

THE HOLY SPIRIT “Lamp”

Having dealt with fire and oil, it seemed only logical that we should next take a look at the lamp. The lamp in the Bible is an oil lamp. Olive oil soaks a wick which is lit and burns, giving light. The lamp combines the significance and symbolism of oil and fire. The lamp represents in the believer the anointing of the Holy Spirit energized (on fire) and giving its light before men.

But before we go on, we must establish the symbol in Scripture.

Establishing the Symbol-

Zech 4:1-6

- 1 Then the angel who talked with me returned and wakened me, as a man is wakened from his sleep.
- 2 He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lights on it, with seven channels to the lights.
- 3 Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."
- 4 I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?"
- 5 He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied.
- 6 So he 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 Almighty. NIV

“By my Spirit,” says the Lord. The vision Zechariah saw was a vision of the Holy Spirit of God. Not only did he see the lampstand and its lights, he also saw two olive trees which represent the supply for the oil.

Rev 4:5

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, **seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.** NIV

This seven fold Spirit of God addressed the book of Revelation to the church along with the Father and the Son.

Rev 1:4

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and **from the seven spirits before his throne,** NIV

Seven is the number of perfection and completeness. It speaks of the full sum and substance. Isaiah prophesied that the seven fold Spirit of God would rest upon Messiah.

Isa 11:1-2

- 1 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
- 2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—NIV

The Lord's word to Zerubbabel regarded the building of the temple. The lampstand in the vision was like the lampstand in the tabernacle of Moses. When we studied the tabernacle of Moses, we devoted an entire teaching to the golden lampstand. In that message we looked at how the lampstand represented the entire Godhead. Today, we are going to concentrate on what it teaches us about the Holy Spirit and our walk with Him.

The Lampstand-

1. The Pattern:

Ex 25:31-40

- 31 "Make a lampstand of pure gold and hammer it out, base and shaft; its flowerlike cups, buds and blossoms shall be of one piece with it.
- 32 Six branches are to extend from the sides of the lampstand--three on one side and three on the other.
- 33 Three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms are to be on one branch, three on the next branch, and the same for all six branches extending from the lampstand.
- 34 And on the lampstand there are to be four cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms.
- 35 One bud shall be under the first pair of branches extending from the lampstand, a second bud under the second pair, and a third bud under the third pair--six branches in all.
- 36 The buds and branches shall all be of one piece with the lampstand, hammered out of pure gold.
- 37 "Then make its seven lamps and set them up on it so that they light the space in front of it.
- 38 Its wick trimmers and trays are to be of pure gold.
- 39 A talent of pure gold is to be used for the lampstand and all these accessories.
- 40 See that you make them according to the pattern shown you on the mountain. NIV

i. Shaft and branches

- The lampstand had one shaft and six branches. One is the number of the Godhead, six is the number of man. Only attached to the shaft will we be able to shine as intended (John 15:1-5).
- Seven is the number of perfection. There were seven lamps. All was made of one talent of gold. It is one Spirit, many works.
- Each branch had three sets of bowls, knops, and flowers (flower, bud, and fruit of almond branch). Three x three = nine, there are nine manifestations of the Spirit and nine fruit of the Spirit.

ii. Pure

- It was made of pure gold. Usually, gold is alloyed with other metals to give it greater strength. Pure gold we call 24 carat. One ounce of gold can be beaten out to 300 square feet! A little can go a long way. The lampstand, lamps, and tools were all made of pure gold. He is the *Holy Spirit*, no impurities are to be found in Him.
- The oil was pure olive oil, pressed (Ex 27:20). We talked about our Lord being pressed in the olive press of Gethsemane to provide for our anointing. Again, His purity is being expressed. He is the *Holy Spirit*.

iii. The lamps

- The arrangement of the lamps has a battle signature:

Ex 39:37

the pure gold lampstand with its lamps (the lamps set in order), all its utensils, and the oil for light; NKJV

*The word "set in order" in the Hebrew is **ma'arakah**, and it means "a row, a rank, a battle-line." The lamps were set up in a battle-line on the lampstand!*

2 Sam 22:29-30

29 You are my lamp, O LORD; the LORD turns my darkness into light.

30 With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. NIV

1 Sam 17:47

All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." NIV

2. The Purpose:

Lev 24:2-4 NKJV

2 "Command the children of Israel that they bring to you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.

3 Outside the veil of the Testimony, in the tabernacle of meeting, Aaron shall be in charge of it from evening until morning before the LORD continually; it shall be a statute forever in your generations.

4 He shall be in charge of the lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD continually.

The purpose of the lamps was to give light. What did the lamps light?

- i. He reveals Himself.

Ex 25:37

And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it. KJV

As the lamps lit the lampstand, so the Holy Spirit gives us revelation insight of Himself.

- ii. He reveals the Word.

The lampstand stood opposite the table of shewbread. The bread represents the Word of God. It takes the Holy Spirit to see the word clearly.

1 Cor 2:13-14

13 This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.

14 The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned. NIV

- iii. He illuminates our prayer and worship.

