

## THE PURPOSE OF THE ANOINTING

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This handout is based on material from my book entitled *In Pursuit of Wholeness: Experiencing God's Salvation for the Total Person* (Destiny Image). For more information about the book or to order it online, visit <https://wilfredgraves.org/wholeness>.

### **Background Information and Definitions**

To anoint (Hebrew: *mashach*) is to rub or smear with oil. In the Old Testament, anointing oil was used to consecrate someone or something for holy use (e.g., a king or a priest; see Ex. 29:7-10). The most important derivative of the Hebrew word *mashach* is *mashiyach* (Messiah). The anointing oil is a metaphor for the Holy Spirit (1 Sam. 16:13; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20, 27).

The Holy Spirit enables God's people to do good works on earth. Jesus (reading Isaiah 61) declared his anointing in Luke 4. God has never commanded anyone to be anointed. It is God himself who anoints. God empowered Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit to bring salvation and wholeness to broken humanity. He distributes gifts and empowers us by the Spirit to do the things for which he calls us. This is the real meaning and purpose of the anointing.

### **Introduction to Luke 4:16-21 and Isaiah 61:1-2**

In this passage, Jesus reads from Isaiah chapter 61:1, 2, a prophecy about the coming of the Messiah (or the Christ). Isaiah 61 describes the coming Messiah as one who would deliver Israel from captivity. Jesus boldly claims the present and personal fulfillment of this passage in his ministry. In the ministry of Jesus, the era of God's salvation has now arrived! My definition of salvation is God's rescue of human beings from the things that diminish or destroy us in our spirits, minds, bodies, relationships, and other aspects of our humanity.

### **Jesus is the Savior**

The name "Jesus," or *Yeshua* in Hebrew, basically means, "Yahweh (or God) is Salvation." See Matthew 1:21; Luke 2:11; Luke 19:10; Acts 4:12; and 1 Timothy 1:15.

### **Highlights from the Text**

The ministry of Jesus was to the whole person. Salvation involves everything that makes us whole and includes not only the forgiveness of sins, but also: deliverance, general well-being, happiness, protection, security, and physical healing. The Lord wants to bring life, health, peace, and freedom to the totality of our lives.

### **Eternal Life**

Salvation is a wonderful thing! We can approach God with boldness and with confidence. We can come into his presence with full assurance that he loves us, that he hears us, and that he will never leave nor forsake us. Our salvation means that we are full members of God's family. When we accept the Lordship of Jesus Christ over our lives, we place everything that we are and everything that we own at his disposal. Acceptance of the Lordship of Jesus Christ is the secret to true happiness and fulfillment.

### **Salvation for the Mind and the Emotions**

We can protect our minds from the attacks of Satan. First, we need to cultivate an intimate relationship with God (Jer. 29:11). Second, to protect our minds from the enemy, we need to renew them through the Word (Romans 12:1, 2). Third, to guard our minds against satanic attack, we need to think about and ponder the right things (Phil. 4:8). Finally, we need aggressively to resist ungodly thoughts (2 Cor. 10:5).

### **Salvation for the Body: Healing and Miracles**

Throughout his ministry, Jesus is always preaching the Gospel, casting out demons, healing the sick, and raising the dead. All of these are saving actions.

Jesus' healing miracles not only confirm that his teachings about salvation are true; his healing miracles also represent salvation actually taking place in the natural realm. In fact, one of the main Greek words translated "salvation" in the New Testament can also be translated "healing." In the Gospels, the faith that saves is the faith that heals and the faith that heals is the faith that saves. So, salvation is best understood not only as the forgiveness of sin, but also as the availability of God's power to heal the body from sickness and disease.

### **True or False**

1. In a biblical sense, the terms "healing" and "salvation" describe the same realities.
2. God wills for us to experience healthy spirits, minds, bodies, and relationships.
3. Sickness and death entered the world because of sin.
4. If a person is sick, then this means that he/she has committed a sinful act.
5. God's greatest demonstration of power is through physical healing.
6. Christians are free from the power of sin.
7. It is harder for God to work a miracle than to perform "regular" actions.
8. Healing is salvation taking place in the physical realm.
9. The only reason that Jesus died on the cross was to ensure our entry into that heaven.
10. Seeking help from medical professionals indicates weak faith or a lack of faith.

### **Answers to True/False**

T, T, T, F, F, T, F, T, F, F

### **Discussion Questions**

1. How do you define the words "healing" and "salvation"?
2. If healing is an aspect of salvation, why don't we see more physical healings in our churches today?
3. What is the gospel?
4. How is our surrender to the Lord related to our being made whole?
5. What is the secret to freedom from addictions or unshakable habits?
6. Do you want to be made whole?