

# Anointing Oil

by Angela Gassaway

In Biblical times, people used anointing oil for many purposes. Some oils were used every day for hygiene reasons, very similar to cologne and perfume. Some oils were used for religious and governmental ceremonies, such as anointing new priests and kings into positions of power. Other oils were used for medicinal and burial purposes. Each fragrance of oil had a different symbolism and usage. Although using anointing oil is not common in American culture, it was a very common part of our Savior's world.

The Bible tells us that we have been adopted into the family of God. We are joint heirs with Jesus. Jesus was a Jew, and we can learn more about Him by learning of His culture and heritage. Anointing Oil is just one aspect of His Jewish life. Jesus Himself is the "Anointed One." The word "anointing" is frequently used to refer to the power of God or the Spirit of God residing in a Christian or in any place the manifest presence of God shows up.

**Anoint** - : 1. to smear or rub with oil or an oily substance. 2. *a* : to apply oil to as a sacred rite especially for consecration, *b* : to choose by or as if by divine election.

In **John 1:41** (KJV) Jesus is referred to as the "Christ," which can be translated, "anointed," from Strong's Greek word #5547 – Christos - anointed.

"... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power..." **Acts 10:38**

The Old Testament kings were anointed of a human high priest but King Jesus was anointed of God Himself. We no longer have to go through priests. God chooses to give His anointing whenever and to whomever He chooses. God anoints us with the Holy Spirit and His power. Jesus said we will do even greater things than he did, all through the anointing!

Jesus spoke about fasting. He taught that we should carry on about our regular daily business so that our fasting is done in secret.

"... when you fast, do not be like the hypocrites, with a sad countenance. For they disfigure their faces that they may appear to men to be fasting. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. <sup>17</sup> But you, when you fast, **anoint your head and wash your face,** <sup>18</sup> so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly." **Matthew 6:17**

This signifies that anointing one's head was an everyday occurrence for those who could afford to do so. Many people were too poor to purchase fine smelling oils. This helps explain why the story of the woman with the Alabaster box is so touching and significant.

<sup>37</sup> And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil, <sup>38</sup> and stood at His feet behind Him weeping; and she began to wash His feet with her tears, and wiped them with the hair of her head; and **she kissed His feet and anointed them with the fragrant oil.** <sup>39</sup> Now...the Pharisee ...saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, "This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner..."  
 ... <sup>44</sup> Then (Jesus said) "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave Me no water for My feet, but she has washed My feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head. <sup>45</sup> You gave Me no kiss, but this woman has not ceased to kiss My feet since the time I came in. <sup>46</sup> You did not anoint My head with oil, but this woman has anointed My feet with fragrant oil. <sup>47</sup> Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little." <sup>48</sup> Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

### **Luke 7:37-48**

We see this again in Luke 12, as Mary washes Jesus' feet with a beautiful smelling oil that was very expensive. Jesus said it was appointed that she would do this because it had been kept for the day of His burial.

<sup>3</sup> Then Mary took **a pound of very costly oil** of spikenard, **anointed the feet of Jesus**, and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the oil. <sup>4</sup> ...Judas Iscariot, ...said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> This he said, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief, and had the money box; and he used to take what was put in it. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus said, "Let her alone; she has kept this **for the day of My burial.** <sup>8</sup> For the poor you have with you always, but Me you do not have always." **John 12:3-7**

## **Priests and Kings**

The Lord commissioned prophets to anoint priests and kings with oil when they became leaders and rulers over Israel. The oil was poured or smeared on them when they were appointed into that position of power. Jesus has poured or smeared his Holy Spirit on those of us who believe in Him. We continue to use oil as a symbol. We are being anointed for service in His kingdom. We have been made kings and priests to exercise His authority here on the Earth.

<sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." **1 Peter 2:9**

"...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us **kings** and **priests** to His God and Father..." **Revelation 1:5-6**

"After you put these clothes on your brother Aaron and his sons, **anoint** and **ordain** them. **Consecrate** them so they may serve me as priests." **Exodus 28:41**

"This is what you are to do to consecrate them, so they may serve me as priests... Take the anointing oil and **anoint him by pouring it on his head.**" **Exodus 29:1,7**

"And take some **blood** from the altar and some of the **anointing oil** and sprinkle it on Aaron and his garments and on his sons and **their garments**. Then he and his sons and their garments will be consecrated." **Exodus 29:21**

Thank Jesus! We no longer have to be sprinkled with the blood of sacrificial animals to be consecrated! The blood of Jesus is more than enough! In this scripture they mixed the blood and the oil and sprinkled it on their garments. It is only as a prophetic symbol that we continue to use anointing oil to anoint believers today.

There is however, one specific mixture of oil we are commanded to never replicate. It was a very special oil that was made by the priests and only used in the Temple of God. Though we are not to make this mix of oil again, we can see several different fragrances being used in this forbidden recipe.

