

HOLY SPIRIT: ANOINTING

The indwelling and anointing of the Spirit are virtually the same. They are different aspects of the same truth. This doctrine is frequently not understood and often misstated as something it isn't. The anointing is not a specific empowering for acts of preaching or witnessing or any other service. It is not a special coming upon by the Spirit as in the Old Testament, like in the lives of Gideon, Jephthah, and Samson (Judges 6:34; 11:29; 15:14). It is not like the anointing of a prophet, priest, or a king. It is the indwelling presence of the Spirit as a revealer and teacher of truth (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. He is the personification of truth in us. When we receive the Holy Spirit we receive the totality of eternal truth. We "know all things" (I John 2:20). The truth "abides" in us (I John 2:27). The Spirit of truth "teaches" us and is "true" (I John 2:28). The abiding of the Spirit internalizes the eternal truth of God in us, preparing us for receiving the revealed truth of God's Word. There is no contradiction between the external truth of God's Word and the internal truth of the Spirit. The reason people apostatize is because they have never received the inward anointing of the Spirit. "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us" (I John 2:19). In short, the Spirit of truth is in us, revealing and teaching us the truth of God in perfect consistency with the eternal Word of God (Psalm 118:89).