

Anointing Oil Magic?

From the desk of Kenneth W. Lent
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Faith of the Covenant Fellowship
Pembroke, Virginia, USA

“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Master” - *James 5:14*

Does “blessed” anointing oil contain God’s power?

Precisely how do we use anointing oil within the parameter of our Christian faith as mentioned in the Bible? Over the last 2000 years quite a lot of bewilderment has attached itself to the once clear doctrine concerning anointing oil as penned by the prophets and apostles. Whenever a humble spiritual precept is brought to the forefront, we find mystics and soothsayers knocking at the door to “enlighten” us in eagerness of their metaphysical way of thinking. It is therefore quite understandable why confusion sets in. But God's Word sets the record straight about what anointing oil is, and what it is not. We just need to slow down a bit to notice some things in our Bible which the churches have not brought to our attention.

How could it ever be that both the Holy Scriptures and occult wizardry would speak of using oil to anoint objects and people in the same manner of meaning and method? Namely, that oil in and of itself can hold supernatural “powers” that effectuate some sort of desired result when applied to a person, animal, or object? The answer is: they can't. Scripture and wizardry (witchcraft) never share a common doctrine about anointing oil but several churches teach that they do.

If we grasp the basics of what we have here, the great gulf between the two uses of a simple substance of nature (namely a plant oil) will immediately come to light, and many of the “cobwebs” of our understanding will be cleared out.

Primarily these two divergent uses of anointing oil are as follows:

1. Godly. The use of oil (mainly olive oil) in the Scriptures is used as either a normal healing balm for wounds, or as a symbolic application to designate something as being set aside for the use of a Godly calling.

2. Ungodly. The use of anointing oil in wizardry/witchcraft is used for the purpose of attempting to impart “powers” said to be resident in the oil itself, claiming that the oil is a spiritual holder of a “higher power”. False religions see this resident oil power as “god”, while New Age shamans view it as tapping into a so called “universal intelligence”. Misled Christians have been convinced that they can put the Holy Spirit power of God in a bottle, then pass the oil bottle around at will, and use the internal power of the contents to remedy any number of situations that are causing them grief. In using these types of supposed “anointing oils ” it matters not whether it is done in the name of Beelzebub or Jesus Christ, as the mechanics have become the implementation of wizardry forbidden for reasons that will be made clear as we shine the light of Yahweh God's Word into this dark can of spiritual worms. Wizards say that this type of “blessed” oil works miracles, and likewise dogmatic clergy claim the exact same thing. There is really no difference in how these two mystic groups view the oil. To both groups the oil has supernatural power (so they each insist).

But witchcraft/wizardry has no power at all other than the “power” a person gives it out of ignorant self-induced fear. Here's one example of witchcraft and how it actually works in real time: *A witch tells a person “I have put a spell on you and before the week is out something bad will happen to you.” Well, life being what it is – things do go bad, wrong, frustrating, more times in the course of a week than we would ever welcome. Therefore when a person who has been “hexed” by a witch has a flat tire or gets an upset stomach (during that week), he may have an*

irrational impulse to say “aha – its the witch’s curse!” This of course is eccentricity but it has produced genuine fear in the person along with erroneously giving witchcraft an false element of credibility. But in all the centuries that witches have been around do we ever specifically experience anything like this --- A witch tells a person, “I have put a spell on you, so when you get in your car and drive two blocks, three cats will run in front of your car, your engine will stall, a man will ride up behind you on a red bicycle, and puncture your driver’s side front tire with an ice pick.”?

No. That is not going to happen because witches do not have “magic powers”, never had “powers”, and really never will have “powers”. Some involved in that occult craft may think they have unlocked universal mysteries. How many others will never admit witchcraft power is all a pagan hoax? Surely, is not a Christian's way to *encourage* this type of behavior.

Who then has spiritual power that affects our circumstances and personal lives on a level beyond our mortal existence? The Scriptures tell us that only one person has that power for real, and it is Yahweh God Almighty who is The Creator of Heaven and Earth and all therein.

