

GOSPEL OF LUKE

HANDOUT

THE GOSPEL AS PROPHETIC FULFILLMENT: JOY FOR HUMANKIND & SOCIETY

In many ways Luke presents Jesus' life as a commentary of Isaiah 61:1-2. A comparison of Isaiah and Luke shows important distinctions.

ISAIAH 61:1-2	LUKE 4:18-19
¹ The <u>Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me</u> , because the Lord has <u>anointed me</u> to <u>proclaim good news to the poor</u> . He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim <u>freedom for the captives</u> and <u>release</u> <u>from darkness</u> for the prisoners ² to <u>proclaim the year of the Lord's favor</u> and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.	¹⁸ The <u>Spirit of the Lord is on Me</u> , because He has <u>anointed Me</u> to <u>proclaim good news to the poor</u> . He has sent Me to proclaim <u>freedom for the</u> <u>prisoners</u> and <u>recovery of sight</u> for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to <u>proclaim the year of the Lord's favor</u> .

Why would Luke omit "the day of vengeance of our God" (Isa. 61:2)? Luke is emphasizing the current era as the "year of the Lord's favor" (Luke 4:19), referring to the Year of Jubilee where debts are cancelled, property restored, and slaves are freed.

When Jesus says "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing" (Luke 4:21), He firmly announces Himself as the Anointed One, the Messiah! As such, He can bring about all joys, freedoms, and restorations – not just for individuals, but for society as a whole!

This means the gospel is BOTH spiritually and socially concerned.

- The "**poor**" (needy, impoverished, disenfranchised, oppressed) hear the Good News of **salvation & deliverance**.
- The "**broken hearted**" (grieved, disappointed, lonely, and those with shattered relationships) receiving **healing**.
- The "**captives**" (the socially ensnared or incarcerated, or the demonically tormented or bound) hear of possible **deliverance**.
- The "**blind**" (physically impaired, prejudicially insensitive, hopeless, or lacking vision/direction) may have recovery of **sight**.
- The "**oppressed**" (bruised by societal pressures, beaten down by circumstance, wounded from destructive encounters) can be **set free**.

KEY ACTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Luke specifically mentions the Spirit 17 times & has 3x more references to the Spirit than any other gospel. One job of the Holy Spirit is to anoint. Let's clarify a bit what that means:

Anointing = setting someone apart, authorizing & equipping him/her for a task of spiritual importance

- Jesus – anointed by the Spirit for the ministry of preaching, healing, & deliverance
- Christians – anointed by the Spirit for ministry in Christ's name (which includes all the things Jesus did)

Four Actions of the Holy Spirit in Luke

1. FAITHFULNESS -- lives of people connected with John the Baptist & Jesus' birth; John the Baptist's fulfillment of ministry under the anointing of the Spirit
2. MINISTRY – ability for Jesus to complete His unique ministry as the Messiah; power for believers to fulfill their ministry as witnesses
3. PRAYER – empowering Jesus to pray before, during, & after critical events (Luke 3:21; 6:12; 9:18, 28; 10:21); empowers our prayers as believers & connect Christ's ministry to ours
4. JOY – spreading joy to Jesus & the church (Luke 10:17, 21; 24:49-53)

MAY THESE BE PROMINENT IN OUR LIVES AS WE FOLLOW JESUS!