

IMPARTATION



THE TIME IS NOW

Compiled by Dr. Harold Bollinger

Table of Contents

Forward		
Chapter 1	The impartation of a blessing	5
Chapter 2	Old Testament happenings	7
Chapter 3	The sin sacrifice	9
Chapter 4	To receive the Holy Ghost	10
Chapter 5	To set apart for ministry	12
Chapter 6	To impart healing	15
Chapter 7	To choose church leaders	16
Chapter 8	Importation to a group	19
Chapter 9	Transferred through a distance	21
Chapter 10	Anointing from heaven	23
Chapter 11	Through anointing oil	25
Chapter 12	Through anointed belongings	27

Forward

Within the scope of religious circles, there is a trend toward passing the anointing one has received to another, or to a group. This is called “Impartation.”

This is often seen in churches and on the telecast. Is this a sound biblical practice sanctioned by the Scripture?

Recently, the Holy Spirit brought to my attention these words:

Those who have spent years in study and prayer and have received an anointed ministry must pass that ministry on to others.

There is not enough time for a long preparation period. Workers must become equipped now!

I began to look back at things that I had seen and heard throughout the years.

When I was ordained to preach the gospel, Godly men laid their hands on me and prayed to God to use and bless me in the ministry. I was never again the same.

I attended a Kenneth Hagen Camp Meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma and saw an impartation.

Brother Hagen was praying for a long line of people coming for prayer. After praying for many people, he grew tired and said he was going to pass his anointing to another so prayer for the people could continue.

Brother Hagen and the man he had chosen slapped their hands together.

The new minister continued to pray for the people just as Brother Hagen had done. There was no noticeable difference in the results.

After many years of ministry, I have received through impartation, study, prayer and experience the great blessing that I wish to impart to others.

Throughout the study, we will see many examples given in the Word of God of such happenings.

At the close of this study, I will record a prayer of impartation. Receive it, believe it, and give to others.

A Call to Impart

By Harold Bollinger

I awakened from my childhood to hear a beat yet understood.
Is there a voice heard from a cloud? Or a soft whisper from within?

Has my life begun to change?
Has the path that I must walk found new ways? What is this cry within, without?
That seems to say, "Move this way about."

Have the prayers that loved ones prayed found root within my wondering heart?
Have they imparted unto me, that path that I must walk? Should I refuse the
tugging from within?
Or should I carefully hear the call from without, within?

Will there be a time in later life when I to must pray? Should I impart the things
that have carefully come to me with thoughts of prayer and contrite heart?
I will not fail the call, but I too shall impart a blessing and a call.

Chapter 1

The Impartation of a Blessing

2 Timothy 1:6 –8

Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. (7) For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. (8) Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

An impartation may not release a new gifting, but it may stir up the gift that is already in you.

At the time of his ordination, Timothy had received special gifts of the Spirit to enable him to serve the church (see 1 Timothy 4:14)

In telling Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God,” Paul was encouraging him to persevere.

Timothy did not need new revelations or new gifts; he needed the courage and self-discipline to hang on to the truth and to use the gifts he had already received (see 2 Timothy 1:13-14).

If Timothy would step out boldly in faith and proclaim the gospel once again, the Holy Spirit would go with him and give him power.

When you use the gifts God has given you, you will find that God will give you the power you need.

Clearly, Timothy’s spiritual gift had been given to him when Paul and the elders had laid their hands on him and set him apart for ministry (see 1 Timothy 4:14).

God gives all Christians gifts to use to build up the body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:4-31), and he gives special gifts to some through church leaders, who serve as God’s instruments.

Timothy was experiencing great opposition to his message and to himself as a leader. His youth, his association with Paul, and his leadership had come under

fire from believers and nonbelievers alike.

Paul urged him to be bold. When we allow people to intimidate us, we neutralize our effectiveness for God.

The power of the Holy Spirit can help us overcome our fear of what some might say or do to us so that we can continue to do God's work.

Paul mentions three characteristics of the effective Christian leader:

Power, Love, and Self-discipline.

