

ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SERIES

THE MINISTERIAL ANOINTING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

We are going to highlight aspects of the ministerial anointing in the Old Testament as this will help us move into the ministerial anointing for those called by God.

Our Lord Jesus Christ functioned in all five offices when He was on this earth. He was an apostle Heb. 3:1, He was a prophet in Acts 3:22-26, He was an evangelist in Mark 1:14 He preached the gospel, He was a pastor that is the word shepherd in John 10:11; He was a teacher in Mark 4:1-2 and John 3:2 Nicodemus recognized that He was a teacher. So Jesus Christ stood in all the five ministerial anointing, the five-fold office the office of an apostle, the office of a prophet, the office of an evangelist, the office of a pastor, the office of a teacher.

We all should be able to give a one-sentence definition of all the five-fold offices.

An apostle is a church planter.

A prophet is used by God to direct the church.

The evangelist enlarges the church. The word church is referring to people not building.

The pastor cares for or strengthens the church. He shepherds the church.

The teacher teaches or edifies to build the church.

So all relate to different aspects of the church. Jesus Christ's goal in His five-fold ministry was to plant, build, and direct the church. All the five-fold ministries are never to work outside of the church. They are always to work within the church context.

It's sad that today in churches you would hear only a pastor, sometimes an evangelist, rarely of other type of ministries that could stand in their own right and office in the church ministry. But God has ordained the five-fold ministry to stand in the church itself within the church and to bless the body of Christ.

Jesus stood in each of the five-fold office. And what happened is in the book of Ephesians 4:8 *Therefore He says; "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men."* (Now this, "He ascended" – what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) *And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers. For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.*

So when Jesus Christ ascended, He delegated the offices that He stood in and poured the anointing to somebody else. Remember that God from time to time may change vessel or vessels may complete their work but the offices will continue. Like when Elijah completed his work and went off, Elisha stood in his place. Whenever a man of God completes his work and goes home to be with God, his office is actually vacant for the taking.

The five-fold ministries are for all generations from the time the church started until Jesus comes again since it's *for the perfecting of the church*. You cannot say that the apostles have been done away with for the church is not perfected yet. As long as the church is not perfected yet, we need all the five-fold ministries, not just one or two.

Notice the same trend in the Old Testament. God ordains only three offices in the Old Testament. They are the prophets, priests and kings. Sometimes the office is left vacant. Why, because the men whom God called in that generation were not obedient. So a particular office may lack a man in that particular generation. Sometimes God may appoint one man to stand in one or two or three offices so that he could minister fully to that generation.

Let me point to the trend that flows in the Bible. Moses had a peculiar kind of anointing. Moses stood in three offices. The generation that he led could flow in the realm that God wanted them to. Their generation saw the great deliverance despite all their murmuring and complaining. When Moses died, they appreciated him. Moses did the work of a priest. In the book of Exodus in the encounter of the Israelites with the Lord in chapter 24 do you notice that it was Moses who offered the burnt offering? He was from the tribe of Levi. His brother was Aaron, whom God appointed as the high priest. Moses was a prophet and Moses was a judge and that's carries a kingly anointing though not in its full extent yet. So Moses functioned in all three and there were times when he had to balance between all three offices.

When he found that his work was strenuous, he told the Lord, "Lord I cannot take this burden." Let's look at the book of Numbers 11:16 *So the Lord said to Moses; "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you.* God took some of the anointing on his life and He put it on the seventy people. When the same anointing came on them, they started prophesying. The Spirit also came upon some people at home as their names were on the roll. What came upon them was not so much the office of a prophet but was the office of a judge. Those seventy elders began to function in judging the people. These seventy received a portion of the anointing upon them. You never read about them again except that what they did was to judge the people of Israel. Apparently they didn't become prophets neither were they priests.

These were not priests because the priestly anointing was delegated to Aaron in the

book of Leviticus chapter nine. Moses took Aaron and consecrated him and anointed him for the priestly ministry. From that time onward Moses didn't have anything to do with the priestly ministry like he formerly did. Thus, Moses could free himself to concentrate on the other offices that he actually stood in. And he began to function more and more in the prophetic realm. The priestly office he delegated to Aaron.

There were different phases of ministry. Moses stood in three offices, one he was a prophet, two he was a priest, three he was a judge. So he stood in three offices. He seems to function very well in them but as time grew, he had to gradually lessen his function in the office of the priesthood and judge and the anointing in his life for the office of priesthood and judge was transferred to others. So God does change with time.

