Are we not the most fortunate people in that we are called by God to be here in these exciting times? Stressful – but all of history has been stressful. I have lived through the Great Depression, World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the rise of Militant Islam (with all their mini-wars) and still, still I find God good and righteous and this world (which belongs to Him, after all) to be a blessed place to live.

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Prayer Study #553 U-Part 2

OTHER WEAPONS OF WARFARE

FAITH

One of the most important aspects of the walk of both Old Testament believers, waiting for Messiah, and born again New Testament Christians is the concept of faith. Oddly, however, the word *faith* is found only twice in the Old Testament. We read in Deuteronomy 32:20 ("*And He said, 'I will hide My face from them. I will see what their end will be. For they are a perverse generation, children in whom is no faith")* and Habakkuk 2:4 ("*Behold the proud. His soul is not upright in him; but the just shall live by his faith").* This latter scripture is what flamed the fire of the Protestant Revolution and is found four times in the Word of God: Habakkuk 2:1-5, Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:10-11, and Hebrews 10:38. In spite of this lack of the use of the word *faith* in the Old Testament, it is important to note that even under the Old Covenant, faith was important and

believers were saved according to their *faith* in the coming Messiah.

The New Testament or New Covenant mentions faith in over 240 places. Faith is pervasive in the New Testament and is a major theme of the ministry of Jesus and all the New Testament writers. Jesus often lamented the fact that His disciples were often those of *little faith* (For example, Matthew 8:25-26: *Then His disciples came to Him and awoke Him, saying, "Lord, save us! We are perishing!" But He said to them,* ***"Why are you fearful, O you of little faith?"*** *Then He arose and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm.*) At the same time He often spoke of those, outside His own inner circle and outside the "church crowd" of that day, who had remarkable faith, such as the centurion, a man outside the Jewish faith, who came asking for Jesus to heal his servant, telling Jesus that He did not even have to come to his house but could heal his servant by just speaking a word. (Matthew 8:5-10: *Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented." And Jesus said to him,* ***"I will come and heal him."*** *The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come," and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it.'" When Jesus heard it, He marveled and said to those who followed,* ***"Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!"***)

Over and over Jesus told those whom He healed, ***"Your faith has made you well."*** Many were healed, because of their faith, included the woman with the issue of blood (a problem she had had for 12 years-Matthew 9:22), many blind men (Matthew 9:27-29), a lame man by Paul (Acts 14), and many more. It is important to note that many were healed who seemingly had no faith. Some were healed because of the faith of their friends [remember the man lowered through the roof], and some were healed because of the faith the one praying for the sick person [Peter and John healed a lame man begging for alms. He was not asking for healing but for money], and some, who seemingly had no faith, were healed by a sovereign work of God [for one example of many, the healing of Malchus' ear]. It is also important to note that many whom Jesus healed were not believers.

Not only does Faith heal, but it also does the following:

1. **Brings Salvation:** Luke 7:48-50-*Then He said to her* [the woman who anointed Jesus' feet], ***"Your sins are forgiven."*** *And those who sat at the table with Him began to say to themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" Then He said to the woman,* ***"Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."*** Ephesians 2:8-*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*
2. **Subdues demonic kingdoms:** Hebrews 11:33-34-[Heroes of faith]…*through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouth of lions, quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made*

strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of aliens.

3. **Purifies the heart :** Acts 15:9-*So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them* [the Gentiles] *by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us, and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*
4. **Justifies believers making them *just as if they had never sinned:*** (Again, as previously mentioned in thi lesson, "*The just shall live by faith"* is declared four times in the Bible: Habakkuk 2:1-5; Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:10-11; and Hebrews 10:38.)
5. **Sanctifies or separates believers unto God:** Acts 20:15-18-*So I said, "Who are You, Lord?" And He said, **"I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to make you a minister and a witness both of the things, which you have seen, and of the things, which I will yet reveal to you. I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to open their eyes, in order to turn them from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."***
6. **Quenches the darts of the enemy:** Ephesians 6:16-*...above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.*

7. **Overcomes the world:** 1st John 5:4-*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has over come the world-our faith.*
8. **Calls us to fight:** 1st Timothy 6:12a-*Fight the fight of faith…*
9. **Allows us to receive the promise of the Spirit:** Galatians 3:13-14: *Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree," that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.*
10. **Makes us righteous:** Romans 9:30-*What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness of faith.*

So What is Faith?