These are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Follow his leading each day so that your life will more fully exhibit these characteristics. See Galatians 5:22-23

Paul wished to impart spiritual gifts, so the people would become established.

Romans 1:11-12

For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established; That is, that I may be comforted together with you by the mutual faith both of you and me.

Paul prayed for the chance to visit these Christians so that he could encourage them with his gift of faith and be encouraged by theirs.

As God's missionary, he could help them understand the meaning of the Good News about Jesus.

As God's devoted people, they could offer him fellowship and comfort. When Christians gather, everyone should give *and* receive. Our mutual faith gives us a common language and a common purpose for encouraging one another.

Chapter 2

Impartation happenings in the Old Testament

Jacob blesses the children of Joseph.

Genesis 48:14-16

And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. (15) And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, (16) The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.

Jacob gave Ephraim, instead of his older brother Manasseh, the greater blessing.

When Joseph objected, Jacob refused to listen because God had told him that Ephraim would become greater. God often works in unexpected ways.

When he chooses people to fulfill his plans, he always goes deeper than appearance, tradition, or position.

He sometimes surprises us by choosing the less obvious person, at least by human reasoning. God can use you to carry out his plans, even if you don't think you have all the qualifications.

Jacob spoke of God as his shepherd throughout his life. In his old age, he could clearly see his dependence upon God.

This marks a total attitude change from that of his scheming and dishonest youth. To develop an attitude like Jacob's, let God shepherd you as you trust in his provision and care.

When you realize that every good thing comes from God, you can quit trying to grab them for yourself.

Jacob was giving these young boys land occupied by the Philistines and Canaanites. His gift became reality when the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh occupied the east and west sides of the Jordan River (Joshua 16).

Let Faith Arise.

There was once a great scientist who did not believe that there was a God, but one day as he was looking in his microscope and saw a small object that could be seen only with a microscope.

An overwhelming feeling of God, the great creator, came over him, and he wrote: “How thou could love a wretch like me and be the God thou art, is darkness to my intelligent, but sunshine to my heart”

Let faith arise and let the enemy be scattered.

Chapter 3

The Sin Sacrifice.

Exodus 29:10-11

And thou shalt cause a bullock to be brought before the tabernacle of the congregation: and Aaron and his sons shall put their hands upon the head of the bullock. And thou shalt kill the bullock before the Lord, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation

Why were there such detailed rituals in connection with these sacrifices?

It was partly for quality control.

A centralized, standardized form of worship prevented problems of belief that could arise from individuals creating their own worship.

Also, it differentiated the Hebrews from the pagan Canaanites they would meet in the Promised Land.

By closely following God's instructions, the Hebrews could not possibly join the Canaanites in their immoral religious practices.

Finally, it showed Israel that God was serious about his relationship with them.

Notice the overwhelming emphasis on the holiness of God.

The priests, the clothes, the tabernacle, and the sacrifice had to be clean and consecrated, prepared to meet God.

In contrast, today we tend to take God for granted, rushing into worship, and treating him with almost casual disregard.

But we worship the Almighty Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

Remember that profound truth when you pray or worship and come before him with reverence and repentance.

The sins were placed on the head of a live goat.

Leviticus 16:20-21

And when he hath made an end of reconciling the holy place, and the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat:

And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness:

The Day of Atonement was the greatest day of the year for Israel.

The Hebrew word for *atone* means “to cover.” Old Testament sacrifices could not actually remove sins; it could only cover them. On this day, the people confessed their sins as a nation, and the high priest went into the Most Holy Place to make atonement for them.

Sacrifices were made, and blood was shed so that the people’s sins could be “covered” until Christ’s sacrifice on the cross would give people the opportunity to have their sin removed forever.

Aaron had to spend hours preparing himself to meet God. But we can approach God anytime (Hebrews 4:16). What a privilege! We are offered easier access to God than the high priests of the Old Testament times! Still, we must never forget that God is holy nor let this privilege cause us to approach God carelessly.

