

Anointing Oil Magic?

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“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*

Anointing Oil Magic?

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 can it be that both the Holy Scriptures and occult wizardry speak of using oil to anoint objects and people, in pursuance of each of their specific yet diametrically opposed belief systems? [Wizardry/witchcraft may be considered to be much the same, with wizardry having a masculine description and witchcraft a feminine, in the context of our study. There is no need to elaborate more. A contrite Christian knows it to be reprobate.]

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 channel 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 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 these types of “anointing oil ” 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.

A comment about witchcraft and “powers” before we continue on any further - - - Witchcraft/wizardry has no power at all other than the “power” a person gives it out of ignorant self-induced fear. Here's an 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 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 a tendency to say “aha – the witch curse!” This of course is eccentricity but it has produced genuine fear in the person along with erroneously giving witchcraft an element of false credibility. But in all the centuries that witches have been around do we ever experience this scenario? - - - 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 “powers”, never had “powers”, and never will have “powers”. Some involved in that craft surely think they have unlocked universal mysteries. How many others will never admit it is all a hoax? It certainly is not a Christian's place to encourage this type of behavior.

Who 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 (The Everliving) God Almighty who has created the entire universe and upholds it by the word of His Spirit.

Only the omnipotent Creator, triune in nature, 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, or by deceived people who call upon these “no-gods”. 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)

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 sees 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 an ill 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, they (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 as “powers” to drive away assumed “opposing powers” of their choice, would do well to go to 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 “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 crave effective religious “powers”, and seek to find it by oil sacraments.

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 have covered in the preceding pages, it is the passage in the Book of James that stirs the most controversy, and is the most 7

quoted by supernaturalists to portray anointing oils as being necessary to “tap into” divine powers when all else fails. 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 “to make God do something” is not commanded nor required for miracle healing by divine intervention. But then 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)

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. Most of us who have actively resisted 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. 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 defeated in their persecutions and were overwhelmed with dejection since they were incapable to successfully resist the madness:

“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 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 diseases. 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) This, and not physical ailment is the subject matter of which we read in James chapter 5.

Reading “*Is any sick among you?*” in 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 “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. Specifically, *asteneo* means weak. The next verse in James 5 confirms this stating, “*And the prayer of faith will save the sick*”. “Sick” here is *kamno* which means *tire in toiling, faint.*(v5:15)

The Christians of James chapter 5 were fallen brave warriors of the faith. They were beyond the suffering which James mentions just a few verses earlier — they were now weak. 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, and healed of their broken emotions. 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 the elders did not daub ceremonial oil on the heads of those who were oppressed hoping that it would summon God.

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

If the halls of religion 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 regretfully, sacramentalists inserted “sick” where James wrote “weak”; and inserted “anoint” where James wrote “rub” in order to slant these verses into the metaphysical 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 our 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 about 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 backslidden 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)

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. In opposition, it is the powerless ungodly who attempt to use ceremonial oils to enhance their distorted concept of “spirit power” whether to supercharge prayers, or to direct incantations, spells, hexes, litany, or benedictions. Dragging the name of Jesus Christ into this arena of metaphysical methodology only compounds the evil; that is, formulating “Christian” spirit power anointing oil. 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)

For the believer there is no need to obtain any “blessed” or “charged” oil from the New Age book store shelves, or from any place 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 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.” (1 John 2:27) (Lk.24:49; Joel 2:28)

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! In this truth He sustains us with His healing in our Christian suffering for the Gospel.

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

“Bless Yahweh, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless Yahweh, O my soul, and forget not (remember) all His benefits. Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.” (Psalm 103:1-3)

For our much needed healing and binding of our wounds our Heavenly Father asks only that we remember all His benefits that He has given our family of His sons and daughters. The use of sacramental wizard oil in the name of Jesus Christ is not one of those benefits. His faithful word to us is all sufficient. We remember the trust of Yahweh's benefits to us, and He remembers also. David prayed:

“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)

In this the prophets and apostles have put their trust.