If you watch Kenneth Hagin's ministry today, he functions less in certain types of anointing and he concentrates more on just the teaching anointing. But in the early days of his ministry he functioned more in the prophetic than in the teaching. Today he doesn't function in his various anointing not because he has lost them. It's just that God's will have changed. That's the most important in the ministerial anointing. It's so diversified. An individual can flow in different types of anointing at one time. At different times, you can flow in some, then in one, and then sometimes in none and then in three types of anointing again. When you look at the whole picture, you see a colorful flow of the Holy Spirit.

I believe Moses flowed in all three equally when he started. As time goes on, God wanted others to be raised into that realm of ministry. Then comes Aaron. Moses was the one who prepared Aaron to be ordained to the priesthood. He washed, anointed and clothed Aaron. He anointed the different parts of the furniture in the outer court, in holy place, in the most holy place. When everything was ready the pillar of cloud filled the place and that's settled it. Aaron is now in charge of the priestly anointing. And he stood in the anointing and God demonstrated that He was with Aaron. When Aaron gave the first sacrifice the glory of God came down.

Then there were the seventy elders when Moses said, "Lord, I cannot take it any more." That was a very dangerous prayer. He can remove you from your office. It's just like somebody who prayed, "God heal me, O Lord saturate me with your power." So one day God answered him and the power of God started coming until it flowed so much that the person said, "God stop it. I can't take it any more." Then it stopped. Later that person thought it over and said, "Maybe I prayed the wrong prayer." Yes he did. He should have prayed, "God enlarge my vessel," then he could take it some more. If you could enlarge your physical man how much more God can enlarge your spirit man.

So here we have the anointing of Moses that was taken away from him. He functioned less in there because he told God he could not take it any more. God will go along with your level. He may ordain that you function in that certain anointing but if you ever say, "Lord I cannot do it," He could easily get someone else. Nobody is indispensable. He could easily get somebody else. It's a dangerous thing to ever think that we are indispensable because God could easily get somebody else.

Samuel is also powerful and effective because he stood in three types of anointing. He was a priest, prophet and judge. You notice that whenever God needed to move a particular generation from one transition to another, He need the three offices to function to the fullness, whether through one man or through three different men for the three different offices. Moses lived in an important transition. There are transitions in our lives; there are transitions in a family; there are transitions in a generation. The world today is going through a transition economically. Transition period is very critical since if it is not bent the right way the deformity will continue for the rest of years to come. So in the transition period God sees to it that all three offices must function. All three offices have to function whether through one person who stands in all three or in three separate persons who stand in one each. He needed that for the perfection of that generation in the Old Testament.

Samuel stood between the period of the judges and the period of the kings. He was the marker pen in between. On one side were the judges; on the other side were the kings. He was the key guy who saw the transition. Therefore God needs the three offices to function fully during this period of transition. Samuel functioned in all

three offices to the fullness. If God could find three people to put the various anointing, He would have used all three.

But do you know what the Bible says in Samuel's early days? When Samuel was born, there was no open vision. There was no revival. He was born into a dead, dried, decayed generation. The Bible even said in the book of I Sam. Chapter 2 there was no open vision. In other words, there was no prophetic ministry, no prophetic voice. What about the priests? The priests were worse. Eli the fat priest was enjoying his food. What were his sons doing? Enjoying the food too. When people were sacrificing half way the sons would say, "Hold it there. I like my food roasted not boiled." Then they would help themselves to the food while it was sacrificed. What were the priests doing? They were dead. They had a form of religion without the power. There was no anointing. They were not anointed. They were supposed to be but they were not. What about the judges? Unheard off - everyone did what was right in their own eyes. They had no leader. Practically God had no office that functioned at all, not because He did not want to but because there was no vessel.

God finally found Samuel and started training Samuel to hear His voice. Before that, Samuel was waiting on God. He was serving in the temple faithfully. In spite of all the things he saw around him he was faithful. If ever you live in a dead generation one key is to be faithful and you will be the very key to the revival there. The three types of anointing of God came on his life to stand in all three offices.

Notice one thing through time he tried to pass that anointing to his children and his children did not function in them. They were corrupt judges. That's why the Israelites wanted a king. I Sam.8:3 *But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.* Obviously his sons had no kingly anointing. Samuel wanted them to function in that but they did not have that. People ask, "How could that happen?" Well, I probably have found the key to why that happened. See there was a flaw in Samuel's life. It was not so much as his lack of responsibility but that the circumstances were not perfect. I believe he could have overcome it, as he was a responsible parent. Samuel missed one thing in his lifetime. He never had a good home. His mother was Hannah. His father was Elkanah. Elkanah had another wife who was Peninnah. Elkanah, Peninnah and

Hannah. There was fighting in the household of Elkanah, as we see in I Sam. 1. They were always fighting because Hannah didn't have any children. Elkanah had two wives and he loved Hannah more. But Hannah was barren but had her prayer answered when Samuel was born. The Lord answered Hannah's prayer because she promised that she would dedicate Samuel to the Lord.