The way to God has been opened to us by Jesus Christ. But easy access to God does not eliminate our need to prepare our hearts as we draw near in prayer.

This event with the two goats occurred on the Day of Atonement. The two goats represented the two ways God was dealing with the Israelites’ sin:

- (1) He was forgiving their sin through the first goat, which was sacrificed,
and
- (2) He was removing their guilt through the second goat, the scapegoat that
was sent into the desert.

The same ritual had to be repeated every year. Jesus Christ’s death replaced this system once and for all. We can have our sins forgiven and guilt removed by placing our trust in Christ (Hebrews 10:1-18).

Chapter 4

The Laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit

Acts 8:15-19

Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (16) (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) (17) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (18) And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (19) Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Paul imparted the gifts of God by the laying on of hands.

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

When Paul laid his hands on these disciples, they received the Holy Spirit, just as the disciples did at Pentecost, and there were outward, visible signs of the Holy Spirit's presence. This also happened when the Holy Spirit came to the Gentiles (non-Jews, see Acts 10:45-47).

Chapter 5

The laying on of hands was to set apart for ministry.

2 Timothy 1:5

When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

Timothy's mother and grandmother, Eunice, and Lois, were early Christian converts, possibly through Paul's ministry in their home city, Lystra (Acts 16:1).

They had communicated their strong Christian faith to Timothy, even though his father was probably not a believer.

Don't hide your light at home: our families are fertile fields for planting gospel seeds. Let your parents, children, spouse, brothers, and sisters know of your faith in Jesus, and be sure they see Christ's love, helpfulness, and joy in you.

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Clearly, Timothy's spiritual gift had been given to him when Paul and the elders had laid their hands on him and set him apart for ministry (see 1 Timothy 4:14). God gives all Christians gifts to use to build up the body of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:4-31), and he gives special gifts to some through church leaders, who serve as God's instruments.

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The power of the Holy Spirit can help us overcome our fear of what some

might say or do to us so that we can continue to do God's work.

Paul mentions three characteristics of the effective Christian leader:

Power, Love, and Self-discipline.

These are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Follow his leading each day so that your life will more fully exhibit these characteristics. See Galatians 5:22-23 for a list of the by-products of the Holy Spirit living in us.

Timothy was in a time of transition. He had been Paul's bright young helper; soon he would be on his own as the leader of a church in a difficult environment.

Although his responsibilities were changing, Timothy was not without help. He had everything he needed to face the future if he would hold on tightly to the Lord's resources.

When you are facing difficult transitions, it is good to follow Paul's advice to Timothy and look back at your experience.

Who is the foundation of your faith? How can you build on that foundation? What gifts has the Holy Spirit given you? Use the gifts you have already been given.

Hands were laid on Barnabas and Saul for God's called purpose.

Acts 13:2-3

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. [3] And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away.

The church set apart Barnabas and Saul to the work God had for them.

To set apart means to dedicate for a special purpose.

We too should dedicate our pastors, missionaries, and Christian workers for their tasks. We can also dedicate ourselves to use our time, money, and talents for God's work. Ask God what he wants you to set apart for him.

This was the beginning of Paul's first missionary journey. The church was

involved in sending Paul and Barnabas, but it was God's plan.

Why did Paul and Barnabas go where they did?

- (1) The Holy Spirit led them.
- (2) They followed the communication routes of the Roman Empire—this made travel easier.
- (3) They visited key population and cultural centers to reach as many people as possible.
- (4) They went to cities with synagogues, speaking first to the Jews in hopes that they would see Jesus as the Messiah and help spread the Good News to everyone.

Chapter 6

Laying on of hands to impart healing

Mark 16:16-18

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. [17] And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Jesus told his disciples to go into all of the world, telling everyone that he had paid the penalty for sin and that those who believe in him can be forgiven and live eternally with God.

Christian disciples today in all parts of the world are preaching this gospel to people who haven't heard about Christ.

The driving power that carries missionaries around the world and sets Christ's church in motion is the faith that comes from the resurrection.

Do you ever feel as though you don't have the skill or determination to be a witness for Christ?