Only the omnipotent Creator is capable of performing miraculous powers above nature's laws since He made those laws in the first place. There are no live “lesser gods”. There are no spirit powers sent forth by heathen deities, church statues, or by deceived people who call upon these “no-gods” and their priest’s formulas. To believe so is to condone and uphold a violation of Yahweh's first commandment:

“I am Yahvah thy Elohim (God) --- thou shalt not have other deities besides me.” (Ex. 20:2,3. Rotherham Version Bible)

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else. I am God, and there is none like me.” (Isaiah 46:9)

“Hath a nation changed their gods which are yet no gods? But my people have changed their glory for that which doth not profit.” (Jer. 2:11)

“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this: that power belongeth unto God.” (Psalm 62:11)

“Blessed be Yahweh God, the God of Israel, who alone doeth wondrous (miraculous) things.” (Psalm 72:18)

But how does this relate to the subject of anointing oil? It does so because it was ungodly witchcraft dogma that many centuries ago corrupted the strictly medicinal or symbolic Israelite use of nature's oils into a false religion that views various plant oils as a spiritist conduit of imaginary “higher powers” that can supposedly be used to control the environment (or people) around them. That is --- using anointing oil for perceived magical purposes. Since nobody has supernatural “powers” but God, the religion of witchcraft/wizardry is a total fraud that sadly can manipulate people's minds with *fears* or *false hopes* to the point of destroying their lives. If enough people adhere to this self imploding concept it can lead a society into many evils of which God has warned.

It is for this reason that Yahweh Almighty calls for the death penalty for those engaged in this far reaching swindle.(Lev.20:27; Deut.18:11). The Bible student may also be interested to discover that in these verses the reference to those who were “consulters of familiar spirits” did not mean that psychic mediums actually conversed with dead people. Rather, these (spirit consulters) were simply ventriloquists once again scamming the people.

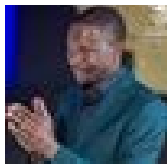
[See Strong's Concordance Hebrew Dictionary #178 for the definition of “familiar spirit” being the Hebrew word *OBE* meaning “mumbler,ventriloquist”.]

Sincere folks who have been convinced to use oils claimed to be “endued with power” that can drive away some malicious “opposing power”, might consider petitioning Father Yah in solemn prayer and ask if this is appropriate. (1 John 4:1)

Oils do not have mystical powers whether they are conjured by occultists or “blessed” by bishops. Some plant oils have medicinal qualities to a certain extent which can be wisely used, but these oils are not “elemental spiritual channels” and are never said to be such in the Scriptures. If they were, God would have told us.

Christians need to operate some discretion in following those who consider anointing oils as bringing forth “divine powers”. Let's take a quick look at just who it is that gravitates to the belief of using anointing oils as spiritual tools in attempts at bringing down “higher powers” to the Earth from above.

Examples of anointing oil ritual groups:



Emmanuel Makandiwa.
Life Lighter Devotional

<http://www.emmanuelmakandiwa.com/devotional/using-anointing-oil-in-prayer/>

“Open your bottle of Oil and anoint yourself. Relax and allow the spirit of the Lord to search your body. “



HooDoo Mamba -

<http://conjureart.blogspot.com/2009/12/invoke-st-expedite-for-quick-results.html>

“Make a very small Voodoo doll out of red fabric, anoint with Fast Luck Oil or St. Expedite Oil, and attach a medal of St. Expedite to the doll.”

<http://www.creolemoon.com/>

Charismatics

[What Happens When People Use Christian Anointing Oil?](#) “I got down and

anointed the area rug in three places ... a voice said “anoint yourself”. I immediately did just that and goose bumps ran up and down my spine “

RomanCatholic Sacramental

Catholic Encyclopedia



<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07421b.htm>

“The consecration and benediction of the holy oils now take place on Holy Thursday at a very solemn ceremony reserved for the bishop.”

