

I Want MORE (Part 6)

Sunday, April 16, 2023

10:30 AM

For several weeks, our series has been "I want more" based on

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

We began by asking...

1. Do I BELIEVE MORE is AVAILABLE?
2. Do I DESIRE MORE in MY LIFE?
3. Am I WILLING to MAKE ROOM for MORE?
4. WHAT will I ASK God for MORE OF?

So far we have sought to answer the desire for more with these suggestions...

I WANT MORE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

I WANT MORE TRUST AND PEACE

I WANT MORE FRUIT

I WANT MORE RECOGNITION OF WHO JESUS IS

I WANT MORE ANOINTING

2 Kings 2:9-15

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me, what can I do for you before I am taken from you?" "Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit," Elisha replied. "You have asked a difficult thing," Elijah said, "yet if you see me when I am taken from you, it will be yours—otherwise, it will not." As they were walking along and talking together, suddenly a chariot of fire and horses of fire appeared and separated the two of them, and Elijah went up to heaven in a whirlwind. Elisha saw this and cried out, "My father! My father! The chariots and horsemen of Israel!" And Elisha saw him no more. Then he took hold of his garment and tore it in two. Elisha then picked up Elijah's cloak that had fallen from him and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the cloak that had fallen from Elijah and struck the water with it. "Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?" he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over. The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, "The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha." And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.

In our desire for more anointing it is important that we understand what anointing is

In its simplest form to anoint meant to rub or pour or smear with oil. It was an *outward symbol that God had chosen and set apart the person (or object) for a specific holy purpose.*

It also symbolized a more profound spiritual reality—that God’s presence was with them and His favor, power and authority was upon them to enable them to perform what He had called them to do

In the Old Testament the anointing of God might be seen more typically as a temporary state of being. It could be brief and specific to a particular task or more long term in the sense of applying to a person’s entire life or ministry or a kings reign

1 Samuel 16:13

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

But even that had its limitations in that while one may have been anointed of God the effectiveness and endurance of that anointing could be hindered by the choices they made in life

Samson, for instance was anointed by God with great strength to deliver the Israelites from the oppression of the Philistines. Yet, his disobedience and sinful choices caused him to lose that anointing.

Judges 16:20

Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he did not know that the Lord had left him.

In the New Testament the anointing of God is tied to our relationship with God through Jesus Christ and The Holy Spirit

Jesus the Messiah of Jesus the Christ means Jesus the anointed one.

Luke 4:18-19

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

That's what I want.... The anointing of Christ manifesting itself in my life more and more

It might be just as accurate to say "I want more miracles of healing, deliverance, salvation and provision." or "I want more of the Gifts of The Holy Spirit" or "I want more of the active presence of the Holy Spirit in my life."

Regardless of whether we are looking at an Old Testament or New Testament perspective of the anointing there are several principles that apply

1. The Anointing Is Given

The anointing is a gift of God that is bestowed upon us, not something we can take or earn or buy

The apostle John tells us...

1 John 2:20

But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth.

Jesus promised this anointing.

Matthew 16:16-19

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

John 14:12-17

Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they 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 Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and 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.

Acts 1:8

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.”

And Paul reminds us that the anointing has been given

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

“Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.”

2. The Anointing Should Be Desired

Elisha told Elijah that he wanted a double portion. His desire was evidenced in the diligence of his actions in fulfilling Elijah’s conditions to his request. He refused to be separated, he refused to be distracted. He stuck close by his side so that he would see him when he was taken

Jesus told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had been anointed with power and he had already told them that while they were waiting they should ask for the gift of The Holy Spirit

Luke 11:9-13

““So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!””

Paul spoke of desiring the anointing when he said taught the Corinthians about The gifts of the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:31

“Now eagerly desire the greater gifts...”

Desiring the anointing means asking God to be filled with The Holy Spirit for the first time.

Desiring the Anointing means asking wanting more of The Gifts of The Holy Spirit to be manifested in my life and in the life of the church.

Desiring the anointing means asking God to fill us again.

The Disciples did...

Acts 4:23-31

“On their release, Peter and John went back to their own people and reported all that the chief priests and the elders had said to them. When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. “Sovereign Lord,” they said, “you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: “‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 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.”

Desire is not a one-time event but rather a continuous state of our heart. That’s part of what I mean when I say I want more. I don’t want the anointing of God to be a once and done experience. I want to be filled with his power and authority every day of my life. Paul’s admonition in Ephesians 5:18...

“Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit,”

Features a verb in the present imperative form which signifies on going action

I have always said that the better question is not have you
Been filled with the Holy Spirit but are you full of the Holy Spirit

As a result of our continued desire for more we will also be careful to guard the anointing for, unlike Samson, we don’t want to find ourselves in a position of having no anointing when it comes time to engage the enemy

As Paul warns the Thessalonians,

1 Thessalonians 5:19

“Do not quench the Spirit.”

3. The Anointing Must Be Used

After Elijah was taken to heaven Elisha immediately picked up that Mantle and got to work

Gods anointing is given for a purpose.

Why would God trust us with His anointing if we refuse to do anything with it?

Like Peter we need to step out of the boat by faith