

## Liberty Commentary August 18, 2008

A recent statistic indicates that those who attend Christian churches in the United States has now fallen below twenty percent and at the current trend is expected to be around ten percent by the year 2050.

Why is it that many churches are either stagnant or declining in numbers and yet others seem to be vibrant, growing and enthusiastic about their personal relationship with Christ? The answer is in the anointing of God. Every person that has professed faith in Christ as their Savior has been anointed by God with the Holy Spirit of God. The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit comes into the life of the believer at the moment of salvation and accomplishes five things in the life of the repenting sinner. The Holy Spirit **regenerates** (gives us a new nature by the washing of regeneration Titus 3:5), **baptizes** (we have been buried in the likeness of his death and raised in the likeness of His resurrection Rom. 6:3-4), **indwells** (the Spirit of God dwells in you I Cor. 3:16), **seals** (And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you have been sealed unto the day of redemption Eph. 4:30) **fills** (but be filled with the Spirit Eph. 5:18). Four of these five are permanent and need never be asked for again. However, the filling of the Holy Spirit should be asked for as often as needed. The filling of the Holy Spirit is simply allowing the Holy Spirit to be in 100 percent control of our lives. When we do not allow the Holy Spirit access to every venue and corridor of our lives we quench the Spirit (I Thess. 5:19). Quenching the Spirit involves not doing what the Holy Spirit would have for us to do. The filling of the Holy Spirit is synonymous with the anointing of God. Jesus says' "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me". Jesus tells us in Acts chapter 1 that the believer "shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me".

All believers enjoy the saving anointing of the Holy Spirit but many have never moved from the saving anointing to the serving anointing where we allow the Holy Spirit to empower us to do extraordinary things for God as we serve Him. Everyday you get up you ought to ask God for a fresh anointing, a fresh supply of Gods anointing Spirit for what ever it is that you are doing or facing that day. If you are going to work in the factory, the office, or the pulpit, you ought to ask God to anoint you so that you can make a difference in the lives of those around you as you serve God in your realm of influence.

So many of us get up every morning and go through our routine without having sought a fresh anointing for the day. We go off to work out of habit and routine without any consideration for what God wants for us or from us.

Jesus tells us in John 15:5 “for without me you can do nothing”. Without the anointing of God upon our lives we can never accomplish any thing of eternal significant. Many live their lives in the ordinary realm doing their own thing, working their jobs, looking forward to retirement and then they die and in a few months or years they are forgotten and leave no lasting spiritual impact in their community because they never sought Gods anointing upon their lives.

The reason many churches are in decline and many people have no enthusiasm for the things of God is because all too many church members come and sit in the pew Sunday after Sunday and glean lots of information about God but all of the information is meaningless and impractical unless and until you allow the Holy Spirit 100 percent access and control of your life and allow God to anoint you and illuminate you through His Spirit so that the information is translated into relevant, life changing, community impacting, Holy Spirit led Christian living that transforms you into a new person (II Cor. 5:17).

The difference between mediocrity and greatness as it relates to God's plan and program revolves around the anointing. You will never do great things for God until you are willing to spend great time with God seeking His anointing upon your life. The Apostle Paul provides a great example of what it means to live the anointed Christian life and accomplish extraordinary things for God. Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:17-20 how to be an anointed believer. Paul tells us that an anointed believer is a person who is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. When you are under the influence of the anointing of the Holy Spirit you are not in control, the Holy Spirit is in control and instead of having a critical, unthankful, indifferent attitude toward life, all of a sudden things take on an entirely different outlook. You become thankful for each and everyday you wake up because you will view it as one more day to do the will of God. One more day to make a difference in the life of someone who needs the Savior and you will be the most thankful person on the face of the earth no matter what the circumstances.

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