

## *The Unction for the Function*

Acts 17:16 (KJV)

“16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry”

Now I want to take a moment today to explain the title of this message

I have titled it “*The Unction for the Function*”

### *Uction*

Etymology: Middle English *unccioun*, from Anglo-French, from Latin *unction-*, *unctio*, from *unguere* to anoint

1. The act of anointing as a rite of consecration or healing
2. Something used for anointing: ointment / oil
3. Religious or Spiritual Fervor or the expression of such fervor

### *Function*

1. Professional or official position: occupation
2. The action for which a person or thing is specially fitted or used or for which a thing exists: purpose

Function: office, duty, province

The mean the acts or operations expected of a person or thing

Duty applies to a task or responsibility imposed by one's occupation, rank, status, or calling

You my friends truly have an “*Uction for the Function*”

1 John 2:20 [KJ]

“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things”

### *Uction*

Greek: Chrisma – Anointing – Something that has been applied – prepared from oil and aromatic herbs

\* Ye have an unction [Chrisma] – simply something has been applied – put upon you by the Holy One [God]

2.

1 John 2:20 [KJ]

“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things”

- \* God gives an unction to the believer
- \* The word "*unction*" (*chrisma*) means anointing

**Note**

Who it is that anoints us: the Holy One, that is, God Himself  
What is the anointing, the unction that He gives?

God give us the personage of the Holy Spirit

- \* The Presence Working Power of God
- \* Baptized anointed – empowered – Unction for the Function

This is exactly what Scripture declares

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

"Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and *hath anointed us*, is God; who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest [guarantee] of the Spirit in our hearts"

Why does God give us the Holy Spirit?

- \* One of the major reasons is to *teach us all things*
- \* This was the glorious promise of Jesus Christ

1 John 2:20 [KJ]

“But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things”

John 14:26

"But the Comforter, which *is the Holy Ghost*, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall *teach you all things*, and *bring all things* to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you”

What is meant by “all things”?

- \* Does it mean that the Holy Spirit teaches us all the skilled professions of the world such as science, history, and medicine?

3.

**No, not in the technical sense**

\* The **primary concern of the Holy Spirit is the truth about Jesus Christ** and about man and his world as they relate to Christ and to eternity

**It means all things:**

\* That have to do with God and Christ and man's spiritual hunger

\* It means **all things** that have to do with man and his world, their purpose and fate

\* It means **all things that** have to do with Christianity and life, the purpose, meaning, and significance of life.

**John 14:6**

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me"

**John 10:30**

"I and my Father are one"

**John 10:37-38**

"If I do not the works of my Father, believe me not. But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him"

**John 14:10**

"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works"

**John 17:11**

"And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are"

**This lays an enormous obligation upon us, an obligation to study the Word of God and to depend upon the Holy Spirit to teach us. He will not teach a lethargic or lazy person. We must be diligent in studying the Word of God, in praying and seeking the leadership of the Spirit of God.**

4.

## Prayer

Our Father, we come before You now very conscious within ourselves of a deep need for Your grace, for Your strength, for Your power, for Your enablement, for Your anointing

Father we understand that all of us together this morning can not do one thing without Your anointing

You are almighty El Shaddai - the God with whom nothing is hard or impossible!

So right now in Your Presence the impossible becomes powerfully, supernaturally possible, in fact we thank you now for all you are doing!

Thank you Lord for we do have a unction from the Holy One, we can know all things about you! Amen

## Acts 17:1 (KJV)

“Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews”

\* **Amphipolis:** “a city surrounded by the sea”

A prosperous city a port city of trade and blended cultural influence.

\* **Apollonia:** "belonging to Apollo"

Apollo - In **Greek and Roman mythology**, Apollo is one of the most important and diverse of the **Olympian deities**. Apollo has been recognized as a god of light and the sun; truth and prophecy; **archery**; medicine, healing and plague; music, poetry, and the arts

## Note

The Bible tells us in **Acts 17** that Paul and Silas had passed through the cities of **Amphipolis and Apollonia** – and dealt with the spirits they came to a city called **Thessalonica** and in that city was a synagogue of the Jews

## Thessalonica

"victory of falsity"

5.

## **Thessalonica**

- \* The great city was the capital and the largest city of Macedonia
- \* Under the Romans the city had been made free because of its loyalty to Rome
- \* As a free city it was allowed its own government and local laws
- \* The city had a natural harbor, but the primary factor contributing to the city's greatness was that it lay right on the Roman road
- \* In fact, the great road ran right through Thessalonica.

**It was the main street of the city, stretching all the way from the Adriatic Sea to the Middle East**

**Trade and commerce bristled with all the accompanying vice that follows such a metropolitan center**

- \* It was a great day when **Paul walked into the city** bringing the news of the glorious gospel
- \* As it is a great day when we today walk into the city bringing the news of the Gospel – Good News of Jesus Christ
- \* The gospel was bound to spread out beyond to the world rather rapidly

### **Acts 17:1-4 (KJV)**

**“1 Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:**

**2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,**

**3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.**

**4 And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few”**

- \* As Paul travelled about proclaiming the gospel, he set a dynamic example for every believer
- \* We must not allow opposition to stop our witness
- \* We must witness out of love for people who have never heard a clear cut presentation of the gospel
- \* We must witness, for men without Jesus Christ are lost and doomed unless they are saved

6.