Magical Alchemy

http://www.alchemy-works.com/supplies_using_magick_oils.html

“Often magic oils are used to anoint tools for a magical working or ritual--for instance, candles, amulets, or even your own hands.”

Wiccan / Magic

<http://naturalmagickshop.blogspot.com/2010/07/how-to-anoint-candles-with-magick-oils.html>

“It is ideal to use a magick oil that is specific to the purpose on a candle of the appropriate color. Ordinary olive oil can be used on a white candle or colored candles”

The list could continue on, but the above should suffice to point out that superstition abounds concerning anointing oil. It matters not if the group is calling itself Wiccan, Santeria, VooDoo, Catholic, or Christian. Their common denominator is that they seek effective religious “powers”, and claim to find it by sacramental oils.

But what about anointing oil as we read of it in Scripture? God's Word mentions anointing oil twenty times. In the the Old Testament writings we discover that oil was applied to the head of the high priest and his sons designating them to their commission. The furnishings of the tabernacle were marked as holy by sprinkling them with oil. (see Exodus 25:6; Leviticus 8:30; Numbers 4:16).

A special scented anointing oil is found in Exodus 30:23-24 comprised of myrrh, cinnamon, calamus, cassia, and olive oil. It was for symbolically setting apart of the Aaronic priesthood to ministerial service and to dedicate certain items for use in the Tabernacle. They would thus be “holy” items v.29, “proclaimed ceremonially clean.” (Strong's #6942 “kaw-dash”/ clean, proclaimed dedicated, consecrated) The Ferrar Fenton Bible precisely explains this verse as, “*Consecrate them thus and they shall be holy.*” (v.29) The items were only for the priesthood in the Tabernacles service, and the special scented oil was upon the items. Nowhere does it claim that this oil is a divine channel to transmit God's power. For all we know the exact formula was an obedience test for the priests to see if they would follow rules. We don't know and aren't told.

References to anointing with oil in the New Testament are limited to four times. The *context* demands the explanation. In Hebrews 1:8-9,13 the ascended Christ is anointed by Father God with the oil of gladness to “sit at God's right hand”. In Mark 6:13 Christ's disciples used oil on the sick along with healing them. However Mary anointing Jesus' feet in Mark 14:3-9 was an act of worship and burial symbolism.

James 5:14

With all we've covered in the preceding pages, it is the passage in the Book of James that stirs the most controversy, and is the most quoted by supernaturalists to portray anointing oils as having divine powers within them. But was oil needed in any way to receive divine healing elsewhere in Bible narratives? We know this was not the case. Peter and John healed the lame man in Acts 3 solely by saying to him, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.” Paul healed Publius' father without any mention of anointing oil. (Acts 28:8)

King Hezekiah was healed when the prophet Isaiah laid a plaster of figs on his infected boil. (2 Ki. 20:7) Other Bible healings record the same – the necessity of a ceremonial oil “with power”, or the use of oil “to make God do something” is not commanded nor required for miracle healing by divine intervention. But alas, we have the account in James: *“Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Master”. And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Master shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven.”* (James 5:14,15 --- But these verses aren’t speaking about illness!

In order to understand this directive by James in his epistle we must first come into the awareness that the Bible is not about religion as we see it in the denominations today. The message of God's Word has always been, and still is, about God's laws for His people as nations, and that is government not religion. Those who have been students of the Christian Israel Kingdom message are keenly aware of this. Those within that movement who have been in the forefront of the battle for Christian liberty will even more easily empathize with what James is talking about here. Many who have actively defied the ungodly tyranny that has overtaken our once free America have lost nearly all wealth, goods, businesses, marriages, and sometimes lives.

Brutal treatment and abuse of Saxon Christian activists on the part of the world order is standard procedure. Unlawful IRS seizures, raids on farms by state and federal agents, fines and penalties against those wanting to travel by right, violation of due process in court cases, etc. have dragged many a good Christian patriot down the dry harsh road of atheist statism by their jack-booted thugs. And so it was in the days of the early Christians too.

The Bible records that Roman and Jewish authorities exhibited a repeated propensity of scourging and beating Christians on a regular basis.