You must personally realize that Jesus rose from the dead and lives for you today. As you grow in your relationship with Christ, he will give you both the opportunities and the inner strength to tell his message.

It is not the water of baptism that saves, but God's grace accepted through faith in Christ. Because of Jesus' response to the criminal on the cross who died with him, we know it is possible to be saved without being baptized (Luke 23:43).

Baptism alone, without faith, does not automatically bring a person to heaven. Those who refuse to believe will be condemned, regardless of whether or not they have been baptized.

There are times when God intervenes miraculously to protect his followers. Occasionally he gives them special powers.

Paul handled a snake safely (Acts 28:5), and the disciples healed the sick (Matthew 10:1; Acts 3:7-8).

This does not mean, however, that we should test God by putting ourselves in dangerous situations.

Chapter 7

It is a serious responsibility to choose church leaders

1 Timothy 5:22

Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

Paul says that a church should never be hasty about choosing its leaders, especially the pastor, because we may overlook major problems or sins.

Church leaders must have a strong faith and be morally upright, having the qualities described in 1 Timothy 3:1-13.

1 Timothy 3:1-13

This is a true saying if a man desires the office of a bishop:

- (1) he desireth a good work.
- [2] A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behavior, given to hospitality, apt to teach;
- [3] Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;
- [4] One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;
- [5] (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)
- [6] Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.
- [7] Moreover he must have a good report of them that are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.
- [8] Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre;
- [9] Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.
- [10] And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.
- [11] Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things.

[12] Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

[13] For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.

To be a church leader (“overseer”) is a heavy responsibility because the church belongs to the living God.

Church leaders should not be elected because they are popular, nor should they be allowed to push their way to the top. Instead, they should be chosen by the church because of their respect for the truth, both in what they believe and in how they live.

The word *overseer* can refer to a pastor, church leader, or presiding elder.

It is good to want to be a spiritual leader, but the standards are high. Paul enumerates some of the qualifications here.

Do you hold a position of spiritual leadership, or would you like to be a leader someday?

Check yourself against Paul’s standard of excellence. Those with great responsibility must meet high expectations.

The lists of qualifications for church office show that living a blameless and pure life requires effort and self-discipline. All believers, even if they never plan to be church leaders, should strive to follow these guidelines because they are consistent with what God says is true and right. The strength to live according to God’s will comes from Christ.

Not all who desire to a church leader is qualified.

Titus 1:5-9.

For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee: [6] If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly. [7] For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not self-willed, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre; [8] But a

lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate; [9] Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

Not everyone who wants to be a church leader is eligible. Be certain of an applicant's qualifications before asking him or her to take a leadership position.

Simon wanted to buy the power to administer the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-19

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: [15] Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [16] (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) [17] Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. [18] And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, [19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Chapter 8

Anointing imparted to many

1 Samuel 10:6-13

And the Spirit of the LORD will come upon thee, and thou shalt prophesy with them, and shalt be turned into another man. (7) And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee. (8) And thou shalt go down before me to Gilgal; and, behold, I will come down unto thee, to offer burnt offerings, and to sacrifice sacrifices of peace offerings: seven days shalt thou tarry, till I come to thee, and shew thee what thou shalt do. (9) And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. (10) And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them. (11) And it came to pass when all that knew him beforetime saw that, behold, he prophesied among the prophets, then the people said one to another, What is this that is come unto the son of Kish? Is Saul also among the prophets? (12) And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets? (13) And when he had made an end of prophesying, he came to the high place.

How could Saul be so filled with the Spirit and yet later commit such evil acts? Throughout the Old Testament, God's Spirit "came upon" a person temporarily so that God could use him or her for great acts. This happened frequently to Israel's judges when they were called by God to rescue the nation (Judges 3:8-10). This was not always a permanent, abiding influence, but sometimes a temporary manifestation of the Holy Spirit. Yet, at times in the Old Testament, the Spirit even came upon unbelievers to enable them to do unusual tasks (Numbers 24; 2 Chron. 36:22-23). The Holy Spirit gave the person the power to do what God asked, but it did not always produce the other fruits of the Spirit, such as self-control.