As the only light source in the holy place, the lampstand also illuminated the golden altar of incense. This represents our worship and intercession. The Holy Spirit brings the light of God to our worship of Him and our intercession for others.

John 4:24 “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.” NIV

Rom 8:26-27

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.
27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. NIV

iv. He reveals the veil.

Heb 10:19-20 NKJV

19 Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus,
20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, **through the veil, that is, His flesh,**

The light of the lampstand illuminated the veil which was the entrance to the holy of holies. This veil represented the body of the Lord Jesus which was rent for us that we might have access to the Father. The Spirit reveals Jesus.

John 16:8-9

8 When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment:
9 in regard to sin, **because men do not believe in me;** NIV

Eph 2:17-18

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
18 **For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.** NIV

Rev 19:10

At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**" NIV

3. The Priest:

i. The high priest tends the lamps.

Lev 24:3

Outside the curtain of the Testimony in the Tent of Meeting, Aaron **is to tend the lamps** before the LORD from evening till morning, continually. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. NIV

ii. Jesus is our high priest.

Heb 2:17-18

17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.

18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. NIV

iii. He tends the lamps.

Rev 1:12-20

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. NIV

Because the Holy Spirit has been poured out on the Church, the Church is represented in Scripture as a lampstand and individual believers as lamps. The Lord Jesus tends the lamps of the church as the faithful high priest over God's house.

a. He oils them

Acts 2:33

Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and **has poured out** what you now see and hear. NIV

b. He trims the wicks.

Matt 12:18-21

18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

19 He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed he will not break, and **a smoldering wick he will not snuff out**, till he leads justice to victory.

21 In his name the nations will put their hope." NIV

The Lord is in the business of cutting out the burnt out pieces of our lives that our wicks burn bright.

The Lesson of the Ten Virgins-

Matt 25:1-13

- 1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
- 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.
- 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.
- 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
- 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'"
- 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'
- 9 "No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
- 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.
- 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'"
- 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'
- 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. NIV

1. What They All Had in Common-

- They were all pure (virgins).
- They all had lamps.
- They all became drowsy and fell asleep.
- When they cry rang out, they all woke up and trimmed their lamps.

2. The Difference-

- The wise took extra oil with them to make it to the banquet.
- The foolish had no extra oil.

3. The Result-

- The wise went into the wedding feast.
- The foolish were locked out. "I don't know you," the Bridegroom said. By use of the word *oida*, He was saying "You stand in no relation to me."

Matt 7:21-23

- 21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?'"
- 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' NIV

*These people were charismatic but lacked holy conduct. They were evildoers in spite of the gifts they displayed. Thus, Jesus said he never knew them, **ginosko**. Ginosko implies a relationship*

between the one who knows and the person and thing know. Jesus is saying, "I have never been in approving relationship with you." Here, he is not in relationship with them because they are evildoers. In Matt. 25, they have no relation with Him.

Luke 13:23-27

23 Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them,

24 "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.

25 Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.'

26 "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.'

27 "But he will reply, 'I don't know [oida] you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' NIV

These had a social relationship ("we ate and drank with you") but not a sacred one (they were evildoers). We would call these folks secular Christians. The church social and the preaching was nice, but don't ask me to act any different during the week!

How do we get the extra jar of olive oil?

1. Love

Rev 2:4-5

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.

5 Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. NIV

Forget extra oil for a minute. If we forsake our first love, our love for the Lord Jesus, we are in jeopardy of losing our lampstand all together. Love is primary in flowing in the anointing of God. It is by Holy Spirit that God pours out His love into our hearts.

Rom 5:5

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. NIV

If we forsake this love, we will stop the Spirit's flow into our lamp.

1 Cor 13:3

And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. NKJV

Without love, I am a candle, not a lamp. A candle lights by self-consumption. A lamp burns by a continual supply of fuel. Without love, we burn ourselves up!

1 John 2:8-11

8 Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.

- 9 Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates his brother is still in the darkness.
10 Whoever loves his brother lives in the light, and there is nothing in him to make him stumble.
11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness; he does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded him. NIV

Walking in love towards our brother will assure us light. As we walk in love, God will make sure we have a supply of the Holy Spirit's oil.

2. Pray

1 Thess 5:5-8

- 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.
6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled.
7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. NIV

We are to watch and be sober, as the KJV puts it. To watch is to pray. As we stand our watch, it is required of us to be self-controlled and keep ourselves pure.

3. Please the Lord

Eph 5:8-21

- 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light
9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)
10 **and find out what pleases the Lord.**
11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.
12 For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret.
13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible,
14 for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."
15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,
16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.
17 **Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.**
18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, **be filled with the Spirit.**
19 Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord,
20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. NIV

We are to understand the will of the Lord and find out what pleases him. As we are filled with the Spirit, we will be able to minister to each other and to Him. The Holy Spirit is the lamp that shows us the truth of the Word, how to worship in spirit and in truth, and how to enter into the holy of holies through the veil of Jesus Christ. As we stand in relationship with the Lord Jesus, he trims our wicks and oils our lamps that we might shine before men to the glory of God the Father. Amen!