Our King has well declared about the world system, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you.” (John 15:19) The believers mentioned by James were those who were beaten down and had suffered persecution by the wealthy rulers of the world. They were our brothers who were tormented in their persecutions and were overwhelmed with emotional dejection since they suffered and sacrificed much to endure the madness of tyranny:

“Ye (the wealthy) have condemned and killed the just; and he doeth not resist you.” (James 5:6. Also over worked and no pay by fraud. v4)

“Be patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Master draweth nigh” (v.8 that is, their hearts’ dispositions were worn out)

“Take, my brethren, the prophets who have spoken in the name of Yahweh, for an example of suffering affliction, and of patience.” (v.10)

“Behold we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of Yahweh; that Yahweh is very pitiful and of tender mercy.” (v.11)

As this saga explains – the Christians we read about in James were not in need of healing from physical illnesses. They were beaten down and worn out by the wealthy rulers of their day to the point that they had nearly no “heart” left in them at all. They had carried the testimony of Christian liberty and freedom (the Gospel of the Kingdom) to the degree of monumental despair.

The beast system spoken of by Daniel the prophet was predicted to “wear out the saints of the Most High” by persecution (Dan.7:25) The suffering of persecution, and not physical ailment, is the subject matter of which we read in James chapter 5.

Explanation:

In reading “*Is any sick among you?*” of James 5:14, the word “sick” is *asteneo* in the Greek text. It means to be feeble or weak. It is used at times in connection with a physical disease, however it is used 14 times in reference to emotional or spiritual weakness, such as: Acts 20:35; Rom. 4:19; 8:3; 14:1–2; 1 Cor. 8:11–12; 2 Cor. 11:21, 29; 12:10; 13:3–4, 9.

The apostle Paul tells us that persecutions, reproaches, necessities, and distress for Christ's sake may be likened to infirmities. (2Cor.12:10) Yet the word Paul used for this type of “infirmity” was *asteneo*, the same word used by James to describe the type of “sickness” that his Christian friends had endured by suffering at the hand of the world's wealthy men (v 6). Specifically, *asteneo* means weak. The next verse in James 5 confirms the context, stating: “*And the prayer of faith will save the sick*”. “Sick” here is the Greek word *kamno* which means *tired in toiling, faint*.(v5:15). This word explains what sort of feebleness/weakness is specified in these verses of the book of James.

The Christians of James chapter 5 were fallen brave warriors of Godly witnessing. Their situation resulted from the suffering which James mentions just a few verses earlier -- they were now weak and faint from toiling. They had run out of steam, were depressed, weary, and drained of all hope. Their hearts were crushed by the world system. They even lost the zeal to pray for themselves. James says that there is

only one place for these men to turn – the elders of the body of Christ.

The elders are experienced Christians, well seasoned, compassionate, strong, and spiritually triumphant. The downtrodden may go to the elders to be soothed, recharged, healed of their broken emotions and lashed bodies. The elders' prayer faith is vibrant and solid. James says that the weak can draw upon the strength of the elders and be uplifted to regain their faith. But there are no instructions for the elders to “bless” any oil then to daub the “magic oil” on the heads of those who were oppressed hoping that the oil would have “spirit power”. Some churches such as Catholic try to make holy water in like manner.

The directions for using oil in helping the Christians (to whom James was referring) is what we know concerning the healing balms of those days. Olive oil in particular was extensively used in medicinal treatments of body chafing, wounds, abrasions, or soreness. The first century Christians had been dragged out of their homes, beaten, lashed, over worked, and even murdered, by the political and religious authorities. The New Testament is replete with writings that testify to this situation. The verses before James 5:14,15 confirm it. The anointing oil in this chapter was for mollifying wounds, bruises, and stiff overworked muscles as a merciful aid in restoring wellness to the afflicted. They needed physical medicinal help along with spiritual prayer help. The context in the Greek text clearly reveals that the reference to the elders “anointing with oil in the name of the Master Jesus Christ” was not a reference to a ceremonial use of oil. The word used by James here (for anoint) was from the Greek root *aleipho*, that is, *to rub*.