When Samuel was about two years old, he was taken to the temple and was given to fat Eli. Fat Eli, did he have a good family? No. That fatty father had terrible sons. So Samuel never knew a good family life. There was one tiny flaw so when he himself had a family he possibly didn't have anything to pattern after. So his sons were bad judges. The anointing could not be transferred. Finally the people wanted a king. They need the office of a king who can carry the kingly anointing. So Samuel through the choice of God transferred it to Saul.

When Saul was not very faithful did he lose his anointing? He lost his office. If you lose your office it means you lose your anointing because it's the anointing that establishes the office. You don't have an office without an anointing in God. In the world you may have an office because people cannot tell between an anointing and an office. People can put you into a position but when God puts you into a position He makes sure you have an anointing. He will never put you into a position without the anointing and ability. So for God it was the anointing that He puts into the office. Saul lost his office. He lost his anointing. If he loses it, somebody will find it.

Since it is ordained of God that the offices continue, the anointing came on David. It started him on the road to kingship that was ordained for him. You notice that David had two offices; actually he was a king and he was a prophet. In the New Testament, he is regarded also as a prophet. He moved into the prophetic realm. He got two anointings coming upon him whereas Saul had only one. Samuel had three but in time he imparted the kingly anointing to Saul. In the end from Saul it goes to David.

You notice that Samuel functioned more and more as prophet and priest because he

had transferred the kingly anointing to somebody else. David was supposed to rise in that realm. It's interesting to see this function because whenever people of God are at their peak, all three offices are fully functioning, whether through one person or three. The high point of Israel in the Old Testament is when all three offices were functioning. The dark points were either none was functioning or only one was struggling to function. Sometimes you have only one functioning strongly.

Let's just run through very quickly. The high point is when Moses was coming out of Egypt with the people of Israel. Three offices were all functioning. In Samuel's time, all the three offices were functioning and the surrounding nations were scared of Israel. When the anointing was functioning, the Philistines were afraid. Then during David's and Solomon's time before he fell, you notice those eras were high points in Israel. If you examine them carefully it's because all the three offices were functioning.

There were many low points in the book of Judges. During the book of Judges you notice all the anointings were struggling. The priestly anointing was completely dead. Look at the book of Judges there was completely no priest there. Once in a blue moon the prophetic anointing comes out. Sometimes you even get a few funny stories like the conflicts between the old prophets and the young prophets. The old prophet prophesied wrongly to mislead the young prophet and the young prophet believed and obeyed the old prophet. A lion finally killed the young prophet. During the period of Judges, when the people cried under the weight of foreign oppressors, the kingly anointing would drop on a few individuals who were raised up to deliver them. Then they will reach a little molehill peak. Then they forget God and they will lose the office of a judge since no man was found to stand in it again. When the judge died, no one knows how to tap on the anointing and so there was no more kingly office and Israel falls again to the enemy.

There were many low points in Israel. In the times of the kings it reached such a low until in the time of the kings the priestly office was completely forgotten again. Then you have the kingly anointing not functioning properly as there were a lot of bad kings in Israel. Then you have only one tiny office faithful called the school of the prophets. Once in a while you got a few bright stars there like Elijah or Elisha. But when they died, people forget to take on the office.

See many times when we look at people and we look at a man of God or a woman of God, we say, "Well! God uses them because they are special." We forget it's the anointing that makes them special; it was not them that made them special. Did you realize that Elisha was not very special until the anointing came on him? I mean character wise he was not that impressive. The anointing and the office that he was called to made him special. The interesting thing is that in I King 19 when Elijah was told to go and get Elisha, God said that he would be the prophet in his place. When you look at men of God here and there you realize that when they die the office remains but the vessels have changed. God doesn't want the vessels to change and the offices removed because the kingdom of God must go on. The vessels may change but the offices remain and maintained by different vessels under the same anointing or greater anointing. As long as you have the three offices in the Old Testament you have the peak of Israel. If you study the history of Israel carefully the high and the low were determined by whether the three offices were functioning or not. Sometimes it's semi-low; sometimes it's high, but sometimes it is zero when none of them were functioning.