

Ingredients of an Anointed Life—Part 5

Exodus 30:22-33



‘This shall be a holy anointing oil to Me throughout your generations. Exodus 30:31

Bulletin Insert

Ingredients of an Anointed Life

Moreover, the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, "Take also for yourself the finest of spices: of flowing myrrh five hundred shekels, and of fragrant cinnamon half as much, two hundred and fifty, and of fragrant cane two hundred and fifty, and of cassia five hundred, according to the shekel of the sanctuary, and of olive oil a hin. You shall make of these a holy anointing oil, a perfume mixture, the work of a perfumer; it shall be a holy anointing oil." Exodus 30:22-25

In scripture, the concept of "anointing" conveys the idea of a life which is holy, set apart, and empowered by the Holy Spirit for God's glory. The very ingredients of the "holy anointing oil" found in the above passage parallel aspects and characteristics that are evidenced in the life of a believer who is anointed by God for His service. While salvation is a free gift of God that can never be earned, the idea of "anointing" comes through a process of a lifestyle living in agreement with and obedience to God. A life marked by holiness is prepared to receive greater authority, power and giftings from God. ("For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power." 1 Cor. 4:20)

1. Flowing Myrrh - In Hebrew, literally "Myrrh of Freedom" - Symbolizes the priority of an anointed life, which is to set others free through the name of Jesus Christ.
2. Fragrant Cinnamon - The anointed life is symbolized by cinnamon which is produced by the cutting open of the branches of the tree and exposing the raw product. At first the inner product smells sour and is distasteful, but after much time passes, the beautiful aroma and taste are revealed. So it is with the trials of the life of the one who is anointed.
3. Fragrant Cane - In Hebrew, literally "Sweet Reed" or "Sweet Calamus". The word calamus in the Old Testament is synonymous with "measuring rod". This ingredient symbolizes that God and His Word are the measuring rod of the anointed life, not the thoughts and ideas of man or our culture.
4. Cassia - Similar in smell to cinnamon but harder and more difficult to crush. When dried in layers, unlike cinnamon that rolls up from one end, cassia rolls from both ends, giving the appearance of an ancient scroll. Cassia symbolizes the anointed life that perseveres through adversity or "crushing". It also symbolizes a life guided by the whole counsel of God, Old and New Testament teachings.
5. Olive Oil - Vividly portrayed in Zechariah chapter 4, olive oil in scripture always symbolizes the anointing on the Holy Spirit. Oil used in the temple would have come from "beaten olives" (Exodus 27:20), obtained from fully ripe olives which would fall from the tree when the harvesters would shake or beat the branches. During times of adversity and trials, the anointed life is at its best, producing results that are useful and glorifying to God.