**One major reason for the weak witness of believers is the lack of a plan. Believers need to plan their witnessing, how...**

- **To discover the lost**
- **To make opportunities**
- **To approach the subject of the gospel**
- **To share Christ**

**Matthew 28:19-20**

**"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching [make disciples] them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world"**

**Acts 1:8**

**"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth"**

**2 Timothy 2:2**

**"And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also"**

**1 Peter 3:15**

**"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"**

**You my friends have an Unction for the Function!**

**Acts 17:3 (KJV)**

**"3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ"**

**The message was critical.**

**It always is, for what a person believes determines everything he becomes and does.**

7.

## The source and authority of Paul's message was the Scripture

\* This is critical

**Paul did not preach the ideas of other men nor his own ideas.  
His message did not come from man's mind, not from man-made...**

- philosophy
- psychology
- sociology
- history
- religion
- law

## Paul preached the Scriptures

\* The Scriptures were both the source and authority of his message

### Acts 17:16 (KJV)

**“16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry”**

\* **Athens** = "uncertainty"

A famous city in Greece, the capital of Attica, and the chief seat of learning and civilization during the golden period of the history of Greece

**The messenger of the Gospel of Jesus Christ - Paul in Athens, the great intellectual and cultural center of the world**

\* He was not swept off his feet by the majestic buildings and splendor of the architecture

## What gripped him was the idolatry

\* The city was "wholly given to idolatry"

\* The Greek says "full of idols"

\* Ancient writers estimate that the city had thousands and thousands of idols, one or more for every person in the city.

8.

**The idols sat everywhere, lining the streets and buildings, within and without every home**

\* Seeing such a sight "stirred" the spirit of Paul

**“Stirred”**

The word means aroused, agitated, irritated

Paul was aroused...

- over the abuse of God's glory
- over the spiritual blindness of man's mind and reason
- against the devil's enslavement of lives
- with compassion for the souls of men

Acts 17:16-17 (KJV)

“16 Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was stirred in him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry”

17 Therefore disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with the devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met with him”

\* He began to reason and discuss the gospel with men everywhere

**The word "dispute" means to reason and discuss**

**And he proclaimed the gospel daily**

**The idea is twofold**

**1. He was zealous, full of fervor and passion, eagerly grasping every moment and opportunity**

**2. He knew the stakes were high.**

**The destiny of everyone he passed and saw lay in the balance.**

**They were all lost and doomed unless he could reach them with the gospel.**

**Therefore no matter the cost, he had to do all he could to reach and help them in their search for the truth**

9.

**What got him to this point – to this place of understanding the “Unction of God”**

**Acts 16:25-28 (KJV)**

**“25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.**

**26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.**

**27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.**

**28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here”**

**“For we are here”**

**Salvation**

**The preparation for salvation**

**There was the strong witness of the disciples through terrible difficulties. Paul and Silas had just been stripped, beaten with rods, imprisoned, and put in chains**

**\* Their backs were a lacerated, bloody, swollen mass of human flesh  
\* Sitting there in the dark, smelly, rat and roach infested dungeon, they bore a strong testimony to the wonderful grace of God.**

**Their faith in the Lord Jesus was a strong witness that prepared the heart of the unsaved for the gospel**

**Ephesians 5:19**

**"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"**

**There was the movement of God**

**In this instance God moved through an earthquake  
In other instances He will move in other ways**

10.

Acts 16:28-34 (KJV)

“28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

33 And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his, straightway.

34 And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house”

God can move upon a person's soul through...

- some happening in nature
- a tragedy
- sensing a lack or need
- the reading of Scripture
- some miracle
- some event in the person's life
- thinking about life or death
- the preaching of the gospel
- an innumerable list of ways

The point to see is this

- \* God moves events to prepare man's soul for salvation
- \* One of the major reasons for causing the earthquake was to stir the jailer to cry out for salvation

There was a call of hope by the believer

- \* The jailer was standing out in the hallway or corridor in the light
- \* Paul, in the dark dungeon cell, saw him and shouted out for the jailer not to kill himself
- \* No greater voice or call was ever heard by the jailer

11.

**It saved his life it saved his soul**

**\* This is a picture of the human soul sensing helplessness and being prepared for salvation**

**The believer must cry out, proclaiming hope to the helpless and hopeless of the world**

**\* The cry of hope is part of the preparation for salvation, a part so desperately needed**

**\* Without it the world hurts and ruins itself and dies in its helpless state.**

**Acts 22:15**

**"For thou shalt be his witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard"**

**Titus 2:15**

**"These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee"**

**1 Peter 3:15**

**"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear"**

**Its time for us to understand that we have been given the  
"Uction for the Function"**