

“By My Spirit”
Zechariah 4:1-14
1/14/24
Message 1

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “By My Spirit”

- **We NEED the HOLY SPIRIT**

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Acts 2:1–3 (NKJV)

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

- I pray all the time that the church would seek after God and invite the Holy Spirit to do a great work in our day
 - As I have said MANY times over the years
 - The church is first an Organism WAY before it is an Organization
 - It is the BODY of Christ
 - Too the modern church is fulfilled with consumerism (Organization)
 - The Church needs to repent and return to the fact that
 - ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the LORD of hosts.” (Zech. 4:6)

- *Tozer; “If the Holy Spirit was withdrawn from the church today, 95 percent of what we do would go on and no one would know the difference. If the Holy Spirit had been withdrawn from the New Testament church, 95 percent of what they did would stop, and everybody would know the difference.”*
- In our text today we see a great example and God’s Servants needing POWER & Encouragement from God through the Holy Spirit
- Join me in prayer for a FRESH outpouring of the Holy Spirit in His church today

- **Author – Zechariah**

- **His Name Means**

- Yahweh Remembers

- **A Few things to know**

- Zechariah was a **Levite born in Babylon** (Neh. 12:1, 16)
- He was a contemporary of
 - Haggai the prophet
 - Zerubbabel the governor
 - Joshua the high priest
 - These 4 all came back with the 50,000
 - (Ezra 5:1–2; Zech. 3:1; 4:6; 6:11)
- His Prophecy was Postexilic
 - First 9 Minor Prophets all wrote before the Babylon Captivity (Preexilic)

- The Last 3 After they had Returned into the land (Postexilic)

- **Background and Theme**

- **Haggai & Zechariah Encouraged the People to Rebuild the temple (Ezra 5:1)**
 - After the people returned, they faced opposition
 - Stop building the temple
 - Started to just focus on their own lives
 - Zechariah's prophecy began half-way between Haggai's 2nd and 3rd Messages.
 - Encourage – Motivate Israel to Focus on God

- **Review – Repentance - 8 Visions**

- **1st Chapter 1-2**
 - **Zechariah Begins with a CALL to Repentance**
 - All CALL To Repentance (Chapter 1:1-6)
 - Return To ME, And I Will Return To You
 - **8 “Night Visions”**
 - All in the same night
 - From Angel of the Lord
 - Angel Of the Lord v. 11
 - Known as a Christophany / Theophany
 - There are many examples in the Old Testament

- With the Pre-Incarnate Lord Himself
- (Gen. 16:11, 13; 18:1, 2, 13, 17; 22:11–18; Ex. 3:2, 4; Josh. 5:13; 6:2; Judg. 6:12, 14; 13:21, 22)

• 1st Vision –

- **The Red-Horse Rider among the Myrtles (Chapter 1:7–17)**

- Vision Means –
 - God's anger against the nations and blessing on restored Israel

• 2nd Vision

- **The Four Horns and the Four Craftsmen (Chapter 1:18–21)**

- Vision Means –
- God's judgment on the nations that afflict Israel

• 3rd Vision

- **The Surveyor with a Measuring Line (Chapter 2)**

- Vision Means –
 - God's future blessing on restored Israel
 - The Rebuilding of Jerusalem

- **Chapter 3 - 4**

- **1st The focus is on Joshua High Priest and Zerubbabel Governor**

- Joshua - Was high priest
 - He was concern for the spiritual life of the people
 - Was trying to motivate & educate people who were disobedient and sinful
- Zerubbabel Was governor
 - He was responsibility of managing the civil affairs of the nation
 - To Build the Temple
 - Zerubbabel was trying to motivate people who were discouraged and selfish!

• 4th Vison

- The vision of Joshua and the devil – Accusations before God
 - Vison Means –
 - Restoration of the High Priest (Joshua)
 - God Cleanses
 - Which pictured the reestablishing of the role of the high priest.

• 5th Vison

- The vision of the Oil lamp and two olive trees which fed it
 - Vison Means –
 - Encouragement to Zerubbabel

- The lamp symbolized Israel's role as being a light to the world and the two trees pictured the governor, Zerubbabel and the high priest, Joshua, who would provide supernatural assistance to the nation to help it reclaim its illuminating role
- The Work will ALL BE DONE By the Holy Spirit

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

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.