"<sup>22</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, <sup>23</sup> "Take the following fine spices: 500 shekels of liquid **myrrh**, half as much (that is, 250 shekels) of fragrant **cinnamon**, 250 shekels of fragrant **calamus**, <sup>24</sup> 500 shekels of **cassia**—all according to the sanctuary shekel—and a hin of **olive oil**. <sup>25</sup> Make these into a **sacred anointing oil**, a fragrant blend, the work of a perfumer. It will be the sacred anointing oil. <sup>26</sup> Then use it to anoint the tent of meeting, the ark of the covenant law, <sup>27</sup> the table and all its articles, the lampstand and its accessories, the altar of incense, <sup>28</sup> the altar of burnt offering and all its utensils, and the basin with its stand. <sup>29</sup> You shall **consecrate them** so they will be most holy, and **whatever touches them will be holy**. <sup>30</sup> "Anoint Aaron and his sons and consecrate them so they may serve me as priests. <sup>31</sup> Say to the Israelites, 'This is to be my sacred anointing oil for the generations to come. <sup>32</sup> Do not pour it on anyone else's body and do not make any other oil using the same formula. It is sacred, and you are to consider it sacred. <sup>33</sup> Whoever makes perfume like it and puts it on anyone other than a priest must be cut off from their people.'" **Exodus 30:22-33**

Anointing Oil is not a lucky charm or religious ritual that we must perform in order to get a particular outcome. It is a prophetic act that releases the anointing of the Anointed One, Jesus Christ. It is NOT the only way to release the anointing, but it is a valid tool to use in prayer and worship. We can see clearly from scripture that they anointed buildings and objects as well as people. This special mixture of oil was so Holy, that when the priests had been anointed, anything they touched became holy! If the oil used back then was so important, could it stand to reason that oil could still be a powerful resource in our walk with God today?

### **Exodus 30 – Anointing of the Temple Implements**

**Tent of Meeting** – the Tent was divided into the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies. Only the Priest could enter into the tent. But since we are also Priests, we can enter into His manifest presence and minister to the Lord!

*Anoint yourself with oil as you come together with the saints in the meeting place!*

**Ark of the Covenant and Holy of Holies** – God commanded Moses to put in the ark three items, including the Ten Commandments tablets. The atonement cover was the lid for the ark. The atonement cover was God’s dwelling place in the tabernacle. God's dwelling place is now in our hearts. As a royal priesthood, we can enter into the Holy of Holies!

*Anoint yourself with oil as you enter into the Lord's presence!*

**The Table of Showbread** – “Showbread” also was called “bread of the presence” because it was to be always in the Lord’s presence. Jesus is the bread of life. Jesus said if we eat of this bread we will never hunger or thirst again and we shall live forever (John 6:35, 51). We no longer have to be in the temple or tent to fellowship with God; we can approach His throne with boldness, any time we want!

*Anoint yourself with oil as you minister to the Lord!*

**The Lampstand** – The lampstand was the only source of light in the Holy Place, and it gave light to the Table of Showbread. The lampstand enabled the priests to fellowship with God and intercede on behalf of God’s people. Jesus is the source of our light, and we are to be a light unto the world as we share the gospel.

*Anoint yourself with oil when you intercede for and minister to others!*

**The Altar of Incense** – God commanded the priests to burn incense on the golden altar every morning and evening. The incense was to be left burning continually throughout the day and night as a pleasing aroma to the Lord. Our prayer and worship is a pleasing aroma to the Lord! We are to pray without ceasing, and worship in all circumstances, good or bad.

*Anoint yourself with oil when you pray and when you worship!*

**The Altar of Burt Offering** – The Brazen altar was the place for burning animal sacrifices. Israelites had to be cleansed by the blood of an innocent creature before they could approach a Holy God. For a sin offering, a person had to bring an animal without blemish to be burned as a sin offering. Jesus is our sacrifice for our sins, and he was without blemish.

*Anoint yourself with oil when you confess your sins to the Lord!*

**The Basin and Stand** - The basin was a large bowl filled with water located halfway between the brazen altar and the Holy Place. The priests were to wash their hands and their feet in it before entering the Holy Place and it stood as a reminder that people need cleansing before approaching a Holy God. We can ask Jesus to give us clean hands and a pure heart.

*Anoint yourself with oil as you come to the Lord for cleansing!*

We are called to anoint not only ourselves, but all Holy “utensils.” We can anoint our Bibles, the pews or chairs in the church, or any other item consecrated to the Lord for His good service!!! It is not a necessity that we go around anointing everyone and everything we see, but as we are **LED BY THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD**, we most certainly have freedom and Biblical standing to anoint any or all of these things with anointing oil.

"Early the next morning Jacob took **the stone** he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and **poured oil** on top of it. He called that place **Bethel**, though the city used to be called Luz." **Genesis 28:18-19**

Bethel means House of God! Jacob anointed a rock! We can anoint the House of God, (the Church.) We can anoint our homes, and our work places. In the New Testament, the Spirit of God lives in the hearts of men, and WE are His temple. We are the House of God, and we can most definitely anoint ourselves.

