

Book Review - 'The Anointing' by Benny Hinn

This book printed in 1992 and reprinted in 1997 has sold millions of copies and features a stunning array of new teaching never heard of in over 1,900 years. Page after page I waited for a definition of what this mystical '*anointing*' is.

The book begins with some credible statements but quickly falls into extraordinary stories of Hinn's personal supernatural encounters with God. These are used as proof of his theology on the '*anointing*'.

Throughout the book Hinn writes about the '*presence*' as necessary *before* the '*anointing*' can come and that the presence is necessary to combat demons and diseases. *No Scripture* is given to prove this. The '*presence*' and the '*anointing*' are terms continually used interchangeably. The intended message is one of power for the supernatural.

In Chapter two Hinn says '*God came into my room so strong...a cloud of glory came into that building...it was heavy - so heavy that you couldn't move...whoosh! God's presence and power swept through the auditorium*'. In following chapters Hinn often recounts God speaking to him *personally* and *audibly*: '*That's part of the price, Benny. Are you willing to pay the price for the anointing?...Pay the price and I will give it to you.*'

In chapter 3 Hinn asks God: '*God please don't ever take your anointing from me*'. Hinn says that the anointing should come '*upon*' a Christian's life. He goes on to say that at the transfiguration (Matt 17), the cloud that settles on Peter, James and John, was *the Holy Spirit*. He then equates this with the Old Testament cloud in the tabernacle, (Ex.40:34). Hinn says that this cloud, the cloud that received Jesus into Heaven and the cloud that He will return in, *is the Holy Spirit*. Nowhere is this taught in the Bible, nor has it ever been taught by the church down through the ages!

Hinn echoes the cry of today's experience driven Christians - that he was beforehand starved and dry of spiritual light and desperately seeking *something more*. This led him to seek communication with the Holy Spirit *directly* and He writes: The Holy Spirit was suddenly '*present in my room!*'

Hinn talks of his childhood and that his father '*was the mayor of Jaffa*' and that Hinn had a '*severe stutter*'. Both these have been proven to be lies by Christian researchers and Hinn has been forced to change some of his many stories of earlier years in later editions of this book. The same chapter is full of wild stories of people's reactions to the '*anointing*' that was *in Benny Hinn*. Hinn says that God warned him of the tremendous power that was *especially* given to him.

In chapter 4 Hinn says that until he had the '*anointing*' his prayer life '*was that of a normal average Christian*'. The stage is now set for the reader to think he is only '*average*'.

The '*anointing*' seems to come and go in waves. Hinn says: '*there it (the 'anointing') was...the more time you remain in the presence of God, the more that presence will rub off on you. The thicker it will get...*' In chapter 5 Hinn continues: '*I moved my hand toward the fellow's face and instantly the anointing of the Holy Spirit came...He wobbled and went down...He was healed*'.

In chapter 6 Hinn recounts many of the techniques he learnt from his mentor Kathryn Kulman and how he has *copied* them. One of the lessons Hinn learnt from Kulman was that the Holy Spirit and the anointing comes '*when you're quiet*'. Again and again Hinn recounts stories of the '*anointing*' coming: '*then it happened!...whoosh! Something filled the air. I felt a strong electrical charge...virtually no one was standing but me...I grasped the pulpit tightly, and heard the voice of God...I left you standing to see it.*'

In chapter 7 Benny finally gets to answer the question that everyone wants to know, (if you believe what he writes): '*What is the anointing? It is the power of God...the presence of God the Holy Spirit leads to the anointing of the Spirit which is the power of God and the power of God brings forth the manifestation of the presence*'. Hinn then goes on to attempt to prove this with Acts 1:8: '*You shall receive power - the anointing, the spiritual gifts - after the Holy Ghost - the presence, the person, the fruit - comes upon you...The power of God comes upon you, as a gift*'.

The above quote to any Christian who has read this verse will be seen for what it is - a terrorist act upon Scripture! The power here is not for the '*anointing*' but to '*be witnesses*', as the rest of the verse clearly shows. The Holy Spirit also does not come '*upon*' Christians after salvation in the New Testament! The reference in Acts is a one-off event where the Holy Spirit came to the church. From the transitional events in Acts Chapters 2,8,10 and 19 when the Holy Spirit came to indwell men and women, from here on the

believers were *indwelt*! However, Hinn continually refers back to the *Old Testament* for proof of his teaching. He has to do this because it is not New Testament doctrine!