“The use of olive oil was one of the best remedial agencies known to the ancients — It is by no means certain that aleipho here (James 5) and in Mark 6:13 means “anoint” in a ceremonial fashion rather than “rub” as it commonly does in medical treatises” [Word Pictures in the New Testament Vol. VI, Grk. pg.64; A.T. Robertson, 1933]

In reference support also we have -- “[*aleipho*] is the mundane and profane, [*chrío*] the sacred and religious word” (Synonyms of the New Testament; Richard C. Trench [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1983], 136–37)

If the world’s churches would have translated James 5:14,15 in the plain non-biased Greek text that we see in New Testament Lexicons and Concordances there would have been no confusion as to its accurate meaning. But regrettably, sacramentalists inserted “sick” where James wrote “weak”; and inserted “anoint” where James wrote “rub” in order to slant these verses into the metaphysical/occult realm of thinking. In a candid modern paraphrase we can clearly grasp James' merciful advice for our fallen faithful kin:

“Is there any among you who are weak and faint in their suffering? Let him call for the elders of the assembly; and let them pray over him, rubbing his afflicted body with olive oil, in the name of the Master.”

Keeping in mind that Paul's “infirmities” (weakness) of 2Cor.12:10 were “persecutions, reproaches, necessities, and distress”, a noted literal Greek Version translation is very close to the much revealing and conclusive paraphrase above and verifies the true intent of James' epistle:

“Is anyone infirm among you? Let him call to him the elders of the ecclesia, and let them pray over him, rubbing him with olive oil in the name of the Lord. And the vow of faith will be saving the faltering and the Lord will be rousing him up, and, if he should have done sins, it will be forgiven him.”
(James 5:14,15 The Concordant Literal New Testament; 1926, 1966 Concordant Publishing Concern, Saugus, Cal. USA)

Just as we now realize concerning the New Testament account, it was likewise the compassionate medicinal value of anointing/rubbing oil (and not a wizardry magic power) to which the Old Testament prophets ascribed, by administering comfort with the oils as well.

The prophet Isaiah tells us about a backsliding national Israel and its wounds, *“From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is in it no soundness; bruise and stripe and newly made wound, they have not been pressed out, nor bound up, nor soothed with oil.”* (Isa. 1:6 Rotherham Bible) Here Isaiah likens the nation to a wounded man who is bruised with inflicted stripes, and in need of soothing oil applied to heal.

God's Word is clear and consistent. Nature's oils are for help with bodily healing or are used symbolically as signs (memorials) that a person or thing has a calling into God's service. Contrarily, it is the “religious” ungodly who think they have “holy powers” and thus attempt to use ceremonial oils to enhance an unscriptural concept of “spirit power”, whether claiming to have supercharged prayers, or to direct incantations, spells, hexes, litany, benedictions, or anointing of relics. Dragging the name of Jesus Christ into this arena of metaphysical methodology only compounds the evil; namely: formulating and charging special oils with supposed “spirit power”. Contrite and humble Christians should know better and must know better! Praise be to Yahweh God of our fathers who has given us His guidance in His living written word. All we are required to do is to just read His word and trust Him.

“God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this: that power belongeth unto God.” (Psalm 62:11) No minister or group of elders have power to stick the Holy Spirit into a bottle of oil.

