

The Activity of the Holy Spirit 2

Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit

Text: Zech 4:1-10

4:1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.
2 And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps."

3 Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left."

4 So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, "What are these, my lord?"

5 Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "**Do you not know what these are?**" And I said, "No, my lord."

6 So he answered and said to me:

"This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the LORD of hosts.

7'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of "Grace, grace to it!" ' "

8 Moreover the word of the LORD came to me, saying:

9 "The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it.

Then you will know That the LORD of hosts has sent Me to you.

10 For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, Which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth."

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Expound:

Do you not know what these are?

Zechariah the prophet was in a difficult time, what he was involved in was beyond the human task, Zerubbel was to rebuild the temple, but with all the giants in the land and the hinderances it seemed impossible. Zechariah was to encourage the building beyond their present abilities. He used an interesting vision of how God sustained the candlesticks with two olive trees and not the daily ministering of the priest. Showing it's not by might, nor human power, but by Spirit of providence.

V.5 - Zech 4:1-10

The angel answered him with a question, Knowest thou not what these be? intimating that if he had considered, and compared spiritual things with spiritual, **he might have guessed at the meaning of these things; for he knew that there was a golden candlestick in the tabernacle, which it was the priests' constant business to supply with oil and to keep burning, for the use of the tabernacle; when therefore he saw, in vision, such a candlestick, with lamps always kept burning, and yet no priests to attend it, nor any occasion for them, he might discern the meaning of this to be that though God had set up the priesthood again, yet he could carry on his own work for and in his people without them**

The temple of God will be built, thou they are feeble and weak and small, yet God is able to make it happen by the empowerment of His Spirit.

Who are you, great mountain?

This is a picture how the mountains are to answer to God and not us to the mountain.

Who has despised the day of small things?

Here it is small in the eyes of man, but it is big in the eyes of God. God sees the potential. One man said the only problem I have with Jesus is that he thinks im better than I think of myself.

The Spirit of God – How he works better in the invisible than the physical.

Zech 4:1-10

He says this who is the Lord of hosts, and could do it vi et armis-by force, has legions at command; but he will do it, not by human might or power, but by his own Spirit. What is done by his Spirit is done by might and power, but it stands in opposition to visible force.

Israel was brought out of Egypt, and into Canaan, by might and power; in both these works of wonder great slaughter was made.

But they were brought out of Babylon, and into Canaan the second time, by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts working **upon the spirit of Cyrus**, and inclining him to proclaim liberty to them, and working upon the spirits of the captives, and inclining them to accept the liberty offered them.

It was by the **Spirit of the Lord of hosts that the people were excited and animated to build the temple**; and therefore they are said to be helped by the prophets of God, because they, as the Spirit's mouth, spoke to their hearts, Ezra 5:2.

It was by **the same Spirit that the heart of Darius** was inclined to favour and further that good work and that the sworn enemies of it were infatuated in their councils, so that they could not hinder it as they designed.

Quote: The work of God is often carried on very successfully when yet it is carried on very silently, and without the assistance of human force; the gospel-temple is built, not by might or power (for the weapons of our warfare are not carnal), but by the Spirit of the Lord of hosts, whose work on men's consciences is mighty to the pulling down of strong-holds; thus the excellency of the power is of God, and not of man. When instruments fail, let us therefore leave it to God to do his work himself by his own Spirit.

Matthew Henry

The purpose of this study is to show the significance of the Work of the Spirit of God in building the work of God. We need the Spirit of God!

Activity of the Spirit of God

1). Old Testament

Gen 1:2 – The Creation

2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

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Job 26:12-13

12 He stirs up the sea with His power, And by His understanding He breaks up the storm.

13 By His Spirit He adorned the heavens; His hand pierced the fleeing serpent.

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Ex 31:2-5 – In Creativity

2 "See, I have called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah.

3 And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,

4 to design artistic works, to work in gold, in silver, in bronze, 5 in cutting jewels for setting, in carving wood, and to work in all manner of workmanship.

Num 11:16-17 Care for the People

16 So the LORD said to Moses: "Gather to Me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tabernacle of meeting, that they may stand there with you.

17 Then I will come down and talk with you there. I will take of the Spirit that is upon you and will put the same upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you, that you may not bear it yourself alone.
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Judg 14:5-6 Empowering Sampson

6 And the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him, and he tore the lion apart as one would have torn apart a young goat, though he had nothing in his hand. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done.
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Judg 15:14-16 –

14 When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting against him. Then the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon him; and the ropes that were on his arms became like flax that is burned with fire, and his bonds broke loose from his hands. 15 He found a fresh jawbone of a donkey, reached out his hand and took it, and killed a thousand men with it. 16 Then Samson said:

"With the jawbone of a donkey,
Heaps upon heaps,
With the jawbone of a donkey
I have slain a thousand men!"
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Isa 30:1- For Direction

"Woe to the rebellious children," says the LORD, "Who take counsel, but not of Me,
And who devise plans, but not of My Spirit, That they may add sin to sin;

** Other leaders and national revelations were empowered, motivated by the Spirit.

Isa 61:1 – The Activity of the Son of God

"The **Spirit of the Lord GOD** is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me
To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

** Everything that Jesus did and spoke was by the Power of the Spirit

2). The New Testament

1). Activity of Jesus

Matt 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Matt 3:16

16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Luke 4:14-15

14 Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. 15 And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.
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2). The Activity of the Disciples**Mark 13:11**

11 But when they arrest you and deliver you up, do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.

Acts 5:32

32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Acts 13:50-52

50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.

52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

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Rom 14:17

17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

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The Modern Church – Natural people doing supernatural things