## Anointing Kings and Prophets

"So Samuel took **the horn of oil** and **anointed him** in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the **Spirit of the LORD** came powerfully upon David...." **1 Samuel 16:13**

This scripture is so important. It was the anointing of oil by Samuel that caused the Spirit of the Lord to come powerfully upon David. Every believer should desire this! As we mentioned above, anointing oil may not be the only way, but we can see so many examples in scripture that is a valid way to release and receive the anoint of Jesus. In Biblical times, anointing a king was equivalent to crowning him, and as believers, we have been anointed to receive a kingdom that we cannot fully see in this realm. The Lord has anointed us. And sometimes, like David, we can be anointed, and not see the fulfillment of it. Sometimes, we may be in the wilderness for a season, as God may be preparing us and teaching us. But even when you don't really feel anointed, you must trust that you ARE anointed!

" Also, **anoint** Jehu...., and anoint Elisha.... to succeed you as prophet." **1 Kings 19:16**

"Do not touch my **anointed ones**; do my prophets no harm." **1 Chronicles 16:22**

## Healing and Deliverance

" The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because **the LORD has anointed me** to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn..." **Isaiah 61:1-2**

**We have a job to do! The Lord has anointed us so we can release His power in the Earth!**

"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call **the elders** of the church to pray over them and **anoint them with oil** in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

**James 5:14-15**

" They drove out many demons and **anointed many sick people with oil** and healed them."

**Mark 6:13**

## Unusual Miracles

*"<sup>11</sup> Now God worked **unusual miracles** by the hands of Paul, <sup>12</sup> so that even **handkerchiefs** or **aprons** were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them."* **Acts 19:11-12**

The Apostle Paul carried such an anointing that people would be healed just from walking in his shadow. When he prayed, the anointing that was in him passed into cloth, such as handkerchiefs and aprons. Those cloths were then used to release the anointing to others!

*"<sup>27</sup> And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the **anointing**."* **Isaiah 10:27** (freedom from the Assyrians)

**Anointing** – in the Hebrew – 8081 - Shemen – grease, especially liquid, (as from the olive, often perfumed), anointing, ointment, olive.

**It is the anoint of Jesus that breaks every yoke of the enemy! The anointing brings FREEDOM!**

## Protection

*"Then Moses summoned all the elders of Israel and said to them, "Go at once and select the animals for your families and slaughter the Passover lamb. <sup>22</sup> Take a bunch of **hyssop**, dip it into the blood in the basin and put some of the blood on the top and on both sides of the doorframe. None of you shall go out of the door of your house until morning. <sup>23</sup> When the LORD goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see **the blood** on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down."*

**Exodus 12:21-23.** Hyssop used in Passover with the blood of the Lamb for protection.

**Psalm 23:5** – anoint my head w oil

**Psalm 92:10** – fresh oil

**Luke 4:18** – the Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to...

**2 Corinth 1:21** – God anointed us

**Hebrews 1:9** – God anointed us with oil of joy

**1 John 2:20** – we have received anointing from the Holy One

**1 John 2:27** – anointing from Jesus

## Symbolism in Anointing Oil Fragrances

When you buy a bottle of oil, it will list a connected symbolism on the bottle. There are specific scriptures that tie that particular fragrance to that symbol. In scripture, one translation may vary greatly when speaking of fragrant oils. Some translations may list the name of the specific oil used, while others may say fragrant oil, precious ointment, precious perfume, or expensive perfume. Below is a list of some of the possible symbolism.

## List of Oil Symbols

**Cassia** – Humility, stripped of pride, servant.  
Exodus 30:24, Psalm 45:8, Ezekiel 27:19

**Cedars of Lebanon** – strength, permanence, wholeness. King David and King Solomon used this wood for the construction of the temple.  
Lev. 14:4, Psalm 92:12

**Frankincense** – prayer, intercession, and healing.  
Exodus 30:34, Nehemiah 13:5, Matt. 2:11

**Henna or Camphire** – atonement, repentance, tenderness.  
Song 1:14, Song 4:13

**Hyssop** – cleansing and purification.  
Exodus 12:22, Lev. 14:4, 14:6, 14:49, 14:51, 14:52,  
Numbers 19:6, 19:18, Psalm 51:7, John 19:29, Hebrews 9:19

**Lily** – honor and purity of heart.  
Song 2:1-2

**Myrrh** – preparation, dying to self.  
Gen. 37:25, Gen 43:11, Exodus 30:23, Esther 2:12,  
Psalm 45:8, Prov 7:17, Song 1:13, Matt. 2:11, Mark 15:23, John 19:39

**Pomegranate** - Fruitfulness, blessing, abundance.  
Exodus 28:33, Numbers 13:23

**Rose** – beauty of the Bride.  
Song 2:1, Isaiah 35:1

**Spikenard** - Intimacy, extravagant worship.  
Song 1:12, 4:13-14, Matt 26:7, Mark 14:3, Luke 7:38, John 12:3

**Cinnamon** – Holiness, set apart.  
Proverbs 7:17, Song 4:12-14

**Calamus** – Moral uprightness.  
Exodus 30:23, Song of Solomon 4:14, Ezekiel 27:19