What is the Nature of Anointing in 1 John 2:20 and 27

One of His primary ministries today is that of communicating the Word—the completed canon of Scripture. God the Holy Spirit is the divine author of the Word of God (2 Pet. 1:20-21).

2 Peter 1:20-21, “But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”

Since the cessation of the temporary, foundational, and miraculous gifts, He does not give special or new revelation, but He works through the Scriptures which is our index for belief and practice. To be able to listen to God, to comprehend truth, to worship the Lord, and to be transformed by the Word through faith in God, God has given us the Holy Spirit. He is God’s special agent who takes the things of Christ and teaches them to us whether we receive them by personal study or through the human instruments who teach us the Word.

The Holy Spirit is the resident teacher or mentor whom the Father has sent through the Son to indwell every New Testament believer as God’s special anointing to teach and make the truths of the Word understood and real to the heart or mind of believers (John. 14:16-20, 26; 15:26; 16:7-16; 1 Co. 2:10-16; 2 Co. 13:14; Ga. 5:5, 16-25; Eph. 3:16-19; 5:18; 1 Jo. 2:20-27).

John 14:16-17, “I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you.”

John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

John 15:26-27, “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, that is the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify about Me, and you will testify also, because you have been with Me from the beginning.”

John 16:13-15, “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”

1 John 2:15-20, “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of
life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have appeared; from this we know that it is the last hour. They went out from us, but they were not really of us; for if they had been of us, they would have remained with us; but they went out, so that it would be shown that they all are not of us. But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”

“Anointing” is the noun *chrisma* and is a synonym for the indwelling of the Spirit who provides the believer the spiritual capacity or power to understand the Word of God and apply it for the purpose of producing in the believer Christ-like character.

In its broadest sense *chrisma* refers to anything smeared onto something else such as coatings of plaster applied to walls. It was used of the “anointing of pots,” which referred to the glaze applied to pottery before it is fired in order to give it color and finish.

The noun *chrisma* was used to denote a “scented ointment,” often consisting of a mixture of oil and herbs used for the purpose of anointing either persons or things. This use appears often in the LXX.

It was used of the “spiced oil of anointing” used to consecrate or set apart for service both the priests in Israel and the tabernacle and its fixtures (Ex. 29:7; 30:25). The word was also used to denote the state or act of being anointed.

In the Old Testament, kings, priests and prophets were anointed with oil, which symbolized that they were *empowered by the Holy Spirit* in order to accomplish the appointed tasks given to them by God.

The word is John’s terminology for what Paul calls the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit who serves as the believer’s true teacher and mentor.

**Rom 8:9**, “However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”

**1 Cor 3:16**, “Do you not know that you are a temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.”

**John 7:37-39**, “Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow
rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

The Holy Spirit’s purpose during the church is to indwell every believer in order to provide a temple for the indwelling of the Shekinah Glory, the Lord Jesus Christ, which serves as the principle of victory over the indwelling old sin nature and provides the believer the spiritual capacity to understand the Word of God since the Spirit serves as the believer’s true teacher and mentor in place of the absent Christ.

1 John 2:20, “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know.”

Corrected translation of 1 John 2:20 from the original language: 1 John 2:20
“All of you without exception possess permanently spiritual power (chrisma) from the Holy One (Lord Jesus Christ) so that all of you comprehend everything (pertaining to the doctrines of Christ).”

In 1 John 2:20 and 27 this “anointing from the Holy One” refers to the permanent indwelling presence of God the Holy Spirit who has been given to the believer by the Lord Jesus Christ, who is referred to here as “the Holy One.”

The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit provides the believer the spiritual capacity or power to understand and apply spiritual phenomena, i.e. the Word of God, Bible doctrine.

The Gnostic teachers whose teachings John’s readers were being exposed to taught that they were the sole source of truth, and that they exclusively possessed the capacity to understand spiritual phenomena but the indwelling of the Spirit and His mentorship give every believer the spiritual capacity or power to understand and apply truth.

The Gnostic teachers proclaimed superior knowledge because they had received a ritual anointing that gave them gnosis, “knowledge.” The apostle John under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit is refuting the claims of the Gnostic teachers and clearly sets forth the spiritual truth that every believer in the church age without exception has received at the moment of salvation the indwelling of the Spirit who provides the believer with the spiritual capacity to understand and apply the truth, i.e. the Word of God, which is spiritual phenomena.

2 Cor 1:21-22, “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and empowered (chrio) us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge.”

1 John 2:21-27, “I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth. Who is the liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, the one who denies the Father and the Son. Whoever denies the Son does not
have the Father; the one who confesses the Son has the Father also. As for you, let that abide in you, which you heard from the beginning. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, you also will abide in the Son and in the Father. This is the promise, which He Himself made to us: eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you. As for you, the spiritual power which you received from Him (Christ) abides in you (indwelling presence of the Spirit), and you have no need for anyone to teach you; yes, because this same spiritual power (from the indwelling of the Spirit) teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him. Now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears, we may have confidence and not shrink away from Him in shame at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone also who practices righteousness is born of Him.”