For the believer there is no need to obtain any “blessed” or “charged” oil from New Age book store instructions, the Catholic church, or from any church for that matter. We have already been given the real anointing to assist us in all our prayers and praises. It is the anointing of the Holy Spirit which was given to the ecclesia at Pentecost. (Acts chapter 2:1-18)

“But ye have an unction (chrisma/anointing) from the Holy One, and ye all know it.” (1 John 2:20 - Word Pictures N.T.; Robertson, footnotes)

*“ - - the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you [i.e. you don't need to read doctrines and spirit theories of worldly men] but as **the same anointing** teacheth you of all things, and **is truth**, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.” (1John2:27;Lk.24:49;Joel2:28) Brothers and sisters, God has anointed us with the truth of His Word. (John 17:17)*

God Almighty has graciously given us the true anointing of our abiding within Him and to be guided by His living written word. We need no other anointing that has misconstrued the Scriptural meaning of that word. The anointing to live in The Word and to be led of The Spirit therein has been lavishly poured out upon us for our total benefit. In this we give glory to Yahweh (The Everliving) God. Hallelujah! (Yah) In this truth He sustains us with His healing reassurance during our Christian suffering for the Gospel.

“--- we must through much tribulation enter into the Kingdom of God” (Acts 14:22)

“Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me.” (Psalm 119:49,50)

For our much needed healing of physical ailments our Heavenly Father asks that we humbly remember all His benefits that He has given our family of His sons and daughters.

“Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” (Psalm 103:2,3)

The use of sacramental wizard oil even in the name of Jesus Christ is not one of the divine benefits mentioned by the prophets or apostles. Be not deceived. The doctrine of supposed “church blessed oil” is not to be found in Scripture. Unless the numbering of a Christian’s days are at an end, healings come by the application of Yahweh’s Living Word to a person’s life. This may come in a varied manner of ways controlled by the hand of God, but healings do not come by dabbling in mysticism.

His faithful word to us is all sufficient. We remember the trust of Yahweh's benefits to us, as He also remembers His promises.

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Postscript addendum January 2024

Greetings brothers and sisters,

This is an added commentary postscript to the above article of December 2023 resulting from some email questions about this topic. It was pointed out to me that some religious groups who advertise their holy oil Online claim that the oil itself does not contain power, but that the oil causes The Holy Spirit to be invoked and to enter a person or domain where the oil has been applied. Directions for use usually have instructions to put the oil on a person or windows or furniture or pets or cars, etc. as a contact point for The Holy Spirit who will then appear to keep evil away from the anointed object or perform some other supernatural affect that would not happen lacking the placement of the oil upon the recipient. This is a clever “work around” by mystic groups that may have been informed by a true Christian brother or sister that that the group’s holy oil pandering is nothing short of shamanism. My apology for not addressing this slant to the magical use of oil in this manner. This take is merely another dubious angle on “how to use” anointing oil to produce (supposed) supernatural wonders. “Spirit Contact” oil, as

with having clergy “bless” oil, is likewise not a teaching of the Scriptures. It actually may be worse than thinking that a group of clergy can powerize oil for mystic results. To say that anointing oil causes The Holy Spirit to appear on the scene to work wonders is equivalent to believing that this endeavor can be used to make God jump through hoops. Contrary to what spiritist priests teach there is no sacramental implementation on our part that can make God do anything.

Yahweh Almighty will heal, protect, direct, teach, have mercy or not, by His own decision and will as He so chooses. The Scriptures tell us to pray, but as we all experience, every prayer is not always answered while others are. God knows what’s best. His intervention in our lives does not depend upon rituals of any sort that we can come up with to force His hand. Various attempts to use oil, water, ashes, beads, or other items as a “contact” with God is vanity of superstition found in many heathen religions across the world. Yahweh Most High interacts with certain chosen people as His sons and daughters from a position of divine parental love for His faithful children. It is His love for us that is the moving Holy Spirit presence in our lives. No Bible verse says that God looks for oil spots on our foreheads, clothing, or furniture, before He works in our lives. *“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.”*(Acts 10:44). *“--that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.”* (Gal.11:14) *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*(Rom.10:17). Thus it does not matter if one believes that anointing oil itself can be blessed with power or that it is a contact point that invokes God’s Spirit, the fundamental belief is basically the same voodoo. It is not Scriptural Christianity. May the faith and love of YHWH through Jesus Christ abide with His Saxon Christian family wherever they may be!

Blessings in Yahweh/Jesus

PS --- Thanks to the brethren on the email list for the input and comments. It’s always great to hear from you! -- KL