Saul, in his early years as king, was a different person (1 Samuel 10:1-10) as a result of the Holy Spirit's work in him. But as Saul's power grew, so did his pride. After a while he refused to seek God; the Spirit left him (1 Samuel 16:14); and his good attitude melted away.

A prophet is someone who speaks God's words. While God told many

prophets to predict certain events, what God wanted most was for them to instruct and inspire people to live in faithfulness to God. When Saul's friends heard inspired words coming from Saul they exclaimed, "Is Saul also among the prophets?" This was an expression of surprise at worldly Saul's becoming religious. It is equivalent to "What? Has he got religion?"

Israel's true king was God, but the nation demanded another. Imagine wanting a human being instead of God as guide and leader! Throughout history, men and women have rejected God, and they continue to do it today. Are you rejecting God by pushing him aside and acknowledging someone or something else as your "king" or top priority? Learn from these stories of Israel's kings, and don't push God aside.

Chapter 9

Anointing transferred through Distance.

Matthew 8:8-11

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. (9) For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. (10) When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. (11) And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven.

A centurion was a career military officer in the Roman army with control over 100 soldiers.

The Jews for their oppression, control, and ridicule hated Roman soldiers, of all people.

Yet this man's genuine faith amazed Jesus! This hated Gentile's faith put to shame the stagnant piety of many of the Jewish religious leaders.

Jesus told the crowd that many religious Jews who should be in the kingdom would be excluded because of their lack of faith.

Entrenched in their religious traditions, they could not accept Christ and his new message. We must be careful not to become so set in our religious habits that we expect God to work only in specified ways. Don't limit God by your mindset and lack of faith.

“The east and the west” stand for the four corners of the earth. All the faithful people of God will be gathered to feast with the Messiah (Isaiah 6; Isaiah 55).

The Jews should have known that when the Messiah came, his blessings would be for Gentiles too (see Isaiah 66:12, 19).

But this message came as a shock because they were too wrapped up in their own affairs and destiny. In claiming God's promises, we must not apply them so

personally that we forget to see what God wants to do to reach *all* the people he loves.

Matthew emphasizes this universal theme—Jesus’ message is for everyone. The Old Testament prophets knew this (see Isaiah 56:3, 6-8; Isaiah 66:12, 19; Malachi 1:11), but many New Testament Jewish leaders chose to ignore it. Each individual has to choose to accept or reject the gospel, and no one can become part of God’s kingdom on the basis of heritage or connections.

Having a Christian family is a wonderful blessing, but it won’t guarantee you eternal life. *You* must believe in and follow Christ.

Chapter 10

Anointing from heaven

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Held 50 days after Passover, Pentecost was also called the Feast of Weeks. It was one of three major annual feasts (Deut. 16:16), a festival of thanksgiving for the harvested crops.

Jesus was crucified at Passover time, and he ascended 40 days after his resurrection. The Holy Spirit came 50 days after the resurrection, ten days after the ascension. Jews of many nations gathered in Jerusalem for this festival.

Thus, Peter's speech (Acts 2:14ff) was given to an international audience, and it resulted in a worldwide harvest of new believers—the first converts to Christianity.

This was a fulfillment of John the Baptist's words about the Holy Spirit's baptizing with fire (Luke 3:16) and of the prophet Joel's words about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29).

Why tongues of fire? Tongues symbolize speech and the communication of the gospel. Fire symbolizes God's purifying presence, which burns away the undesirable elements of our lives and sets our hearts aflame to ignite the lives of others.

On Mount Sinai, God confirmed the validity of the Old Testament law with fire from heaven (Exodus 19:16-18).

At Pentecost, God confirmed the validity of the Holy Spirit's ministry by sending fire. At Mount Sinai, fire had come down on one place; at Pentecost, fire came down on many believers, symbolizing that God's presence is now available to all who believe in him.

