

The Anointing versus The Word

By Martyn Shenstone

When you tell some people that the key to a victorious Christian life essentially boils down to filling your heart and mind with God's word and appropriately speaking it out your mouth; You often get the response - *We don't believe in formulas!*

Strange as it may seem the very people who claim not to believe in formula's usually have one universal formula, sometimes with slight variations, for everything: Come forward, get prayed for, fall down on the floor, get up and go back to your seat. This magic formula is supposed to work on everything from broken marriages to unemployment.

Clearly this universal formula, often applied regularly and without fail, does not work. The same people are always trying it without results. Some try it often, others now and again, some with different preachers and some even travel great distances all to see if they can *get it*. Some Christian TV stations even forsake all their regular programs just to show special events where everyone is apparently getting *it*.

What is this elusive and special something that so many Christians relentlessly chase as the panacea to all their problems? It is of course the anointing! Commonly understood to be the power of God's Spirit.

Many Christians believe that if they feel the anointing when being prayed for then their need is far more likely to be met than if they feel nothing at all. This far fetched idea is totally unbiblical and yet universally popular. Why? Because those who embrace it think it exempts them from a lifestyle of faith.

A lifestyle of faith is where a Christian has more of God's word than the world abiding in their heart and coming out their mouth. Where they always endeavour to keep a pure heart by simply being real and honest with both themselves and God.

Where they walk in great confidence in the abounding love that God has for them instead of in a *maybe this time* mentality. Always endeavouring to do what they know to do by the Holy Spirit within their heart and from what they see in God's written word. Always being quick to change when they make a mistake. Anything else, no matter how elaborately excused, always creates an impure heart. Faith cannot work through an impure heart - never ever!

Many Christians are very excited when they first hear the biblical message of faith; That all God's promises are *'yes and amen' to those who believe* (2 Corinthians 1:20). The prospect of being healthy and prosperous as the Bible clearly shows is God's best intention for His children, is a great revelation to many. After a few edges have been tidied up and jumbo jets are no longer being believed for overnight most then set about trying to enter their promised land. After about a year almost all have given up because they have not yet begun to receive what they are presumably biblically believing for.

This is usually accompanied by a few additional insights such as *it's not God's will for everyone to be prosperous, you can't just order God about* and of course that most beautiful of all meaningless phrases but quite irrefutable (because there's never any substance accompanying it to refute) - *God is Sovereign* which is simply another way of saying, 'I have no idea what's going on at the moment.'

You see the problem is that to most Christians the idea of changing their lifestyle, no longer fraudulently copying every CD and DVD they can, being entertained by sin on television and the internet, saying one thing and doing another, claiming they are broke when they have thousands and actually doing what God's word says in their life is unthinkable. It's extreme. After all some say, *the Lord knows how I feel, He wouldn't pressure me, He wants me to be free.*

Being free and feeling free from any kind of effort are quite different things. Anyway, needs remain unmet and after hearing good word based preaching very few revert to denying God's will is for them to be with rather than without. The

problem is how to get from one to the other. People need a way to receive without any uncomfortable change on their part. The answer? The anointing!

The anointing will do it all for them. No longer do they have to sincerely believe and consistently speak and diligently make sure that they are keeping the door open for God's blessings in their life. Now they can apply the universal formula: Minister + Hands + Anointing + Floor = Answer. All that faith stuff and getting in the word can go. (Yippee! turn the telly back on). But what does the word say?

The yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Isaiah 10:27

You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

John 8:32

Notice that if you are under a yoke of oppression the anointing will blow the doors off your prison cell, but it will not lead you to freedom. Principally the anointing does not give you health - it destroys sickness. Many anointed ministers are sick. Only God's word is life and health to all your flesh (Proverbs 4:22).

The anointing will break the hold of the spirit of debt in your life but without exercising faith with an accurate knowledge of what God's word says about working you will not prosper. God spoke through the Prophet Hosea saying,

My people perish for a lack of knowledge.

Hosea 6:7

People do not perish for a lack of anointing. Stop chasing the elusive tomorrow of when God moves and the anointing falls and start abiding in God's word today and then He will be able to move through you - and that's anointed!