Hinn then goes on to teach typical Word-Faith (hyper-faith) teaching: *'The voice of God is heard in his presence, and this enables you under the anointing to speak your words that produce results.'*

In chapter 8 Hinn says *'You must have it (the anointing)' otherwise 'there will be no salvations, no healings, no binding of devils. The power is essential.'* The result is that the gullible reader is left with no option but to seek after this elusive 'anointing' or be left *'an average Christian'*! Hinn then goes on to say: *'the anointing increases...obey and it increases. Disobey [presumably Hinn's formula], and it decreases'*. Hinn then says that *'the anointing is dependant upon my words. God will not move unless I say it.'* Again Hinn tells stories of presumably amazing healings and miracles if one follows his theory and gets *'it'*. *The problem is Hinn does not have one single documented healing of an organic disease to his credit. Even his best four 'healings' have been shown to be false by Christian researchers.*

By chapter 9 I was quite stunned, not by the stories but by the lack of Scripture, or Scripture ripped completely out of context. Up to this chapter Hinn's theory rests almost solely on Acts 2, but then he reveals a whole new extra-Biblical teaching on the *'three anointings'* - the *'lepers anointing'*, the *'priestly anointing'*, and the *'kingly anointing'*. The *'lepers anointing'* is supposedly the salvation experience, the *'priestly anointing'* is the *'presence'* and the *'kingly anointing'* is a superior and special anointing difficult to obtain. Hinn says that an increase in anointing comes at crusades and again he goes on to quote healings and miracles at his crusades and that when he steps on to the platform a *'heavier or thicker anointing falls'*. He also says the Holy Spirit *told him* to *'blow'* on people.

In chapter 10 Hinn quotes again Old Testament Scriptures in attempting to prove the 'anointing' but also that this anointing can be *imparted* from one to another, a teaching nowhere to be found in Scripture but common in the occult!

By this time I was growing weary of some of the poorest exegesis I had ever seen in one book. But then I got really annoyed when Hinn began to quote the great revivalist Jonathan Edwards and that the same 'anointing' was with him! Anyone who has studied Edwards works would know that Edwards would have considered Hinn's teaching outright *heresy*!

In chapter 12 to reinforce the teaching of this special 'anointing' Hinn revises his teaching that *'the presence of God is the vehicle that brings the power'*. He quotes more of what God has said *audibly and directly to him personally*. He says: *'I've gone on the platform in a healing service so anointed that one would have thought I'd been praying and reading the Bible all day...Only the anointing will heal all hearts of men and women - that's what the Bible says'*. Yet, no Scriptures are given!

Added to this, Hinn states that there will be a world wide revival , (again no Scriptures given). Hinn also believes that one day every believer will be permanently healed and healthy and the devil will be totally absent from the body of Christ - concepts foreign to Scripture.

In chapter 15 Hinn says that the anointing is like oil and it *'can drain out'* and that we must guard against *'holes'* and keep the oil *'thick'*. He says, *'Is your vessel cracked? Does it leak?...It's important to your spiritual being and growth that you are fed by other servants of God on a regular basis'*. This is one of the keys to Hinn's ministry - a reliance on tapping into *his* resources or to those who have this special 'anointing'. Hinn says this anointing is *'tangible'* and that it will rub off on our lives if we associate with certain people. This is the heresy of *'heavy shepherding'* which plagued Christianity some decades ago, and caused many Christians to look to and come under the control of 'anointed shepherds' instead of God.

Just when I thought Hinn could not give any more extra Biblical teaching he launches into the *'double portion'* special anointing. Of course he quotes Elijah and Elisha - again from the Old Testament. Hinn's step one and two are to equate us, the readers, with either Elijah or Elisha. The rest is simply 1+1=3. However, nowhere in Scripture does Elijah pass on any 'anointing' to Elisha! Hinn *substitutes* the word *'spirit'* for *'anointing'* and whitewashes the fact that Christians today are already *indwelt* by the Holy Spirit and do not have the Holy Spirit come *'upon'* them ever again!

This book by Hinn evolves a whole new systematic theology on the Holy Spirit and the 'anointing' unheard of in previous centuries. Nowhere in the New Testament is such an 'anointing' taught as Hinn espouses! One is left to either believe his incredible extra-Biblical stories of miraculous personal encounters as true and evidence for this 'anointing', or discern it as foreign to Scripture. There should be no other choice.