The faith chapter is Hebrews 11. In the first verse of Hebrews 11, we are given the definition of faith: *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.* Another way to see this is with the metaphor of the title to property. If you are a home owner, you have a title to the property saying this property belongs to me. Faith is a title deed to your eternal estate in God. The Christian life New Testament editors say this about faith: *"Faith is paradoxical. It goes beyond reason. It believes without understanding 'why'. It sings in prison (Acts 16:25-But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them). It glories in tribulations (Romans 5:2-3-…through*

which also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance…). It chooses to suffer (Hebrews 11:24-25-By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin). It accepts all things as a part of God's will (Philippians 1:12-But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel).

The Bible nowhere tries to prove the existence of God. The writers, ultimately the Holy Spirit, of both New and Old Testament felt there was no need to try to prove His existence because their faith in God was so strong. Hebrews 11:6: *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.* This is not to say that you cannot prove His existence. We know that Jesus is God the Son, for example, and there is more solid evidence that Jesus lived, died, and rose again than that George Washington was President of the United States. So there is plenty of historical evidence of a God. We also see the Creator in His creation. We can know Him through His Word. There is a universal belief in God within mankind. There is the cause and effect argument, i.e. if there is a watch, there must be a watch maker. If there is a creation, there must be a creator. But the man and woman of faith is content with the simple opening of the Bible: Genesis 1:1: *In the beginning God….*

We receive the *measure of faith* when we come into relationship with Christ (Romans 12:3-*For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith*). We grow in faith through reading and studying the Word of God (Romans 10:17-*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God*). And we can aspire to an even greater exercise of faith through being filled with the Holy Spirit and receiving the Gift of Faith (1st Corinthians 12:9a-*to another faith by the same Spirit…* and 1st Corinthians 13:2b-*though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing*).

In summary, the Word of God teaches us the importance of faith (taken from the Christian Life new Testament Master Outlines):

1. You cannot be saved without faith (John 3:36-*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.* Basically, this tells us that the difference between a saved man and an unsaved one is faith!).
2. You cannot live victoriously over the world without faith (1st John 5:4-*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-our faith*).
3. You cannot please God without faith (Hebrews 11:6-*But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him*).

4. You cannot pray without faith (James 1:6-*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind*).
5. You cannot have peace with God without faith (Romans 5:1-*Therefore, having been justified by fiath, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ*).
6. You cannot have joy without faith (1st Peter 1:8-*…whom having not seen, you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory…*).
7. You are justified by faith and not by works (Galatians 2:16-*knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified*).
8. You are to live by faith (Galatians 2:20-*I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me*).
9. You are made righteous by faith (Romans 10:1-4-*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes*).

10. Christ dwells in your heart by faith (Ephesians 3:17a-*that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith…*).
11. The Holy Spirit is received by faith (Galatians 3:2-*This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?*).
12. "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin' (Romans 14:23-*But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin*).

By faith the mind trusts in God; the heart responds to the love of God; the will submits to the commands of God; and the life obeys in the service of God.

THE ANOINTING

I want to begin by saying that I had rather have anointing when I teach or speak more than just about anything else. Anointing is easier to recognize than to define. It is that divine equipping for service that can turn a shy, unprepared speaker into a dynamic spokesman for the Lord. It turns a boring sermon into a powerful message that pierces the hearts of the hearers. We read today the words of Jonathan Edwards, the colonial preacher, and find the words uninteresting, but the people of his day were so moved that they "white knuckled' the pews in front of them because they literally felt they were going to fall into hell unless they got to the altar and repented. Why? Because Edwards, though holding his notes close to his face because of poor eyesight and reading the words verbatim in a monotone, was anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Dr. Paula Price defines *anointing* in her book *The Prophet's Dictionary:* "A sacramental rite whereby the acts or effects of being chosen for delegated position or purpose are signified by pouring or smearing oil upon a person elevated to an office. The act symbolically communicates the power, authority, enablement, and/or licensure of a deity being transmitted to the worker."

The anointing is both an Old Testament and New Testament concept:

Old Testament Scripture

And thou shalt put them [the garments of the priestly office] *upon Aaron, thy brother, and his sons with him; and shalt anoint them* [Aaron and his sons] *for glory and consecrate* [*sanctify* -separate unto God] *them, that they may minister unto Me in the priest's office.*

Exodus 28:40-41

"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach the good tidings to the poor. He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of venegeance of our God; to comfort all those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Isaiah 61:1-3

New Testament Scripture

So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."

