

THE FIVE-FOLD LEVELS OF THE ANOINTING (Part 1)

Theme Scripture: Ephesians 5:14-27

Every born-again, Spirit-filled child of God has the anointing upon their life. However, each individual is responsible for keeping and increasing the level of anointing. That is why some walk in a greater anointing than others. The Word teaches Christians to be filled and continually filled with God's Spirit, thus ensuring a fresh outflow of the anointing (Eph. 5:18). It should be noted that after the outpouring of the Holy Ghost recorded in Acts 2, the disciples experienced another outpouring soon afterwards. (Acts 4:31)

The Five-Fold Levels of anointing upon prophet Ezekiel

Ezekiel 47:1-10 & 2 Corinthians. 3:17-18

Ezekiel's prophecy gives believers a clear picture of how the level of God's presence and power can increase in the lives of His people. Water, streams and rivers often refer to the presence and flow of God's Spirit. The highest attainable level of God's anointing is represented by the waters which flow from God's throne to individuals, groups or nations, and is often referred to as the sea. Wherever these waters go, they bring healing and life to the needy. Spirit-filled believers have rivers of living water flowing from their innermost being. Because they are the New Testament temple of the Holy Spirit, they are the source of God's river. Ezekiel gives a clear description of a five-fold level of the anointing upon every Spirit-filled believer.

1. Level 1 – Watching – The first step - commitment

Here Ezekiel watched the waters flow from the temple of God. Many believers do not have the full revelation that they are the source of Life, because they are the temple of God's Spirit. So instead of activating the life-source that resides within them, they become mere spectators of God's power. They watch how others flow with the anointing.

This represents believers who know what to do but are unwilling to take the first step of commitment to get there.

2. **Level 2 - Ankle Deep**

Many believers only desire a shallow experience with God. Although they are saved and Spirit-filled, they seldom go beyond that point and live a carnal existence. They are not in a position to affect anyone around them with the Gospel. To them, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a once-off experience. Thereafter, they seldom desire spiritual gifts and spiritual anointing.

3. **Level 3 - Knee deep**

The knee-deep level of the anointing is not much greater than the ankle deep experience. However, it does indicate a deeper experience with God. The knee represents prayer and could indicate a loyalty to the things of God, but at the same time they dare not wander deeper in the unknown realm of what God has for them.

4. **Level 4 - Waist Deep**

The waist often refers to influence. This type of believer is active in the things of God and interacts with others around them. They may even have an active role in the local Church. They love the Lord and are somewhat involved in the activities of the ministry.

But it does indicate an unwillingness to give everything. The waist measures half of the body length, indicating a half-hearted approach to full surrender. This is the point where Jesus refers to those who are lukewarm (Rev. 3:16) and also those who must make a choice to either submit everything to God or everything to the world (Matt. 6:24).

5. **Level 5 - Fully-Immersed**

This represents the believer who lives by faith and does not make decisions according to outward appearances but has absolute faith in the voice of the Word and the Spirit. These believers are those who produce fruit, who are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:14) and are not influenced by the flesh or natural surroundings. They are a blessing to others, bringing light, hope, joy and healing to those who are yoked in bondage.

They produce Kingdom fruit in their Christian walk and experience a breakthrough relationship with the Holy Spirit.