannot be separated.

WHO KNEW NOT JOSEPH

• The issue: Luther and Calvin gave us the Word in the sixteenth century, but God wants us to see His Word in the twentieth century (21st).
• The Problem: We are teaching people pharaohs who knew no Joseph. The Pharaoh who had honored Joseph died, and the new generation of Israel was under a pharaoh who knew nothing about Joseph.
• The Mistake: We are assuming that people who are required to do the Word have the Word just because that came during another time. PEOPLE TODAY DON’T EVEN KNOW THE WORD!
**WORD TRADITION VS. SPIRIT TRADITION**

- Word tradition: Preaching, getting back to the faith delivered by the saints, stress doctrine, recover reformation, sovereignty of God, the assurance of salvation. Back to the WORD
- Spirit tradition: Sign and wonders, the gifts of the Holy Spirit open and operating, prophetic gifts, gifts of healing, the world needs to see the wonders of God

**WHAT IS WRONG WITH EITHER EMPHASIS?**

- Nothing! Each is exactly right, but neither is complete. It is not one or the other that is needed: it is both!
- The presence of the Word presupposes the Spirit as well
- SO.....where the Word is.....the Spirit is!

I pray that the anointing of Almighty God will rest on all of us.