Then He closed the book and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Luke 4:16-21 (taken from Isaiah 61)

Purposes of the Anointing from Isaiah 61 and Luke 4:

1. **To preach the Gospel to the poor (spiritually poor)**
2. **To heal and restore people**
3. **To proclaim freedom to the captives**
4. **To open blind eyes (spiritually as well as physically)**
5. **To set people free**
6. **To proclaim God's timing**

To be anointed has two applications in scripture:

1. First, oil is poured upon people (including prophets, priests, kings, the Messiah) or objects (such as a stone

in Genesis 28:18 and 35:14 or on the tabernacle furniture) to indicate that they have been set-aside for divine purpose. This symbolic act indicates that the person or object is being given divine enablement, power, authority, or licensure by the Holy Spirit.

2. All workers of the Gospel can receive a special empowerment, while speaking or ministering, from the Holy Spirit. Thus, literal oil is not used, but the Spirit which is often symbolized as oil, just comes down on a person as they are ministering or speaking or writing or prophesying, etc. The person becomes passive and the Spirit takes control. This is possible because we are joined to the Anointed One, Christ, and can share in His anointing (2nd Corinthians 1:21-22: *Now He who establisheth us with you is Christ, and hath anointed us, is God, Who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.*

Three Special Anointings in Scripture

A. **The Prophetic Anointing** (1st Kings 19:16-"*And you* [Elijah] *shall anoint Jehu the son of Nimshi as king over Israel. And Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel Meholah you shall anoint as prophet in your place."*): The prophetic helps us understand the times in which we live and helps us prepare for what lies ahead. Since we most likely live at the end of the age and might possibly see the Kingdom of God fulfilled in completeness and the Second Coming of Jesus in our life time, it is very important that we have the prophetic anointing so that we can be prepared for what lies ahead.

B. **The Priestly Anointing** (Exodus 29:1,7-"*And this is what you shall do to them to hallow them for ministering to Me as priests: Take on young bull and two rams without blemish…And you shall take the anointing oil, pour it on his head and anoint him."*): The priestly anointing refers to reconciliation, worship, and intercession.

C. **The Kingly Anointing** (1st Samuel 10:1-*Then Samuel took a flask of oil and poured it on his head and kissed him and said, "Is it not because the LORD has anointed you commander over His inheritance?"*): This refers to government, rule, dominion, and authority. We need this anointing so that we can bring the Kingdom of God to earth so that eventually, *The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever.* (Revelation 11:15). This will happen only after the fulfillment of the following scripture: *The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool* (Psalm 110:1, Matthew 22:44, Mark 12:36, Luke 20:42-43, Acts 2:34-35, Hebrews 1:13, Hebrews 10:12-13) As I have often said, I believe that we will be used by the Father to make the enemies of Jesus His footstool, and we will thus bring the Kingdom of God to its total fulfillment with the coming of Jesus by starting to bring it incrementally where He has planted us in the work place and in the community and wherever we go.

Someone spoke of this Kingly Anointing: *David was the youngest of 8 brothers and was out tending*

sheep while his brothers, with the elders of the town, their father Jesse, and Samuel the prophet, were attending the sacrifice. Yet he was the one chosen by the Lord. The Lord said to Samuel, "...for man looketh on the outward appearance, by the LORD looketh on the heart" (1st Samuel 16:7). *Immediately upon his anointing, the SPIRIT OF THE LORD came upon David from that day forward. This tells us that the kingly anointing seemingly comes based, among several other factors, on the following:*

1. *Our faithfulness in tending sheep or doing the behind the scenes jobs the Lord calls us to, until HE promotes us*
2. *Our heart condition*
3. *Our openness to the Spirit of the Lord.*

<u>Other Anointings (these are not the only ones in scripture but are two I want to highlight)</u>

1. **The Leper Anointing**: Leviticus 14 the leper was anointed on the 8th day after recovery from this disease. Eight being the number of new beginnings. This was an anointing for purification, not consecration. Leprosy is symbolic of sin. The leper had to stay outside of the camp until after he was anointed by the priest with blood. This blood was applied to the leper's ear (symbolic of the thought life), the leper's thumb (symbolic of the person's work life), and the toe (symbolic of one's walk in the Lord). After this, oil was applied, thus symbolizing the touch of the Holy Spirit upon a life cleansed by the blood of Jesus. Thus, we are all leprous before coming to Jesus

and receiving the purification anointing of His shed blood and the Holy Spirit.

