

Symbols & Emblems of the Holy Spirit

Concord Community Church

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The Holy Spirit as the symbol of Oil





Introduction:

Throughout Scripture, **oil** is a deeply significant symbol of the Holy Spirit. Its practical uses in ancient Israel for cooking, as a source of light, an agent of healing, and a tool for consecration of kings and priests, make it a fitting representation of the Holy Spirit's role, in the life of believers. Today, we will explore the Holy Spirit as symbolized by oil and what this teaches us about living under the Spirit's guidance and power.

1. Oil as a Symbol of Anointing

Isaiah 61:1-3, 1 Samuel 16:11-13, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

In ancient Israel, oil was used for **anointing** kings, priests, and prophets, setting them apart for specific tasks ordained by God. When the prophet Samuel anointed David, the Bible says, "from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David" (1 Samuel 16:13). The oil was a visible sign, but the Holy Spirit was the invisible power behind David's calling.

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul also speaks of believers being anointed by God:

"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come" (2 Corinthians 1:21-22).

The anointing is symbolic of being **set apart** for God's work and being **empowered** by His Spirit. As believers, we are all anointed by the Holy Spirit, not just for ministry roles, but for living holy lives and serving in every sphere God places us.

Ask yourself: **Are you walking in the anointing of the Holy Spirit?** Are you relying on His power for your calling, whether in the church, in your family, or in your workplace?

2. Oil as a Symbol of Healing

James 5:13-15, Luke 10:30-34, Psalm 23:5-6

Oil in the ancient world had medicinal properties and was used for **healing**. In **James 5:14-15**, the elders of the church are instructed to anoint the sick with oil and pray for their healing. The oil represents the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, who is the ultimate source of physical, emotional, and spiritual healing.

In **Luke 10:34**, in the story of the Good Samaritan, we see oil used again for healing when the Samaritan poured oil and wine on the wounds of the injured man. This act foreshadows the Holy Spirit's work in our lives, healing the wounds of sin, pain, and brokenness.

Even in **Psalm 23:5**, where David says, *"You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows,"* oil represents God's care and healing in the midst of life's struggles.

The Holy Spirit, like oil, brings restoration to our bodies, minds, and souls. He heals broken relationships, brings comfort to our hearts, and strengthens us when we are weak.

Is there an area in your life that needs healing today? Open your heart to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who desires to bring wholeness to your life.

3. Oil as a Source of Light and Power

Matthew 25:1-13, Zechariah 4:1-6, John 16:12-14

In the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, oil was necessary to keep their lamps burning. The oil in the lamps symbolizes the **Holy Spirit** who provides **spiritual light and power**. Without the oil, the lamps would go out, leaving the virgins in darkness.

This idea is echoed in **Zechariah 4:1-6**, where the prophet sees a vision of a lampstand with an olive tree providing a constant supply of oil. God says to Zechariah, *"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,"* indicating that the work of God can only be accomplished through the power of the Spirit, just as the lamps burn continually because of the oil supply.

In the New Testament, Jesus tells His disciples in **John 16:13**, *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth."* The Holy Spirit illuminates our path, guiding us into truth and empowering us to live as God's witnesses.

If we do not have the continual filling of the Holy Spirit, our spiritual light can fade. We may feel burnt out or weary, but the Spirit gives us the oil we need to shine brightly in a dark world.

Are your lamps filled with oil today? Are you continually seeking the Holy Spirit's guidance and power in your life?

4. Oil as a Symbol of Consecration and Dedication

Exodus 30:22-29, Leviticus 8:10-12, Romans 12:1-2

In **Exodus 30**, God commands Moses to make a special anointing oil to consecrate the Tabernacle and its instruments. This oil was holy and was used to set apart the priests and objects for sacred purposes. Similarly, **Leviticus 8:12** tells us how Aaron was anointed with oil to signify his consecration as high priest.

The Holy Spirit consecrates us, setting us apart for God's holy purposes. Paul writes in **Romans 12:1**, *"Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."* The Spirit enables us to

live lives that are dedicated to God, no longer conforming to the pattern of this world but transformed by the renewing of our minds.

Consecration means that we belong to God, that every aspect of our lives—our work, our relationships, our decisions—is set apart for His glory. It also means that we must live in a way that reflects His holiness.

Have you allowed the Holy Spirit to consecrate every part of your life?

Have you set yourself apart for God's purposes? The Holy Spirit desires to anoint you and use you for God's kingdom, but you must be willing to be fully dedicated to Him.

Conclusion:

Oil, as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, teaches us profound truths about our Christian Walk. The Holy Spirit **anoints** us for God's work, **heals** our brokenness, **illuminates** our path, and **consecrates** us for holy purposes.

We need the Holy Spirit daily to live empowered, healed, and consecrated lives. Just as the oil of the Old Testament had to be applied regularly to the priests and the Tabernacle, we need a continual infilling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Let us be like the wise virgins who were prepared, keeping their lamps filled with oil, ready for the return of the bridegroom. Seek the Holy Spirit daily, and He will fill you, heal you, and empower you to live for God's glory.

Let's Pray:

God the Holy Spirit, we invite You to anoint us afresh today. Fill us with Your presence and power. Heal our broken hearts, light our paths, and set us apart for Your purposes. May we live in your fullness and always be ready for the return of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.