INTRODUCTION

If I am here to meet with God what am I expecting?

[a] Signs and wonders – a power encounter
   For some perhaps a truth encounter might be more appropriate – there might perhaps need
   to be a change in mind-set.
   ** Phoebe Barrow – what’s so wrong about singleness!
[b] For God to change my heart – attitudes…hardness…unbelief…cynicism…unforgiveness
[c] To have a new meeting with God – learning intimacy with Him
[d] To bring my will into line with His will - Perhaps it is the time to really ask what is God’s
   will for my life

1. THE MEANING OF THE WORD ANOINTED

WHAT THE ANOINTING IS NOT

♦ A fantastic blinding light experience that comes years after conversion
♦ Something that makes a person always perform dynamically
♦ It is not a one-off experience to be sought after
♦ Something limited especially to the leaders of the church
♦ Something that we can obtain by human reasoning, cleverness, intellect, or serving in
  the church
♦ It is not to be equated with natural human charisma
♦ The anointing has nothing to do with being in control, natural capability or human
  achievement! It has everything to do with God’s enabling, our relationship to God and
  a humble spirit that desires to serve.
** David anointed by Samuel [1 Sam. 16:6-13] – “God looks on the heart”

THE MEANING OF BEING ANOINTED

The ability through the Holy Spirit to live as God intended us to live and to do the
works that God wants us to do – Power to Live and Power to Serve!

It is God’s enabling us by the Holy Spirit in our lives.
** The example of Jesus:
   “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he
   went about doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil,
   because God was with him” [Acts 10:32]
♦ **Every Christian is anointed**

Everyone who is a Christian...born again...has received the Holy Spirit [Romans 8:9 - “If you do not have the Spirit of Christ you are none of His.”]
We all have an anointing [see 1 John 2:20, 27]

♦ **Every Christian can increase in God’s anointing**

In the Old Testament we see that this anointing can be weakened or even forfeited
** Saul [1 Sam. 16:14; 28:15-16]**
** Samson [Judges 16:19-20]**
Equally, the anointing can be increased as we are increasingly filled with the Holy Spirit.
** Personal testimony of being filled with the Spirit…then the challenge to “walk in the Spirit”**

♦ **The main hindrances to an increased anointing**

- **A sense of unworthiness** – God can never use me… I am nobody….I am not spiritual enough!
- **A failure to forgive** – Nothing will hinder God’s blessing more than this [see Matthew 6:14-15]
- **A lack of desire and hunger** – Passivity…choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures [The seed that fell among thorns - Luke 8:14]
- **Unconfessed sin in our lives**
- **Wrong Motives**
  - Personal gain [see Acts 8:18-19];
  - Personal enjoyment rather than serving God and others.

♦ **God’s anointing enhances natural gifts and abilities**

“The Holy Spirit is no respecter of persons but a great respecter of personality.”
- David’s gifts and character had already become well developed before he was anointed by Samuel.
- Peter had an outgoing character which the Holy Spirit’s anointing was able to enhance and use dramatically.
- Bezalal – an artist and craftsman anointed by the Spirit [see Exodus 35:30-33]

3. **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A SERVANT**

Power without humility is highly dangerous! Servanthood is God’s plan, primarily for leaders and for all believers.
- Jesus was the “Servant King” [Graham Kendrick]
- Isaiah speaks of Jesus as the “Servant of the Lord” – the four Servant Song passages!
- Jesus Himself gave the great example of taking the towel and bowl and washing the disciple’s feet [John 13:1ff]
- Jesus taught that true greatness is to be a servant [Mark 10:43-45]
  This is the opposite of the world’s view of greatness which is being in control, ruling, status!
- The world views servants as low – see the reaction of the Prodigal Son...“Make me as one of your hired servants”
A servant or a son!?!  
*We are first sons!* We serve God because He has graciously made us His sons! We don’t serve Him so that He will accept us, but because He has accepted us!

A misunderstanding about servants of the Lord!  
Some people think that being a servant of God means to be a full-time Christian worker or a pastor.  
*Every Christian is a servant of God*...everything we do should be done as “unto the Lord” [Colossians 3:23 – “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”]. Secular work is full-time Christian service!

Outline of the “Anointed to Serve” sessions

[1] Listening to the Master  
[2] Obeying the Master  
[3] Equipped by the Master  
[4] Filled with Master’s Love  
[5] Faithful to the Master