2. **The Breaker Anointing**: Isaiah 10:20-27 And *it shall come to pass in that day* (the Day of the Lord, which will include the destruction of all Gentile world power or the Babylonian World System, and which will culminate in the Second Coming of Christ in Glory) *that the remnant* (the Zion of God which is that company of Christians, found in many different churches, who have a passion for Jesus and long for intimacy with Him and His return) *of Israel and such as escape the house of Jacob* (both Israel and the house of Jacob are symbolic of the Church of the Living God) *shall no more again lean upon him who smote them* (the wicked one), *but shall lean upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth. The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the Mighty God. For though thy people Israel be like the sand of the sea, yet a remnant of them shall return; the full end decree shall overflow with righteousness. For the Lord God of hosts shall make a full end, even determined, in the midst of the land. Therefore, thus said the Lord God of hosts, O my people that dwell in Zion, be not afraid of the Assyrian* (Assyria was a great center of Ishtar worship. The young girls dressed immodestly and stood on the steps of the temple to Ishtar so that they could seduce males to have sex with them. Technically virgins belonged to the priests of Ishtar and could not marry without losing their virginity. Assyria was also a place of brutality, bullying, and hostile threats, which resulted

in captivity and oppression. This sounds like a lot like the spirit behind Hollywood to me!)*; he shall smite thee with a rod and shall lift up his staff against thee, after the manner of the Egypt* (the world or flesh nature). *For yet a very little while and the indignation shall cease and mine anger in their destruction* (In a short time the Lord's anger against His people will be over, the Lord will say that is enough to the Assyrians and turn His anger towards them!). *And the Lord of hosts shall stir up a scourge for him according to the slaughter of Midian at the rock of Orem; and as His rod was upon the sea, so shall He lift it up after the manner of Egypt. And it shall come to pass in that day that His burden shall be taken away from off your shoulders and His yoke from off your neck.* (Just like Gideon defeated Midian and Moses turned the tables on Egypt, so the Lord will destroy the oppression and slavery of the Assyrians against Israel.) *And the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.* (Spiritually, it is the anointing that breaks the yoke of the enemy off the Lord's people today.)

Why We Need the Anointing To Carry Out the Purposes of the Church (from Kevin Conner's *The Church in the New Testament)*

1. **To Minister to the Lord**: Psalm 29:1-2 Give *unto the LORD, O ye mighty; give unto the LORD glory and strength. Give unto the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.*
2. **To Minister to the Saints**: Ephesians 4:11-12 And *He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets;* and

some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ…

3. **To Minister to the Sinner:** Acts 1:8 But *ye shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*
4. **To Minister Destruction to Satan and his kingdom:** Revelation 12:10 And *I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation and strength and the kingdom of God and the power of His Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night.*

How to Increase the Anointing?

1. **Study the Word** (2nd Timothy 2:15-*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.)*
2. **Follow on to Know the Lord** (Hosea 6:3a-*Let us know, let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD…)*
3. **Wait** (Isaiah 40:31-*But those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint.)*
4. **Pray** (James 5:14-15-*Is anyone among you sick? 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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick,*

and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.)

5. **Obey** (Deuteronomy 11:13-14-*And it shall be that if you earnestly obey My commandments which I command you today to love the LORD your God and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.)*

"We live in a time when men and women want anointing without holiness, they want power without righteousness, they want charismata (gifts) from God without sacrifice to God. And when men cannot command God, they attempt to imitate the real with the artificial. The anointing is real and the anointing is powerful, but the anointing is not to make you rich, to give you a magnetic personality, or to elevate you above your fellows. The anointing is a divine impartation of power for service unto God."

Mark Hardgrove

"We must wake-up from our sleep. This is the time to turn to the Lord. Come forth in power under the anointing. The Lord has made His Spirit available to you, under the power and authority of His anointed Branch. The Holy Spirit who resides within you-He is the anointing. 'It is not an impersonal force that I impart, it is My presence moving through you. The more you give yourself to Me, the more I will give Myself to you, and the more the manifestation of My anointing in your life will increase.'"

Teresa Seputis

KNOWING YOUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

Blanche Reynolds was once asked why she always seemed to see people she ministered to set free. Her answer was, "I know my authority in Christ." If we realized the power that the Lord has entrusted His followers with, we would be amazed and would delight in causing great destruction to the kingdom of darkness. We must come to a place where we recognize that authority and walk in it.

Then God said, "Let us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."
Genesis 1:26

Then, He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases.
Luke 9:1

Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name."
Luke 10:17

PRAYER OF AGREEMENT

There is great power in agreement. Perhaps that is why the Lord sent His disciples out two by two. It is a wonderful thing to have a prayer or accountability partner whom you can pray in agreement with. Of course, we can always pray in agreement with the Holy Spirit, if we don't have someone available and close by. The prayer of agreement is a powerful, under utilized weapon in the Body of Christ. As we become more in unity with each other and more mature in the things of God, we are going to find that this weapon is powerful.

"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Matthew 18:19-20