God made his presence known to this group of believers in a spectacular way—violent wind, fire, and his Holy Spirit. Would you like God to reveal himself to you in such recognizable ways?

He may do so but be wary of forcing your expectations on God.

In 1 Kings 19:10-13, Elijah also needed a message from God. There was a great wind, then an earthquake, and finally a fire. But God’s message came in a “gentle whisper.” God may use dramatic methods to work in your life—or he may speak in gentle whispers. Wait patiently and always listen.

These people literally spoke in other languages—a miraculous attention-getter for the international crowd gathered in town for the feast.

All the nationalities represented recognized their own languages being spoken. But more than miraculous speaking drew people’s attention; they saw the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

The apostles continued to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit wherever they went.

Christianity is not limited to any race or group of people. Christ offers salvation to all people without regard to nationality.

Visitors in Jerusalem were surprised to hear the apostles and other believers speaking in languages other than their own, the languages of other nationalities, but they need not have been.

God works all kinds of miracles to spread the gospel, using many languages as he calls all kinds of people to become his followers. No matter what your race, color, nationality, or language, God speaks to you. Are you listening?

Why are all these places mentioned? This is a list of many lands from which Jews came to the festivals in Jerusalem. These Jews were not living in Palestine because they had been dispersed throughout the world through captivities and persecutions.

Very likely, some of the Jews who responded to Peter’s message returned to their homelands with God’s Good News of salvation. Thus, God prepared the way for the spread of the gospel.

As you read Acts, you will see how the way was often prepared for Paul and other messengers by people who became believers at Pentecost.

The church at Rome, for example, was probably begun by such Jewish believers.

Chapter 11

Impartation of anointing through anointing oil.

James 5:14-16

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: (15) And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (16) Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James is referring to someone who is incapacitated physically. In Scripture, oil was both a medicine (see the parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37) and a symbol of the Spirit of God (as used in anointing kings, see 1 Samuel 16:1-13).

Thus, oil can represent both the medical and the spiritual spheres of life. Christians should not separate the physical and the spiritual— Jesus Christ is Lord over both the body and the spirit.

People in the church are not alone. Members of Christ's body should be able to count on others for support and prayer, especially when they are sick or suffering.

The elders should be on call to respond to the illness of any member, and the church should stay alert to pray for the needs of all its members.

“The prayer offered in faith” does not refer to the faith of the sick person, but to the faith of the people praying.

God heals, faith doesn't, and all prayers are subject to God's will.

But our prayers are part of God's healing process. That is why God often waits for our prayers of faith before intervening to heal a person.

Christ has made it possible for us to go directly to God for forgiveness.

Confessing our sins to each other still has an important place in the life of the church.

- (1) If we have sinned against an individual, we must ask him or her to forgive us.
- (2) If our sin has affected the church, we must confess it publicly.
- (3) If we need loving support as we struggle with a sin, we should confess that sin to those who are able to provide that support.
- (4) If, after confessing a private sin to God, we still don't feel his forgiveness, we may wish to confess that sin to a fellow believer and hear him or her assure us of God's pardon.

In Christ's kingdom, every believer is a priest to other believers (1 Peter 2:9).

The Christian's most powerful resource is communion with God through prayer. The results are often greater than we thought were possible. Some people see prayer as a last resort to be tried when all else fails. This approach is backward. Prayer should come first. Because God's power is infinitely greater than ours, it only makes sense to rely on it—especially because God encourages us to do so.

Chapter 12

Anointing imparted through anointed belongings

Anointing through Jesus clothes

Matthew 14:36

And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

The people recognized Jesus as a great healer, but how many understood who he truly was?

They came to Jesus for physical healing, but did they come for spiritual healing? They came to prolong their lives on earth, but did they come to secure their eternal lives?

People may seek Jesus to learn valuable lessons from his life or in hopes of finding relief from pain. But we miss Jesus' whole message if we seek him only to heal our bodies but not our souls, if we look to him for help only in this life, rather than for his eternal plan for us.

Only when we understand the real Jesus Christ can we appreciate how he can truly change our lives.

