

THE ANOINTED PRIEST

The role of the Holy Spirit in our priestly calling

Lesson 4

INTRODUCTION: We are super excited that you have joined us for the 4th bible study in our Priests in Blue Jeans series. In this study you are going to examine the role the Holy Spirit is meant to play in your life.

- **Prayer:** Take a few minutes to praise God for his goodness to you and let him know that you would like the Holy Spirit to illuminate spiritual truths to your heart and mind as you work your way through this study.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION: Why do you think that God put "his Spirit" (The Holy Spirit) in his people? If you are doing this study by yourself, write down your answer.

BACKGROUND: Some historical context is appropriate at this point. As stated in a previous study, the Apostle Peter was writing believers who were familiar with the practices of the priesthood. One such practice related to our study was the ordination and anointing of the priest prior to their employment in temple service. Simply put, priests were introduced into the priesthood in a formal way, which included being *anointed* with oil as instructed by God. The Lord God instructed Moses to consecrate Aaron and his sons for priestly work by pouring oil over their heads and sprinkling oil mixed with the blood on their garments. (Exodus 29). The blood was a foreshadowing of blood of Christ that he shed on the cross to cleanse us from our sins. The oil would have been symbolic of the Holy Spirit's role in consecrating us (setting us apart for holy purposes). See the article from our website: *What was the significance of the anointed priest?*

BIBLE STUDY AND SIX LEADING QUESTIONS:

1. Read Luke 4:14-21 and discuss the link between anointing and good news ministry. (It should be noted here that this anointing validated the credibility of our Savior)

*"Anointing" is a special endowment of the Holy Spirit.
Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*

2. Read Acts 2:14-21 (Peter's explanation concerning the outpouring of the Holy Spirit). Discuss the implications of the anointing (outpouring) of the Spirit on the people of God and the unsaved world.

3. Read John 14:11-17 and discuss what you believe this all means related to living out our calling as Priests in Blue Jeans. (we must not overlook the fact that these disciples who Jesus was talking to had left everything to follow him-in other words they were totally in)

4. Would you agree or disagree that being filled by the Holy Spirit will increase the possibility/probability of being used to influence others in extraordinary ways?

"The church becomes irrelevant when it becomes purely a human creation. We are not all we were made to be when everything in our lives and churches can be explained apart from the work and presence of the Spirit of God." – Francis Chan

STATEMENT OF FACT: The first century church was effective for one reason, believers allowed the Holy Spirit to use them as he saw fit. People were healed, people were delivered from demonic strongholds, and most importantly, people were saved!!!!

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement, why or why not? *God never intended Christianity to be a subculture because subcultures are cultures that are subservient to the more powerful culture.*

- Perhaps the world's commentary of the first-century church reflects the true influence we were meant to have in society;

These men who have turned the world upside down have come here also.

Acts 17:6

6. According to the Apostle John's letter to the body of Christ what is another benefit that believers receive as a result of being anointed by the Holy Spirit?

"But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things." 1 John 2:20

The word "know" in this verse refers to the believer intuitively knowing truth from false teaching, holding firmly onto the gospel message and spiritual truth they originally received. The anointing keeps us in the truth by the Holy Spirit as we stay humble.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus (Priests in Blue Jeans), you have been anointed to serve as *holy representatives* in your community, both inside and outside the four walls of your church. Therefore, it is essential that you live holy lives. To quote the Apostle Peter, *but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct* (1 Peter 1:15) As Priests in Blue Jeans you must resist the appetites and moods of the flesh if you want to be fruitful in your service to God. Perhaps it's worth a fresh glimpse of Galatians 5:19-23 for a little clarity on the matter.

CLOSE IN PRAY: As you close in prayer tonight you might want to ask people in your study if they need a refill of God's Spirit in their lives. This might be a good time and place to confess sins to one another and pray for one another that God would transform your lives afresh! This would be in keeping with James words to the church (James 5)