The outright untruths and exaggerations in this book have already been well exposed by various Christian ministries, (See the article '*Benny Hinn - A Closer Look*' by TA Ministries on our website at http://taministries.net/?page_id=131;) This mythical 'anointing' Hinn speaks of is simply that – *mythical*, for it is not to be found in Scripture. The New Testament only speaks of '*the same anointing*' that we '*have received*' from '*Him*' which abides '*in*' us, (1Jn.2:27). Nothing more than this is taught in the New Testament! The anointing coming '*upon*' people that Hinn speaks of is simply not for believers today. It is an Old Testament experience now replaced by the *indwelling* Holy Spirit!

The writer of this article has no choice but to warn readers who will '*receive the love of the truth*', (2Thess.2:9-11). This man and his books are *dangerous!* Hinn's teaching is false and a tragedy to the historical orthodox Biblical teaching on the nature and work of the Holy Spirit.

Terry Arnold

The 'Anointing' - Real and Counterfeit

Today the word 'anointing' is on everyone's lips. Phrases such as '*the anointing was strong*' are common. What does this word mean and what does the Bible say of it?

In the Old Testament the word *anoint*, *anointing* or *anointed* is used in the following ways:

1. (A) Consecration or separation of objects or people: Objects, (such as temple furniture, Gen.31:13; Ex.29:21; Lev.8:10; Ex.30:22; 40:9), were set aside and '*anointed*' with special oil and never to be used for any other purposes. (B) Priests were also set aside for religious services and anointed with oil, (Ex.28:41; 29:1; 30:30). (C) Kings were set aside for office, (Judges.9:7-15; 1Sam.9:16). (D) Prophets were also set aside and anointed for the office of prophet, (1Kings. 19:16; Is.61:1). All these people did not seek any anointing but were specially *chosen by God*.

2. As an act of greeting or hospitality: In Bible times the Custom in some lands saw people physically anoint themselves with oil as a means of washing or refreshing themselves from the dusty and difficult climate of the Middle East.

3. For burial: Olive oil was applied to the dying or to the dead.

The New Testament occasionally continues the use of the word 'anoint' to mean the physical smearing of oil. Apart from this the only other references are to Jesus Christ as being specially anointed as our high priest, (Lk.4:17; Acts 10:37; Heb.1:9), or to Christians as *all* having the *same* anointing of the *Holy Spirit*, (1Jn.2:27). No human has any more anointing than anyone else! There are simply *no degrees* of anointings in the New Testament!

Despite the above, Signs and Wonders teachers state: '*...the anointing increases. He gives you a little and watches you. Then He gives you more*'*, and that there are degrees such as a '*leper's anointing*' a '*priestly anointing*' and a '*kingly anointing*'**. Signs and Wonders leaders also make much of a '*double portion anointing*'. However the Scripture referred to is usually misquoted! In 2Kings 2:9 Elisha asks for a '**double portion of thy [Elijahs] spirit**'. The Hebrew word for '**double**' means '*to repeat, do again*'. Elisha did not receive a double portion '*anointing*'.

The New Testament 'anointing' is a *sealing* (2Cor.1:21,22) of the Holy Spirit given *only by God Himself!* The problem with the current use of the word 'anointing' is that Signs and Wonders leaders are equating the word with *power* which is simply not New Testament teaching. Some use Acts 1:8 '**You will receive power when the Holy Ghost comes on you...**' The conclusion that many draw from this is: 1. The Holy Spirit anoints 2. The Holy Spirit gives power to the believer 3. therefore *anointing equals power*. This is 1+1=3 theology - a thinking common among the cults. The problem is that the anointing is simply not the power of the Holy Spirit in the true sense of the word.

Anointing is more equal to position than to power and is synonymous with the Holy Spirit Himself. *We are either anointed (have the Holy Spirit) or we do not!* We are anointed as priests (Rev.1:6; 5:10), and Christ is and was specially anointed as high priest. All Christians since Pentecost *have been* anointed (past tense): '**But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you...**', (1Jn.2:27). *There is not one single New Testament Scripture that teaches the 'anointing' as anything more than this!*

Another danger in today's false teaching of 'anointing' is that it is being supposedly *imparted* by laying on of hands or that 'it' comes from outside to inside the person. This is not only unscriptural but plain *occultist*! It has been said that *'impartation is one of the first steps to occultism. It requires an intermediary.'* David Koresh and Jim Jones knew this well before they led over 1,000 people to their deaths. *The real anointing is not an 'it' that can be given or taken away by man!* The Holy Spirit cannot be imparted in such a fashion! New Age gurus are doing the same imparting and occultic transference of spirits! May we not go **'beyond the Word of the Lord'**! (Nu.22:18)

Terry Arnold

* 'The Anointing' by Benny Hinn, P.81 ** Ibid, P.94