Jewish men wore tassels on the lower edges of their robes according to God's command (Deuteronomy 22:12). By Jesus' day, these tassels were seen as signs of holiness (Matthew 23:5).

It was natural that people seeking healing should reach out and touch these. But as one sick woman learned, healing came from faith and not from Jesus' cloak (Matthew 9:19-22).

Anointing through Elijah's mantle

2 Kings 2:14

And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah"? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over.

These three incidents were testimonies to Elisha's commission as a prophet of God. They are recorded to demonstrate Elisha's new power and authority as Israel's chief prophet under God's ultimate power and authority.

When Elisha struck the water, it was not out of disrespect to God or Elijah. It was a plea by Elisha to God to confirm his appointment as Elijah's successor.

Anointing through Moses rod.

Exodus 17:5-6

And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. [6] Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

With the anointed staff of Moses, he struck the rock.

Anointing through handkerchiefs and aprons

Acts 19:11-13

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: [12] So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. [13] Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches.

These Jews traveled from town to town making a living by claiming to heal and drive out demons. Often, they would recite a whole list of names in their incantation to be sure of including the right deity. Here they were trying to use Jesus' name in an effort to match Paul's power.

Many Ephesians engaged in exorcism and occult practices for profit (see Acts 19:18-19).

The sons of Sceva were impressed by Paul's work, whose power to drive out demons came from God's Holy Spirit, not from witchcraft, and was obviously

more powerful than theirs. They discovered, however, that no one can control or duplicate God's power.

These men were calling on the name of Jesus without knowing the person. The power to change people comes from Christ. It cannot be tapped by reciting his name like a magic charm. God word.

Anointing through Elijah's staff

2 Kings 4:29

Then he said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thine hand, and go thy way: if thou meet any man, salute him not; and if any salute thee, answer him not again: and lay my staff upon the face of the child.

Elisha's prayer and method of raising the dead boy show God's personal care for hurting people. We must express genuine concern for others as we carry God's message to them. Only then will we faithfully represent our Father in heaven.

Anointing through Peters Shadow

Acts 5:15-16

Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. [16] There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed everyone.

What makes Christianity attractive? It is easy to be drawn to churches because of programs, good speakers, size, beautiful facilities, or fellowship.

People were attracted to the early church by expressions of God's power at work, the generosity, sincerity, honesty, and unity of the members, and the character of the leaders. Have our standards slipped? God wants to add believers to his *church*, not just newer and better programs, or larger and fancier facilities.

People who passed within Peter's shadow were healed, not by Peter's

shadow, but by God's power working through Peter.

What did these miraculous healings do for the early church?

- (1) They attracted new believers.
- (2) They confirmed the truth of the apostles' teaching.
- (3) They demonstrated that the power of the Messiah who had been crucified and risen was now with his followers.

Anointing through Elisha's bones

2 Kings 13:21

And it came to pass, as they were burying a man, that, behold, they spied a band of men, and they cast the man into the sepulchre of Elisha: and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived, and stood up on his feet.

Elisha was dead, but his good influence remained, even causing miracles. This demonstrated that Elisha was indeed a prophet of God. It also attested to God's power—no pagan idol ever raised anyone from the dead. This miracle served as one more reminder to Israel that it had rejected God's word as given through Elisha.

Prayer of Impartation

The name of the Lord must be upon those who receive an impartation.

God told Moses to tell Aaron and his sons to bless the people by saying:

The Lord bless you, the Lord keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you. The Lord be gracious to you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you. The Lord give you peace.

God told Moses that if the priests do this, so shall they put my name upon the people of Israel and I will bless them.

I pray for you now.

In the name of Jesus Christ

May the gifts of the Holy Spirit be imparted unto you.

May the ministry God has given you be now fully heightened. May the anointing upon you be deepened and increased.

May you shine as a light in the darkness.

May your love for God 's word and his people surround you. May God receive glory and praise for all you are and will ever be. And in the end, may you receive eternal life.

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Additional comments and are taken from:

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