- So Important that we never forget this in our work today

▪ Chapter 5

• 6th Vision

- A Flying Scroll – Chapter 5:1-11
 - Zechariah saw a scroll flying through the air.
 - The scroll was apparently rolled open because Zechariah could see how large the scroll was.
- Vision Means –
 - It calls for God's righteous judgment of the sinner according to His standard

• 7th Vision

- The Woman In the Ephah Chapter 5:5–11
 - This vision of a woman in a basket continues the same theme

- The removal of national Israel's sin of rebellion against God
- It focusing on the removal of the Whole Sinful System!
- The Woman In the Ephah Chapter 5:5–11
- It focusing on the removal of the Whole Sinful System!
- Chapter 6

- **8th Vision**

- The Four Chariots – Chapter 6:1–8
 - Vision Means –
 - Divine judgment on Gentile nations
- The BRANCH – (Messiah)

Zechariah 6:12–13 (NKJV)

12 *Then speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: “Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD;*

13 *Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.” ’*

- The Setting up of the Millennial Kingdom

• Now This Morning – The Focus is on Zechariah 4

- **1st The Focus is on Zerubbabel Governor**
 - He was responsibility of managing the civil affairs of the nation
 - His Ministry

- To Build the Temple
- To motivate people who were Discouraged and Selfish!
- **2nd The Context – The Challenge**
 - People unhappy with the “NEW” Temple compared it the Solomon's Temple

- Solomon's was an AMAZING Temple

Ezra 3:12 (NKJV)

12 But many of the priests and Levites and heads of the fathers' houses, old men who had seen the first temple, wept with a loud voice when the foundation of this temple was laid before their eyes. Yet many shouted aloud for joy,

- They Did not have the Resources that Solomon had
 - So this Temple did not have the beauty that Solomon's had
 - It was a modest temple
 - Implied in the TEXT –
 - Even Zerubbabel needed to be encouraged
- So - Chapter 4 is all about God Encouraging His children to
 - Be about the Business of Rebuilding His Temple
 - Be Encouraged That your Work is not in vain
 - It is Really God who does the work
 - Without the Holy Spirit nothing happens

- Oh HOW we NEED the Work of the HOLY SPIRIT in the Church today
- As we study may we be Encouraged
- To be about His Business ion reaching lost souls and building His church

Zechariah's Vision vs. 1-5

First: Zechariah's vision of the olive trees and lampstands vs. 1-3

- **1st Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me v. 1**

Zechariah 4:1 (NKJV)

1 Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep.

- **The Angel who talked with me**
 - Again - The Lord Himself
 - Zechariah as a “tour guide” angel assigned to him to help him navigate these “night visions”
- **And Wakened Me**
 - During this long night of “visions”
 - Zechariah at times would drifts off to sleep!
 - The Angel wakes him up
 - You get the impression – Zechariah wanted to JUST SLEEP
- **2nd A Lampstand vs. 2-3**

Zechariah 4:2–3 (NKJV)

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."

- **Lampstand**

- The vision Zechariah sees is that of the - Temple Menorah

- The menorah had seven branches, each with its own oil lamp

- **Show Pic**

- **Messianic Symbol**

- Remember in the Tabernacle

- Each morning the priests were responsible for

- Snuffing out the lamps
 - Cleaning them
 - Refilling them with fresh oil.
 - Every evening they would relight the lamps
 - The light would burn all night
 - A lot of labor was involved in this
 - The oil burned in the lamps was olive oil

- Made by grinding up and pressing olives in an olive press.

- **In verse 12**

- That in this vision

- The two olive trees are dripping oil that replenishes the seven lamps.
- It's a picture of an unending supply of oil for the menorah.
- There's a lot less "work" involved when your oil lamp has its own supply of oil.
- **Application from the Menorah**
 - **1st Being the Light of the World**

- 1st Jesus is the Light of the World

John 8:12 (NKJV)

12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, *"I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."*

- 2nd God Chose the Nation of Israel being a light in a dark world.
 - Israel was to represent God in this dark world
- 3rd As the church, we too are now "lamps".
 - Jesus said to us

Matthew 5:14–16 (NKJV)

14 *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.*
15 *Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house.*
16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

- **2nd Oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit**
 - The anointing of a priest or a king

- Was done with a special mixture of olive oil and spices
- It was to be a picture of the Holy Spirit being on that person's life.
- With the menorah being supplied with an unending supply of oil
 - God is drawing a picture of His "Lights" being powered by His Holy Spirit.
- When it comes to being "light" in this dark world, we need the work of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 (NKJV)

8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- To be the best lights we can be, we need the best oil.
- We need the oil of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

• Second: Zechariah asks for an explanation of the vision vs. 4-5

- **1st Spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying v. 4**

Zechariah 4:4 (NKJV)

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

- **Zechariah saw the vision but didn't understand what it meant.**
 - What he saw was simple but unusual
 - A lampstand with lamps supplied with oil directly through pipes coming from two olive trees

- His question goes unanswered until later (v. 14)

- **2nd Do you not know what these are? v. 5**

Zechariah 4:5 (NKJV)

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.”

- The angel made sure that Zechariah knew that he must come to understand the meaning of this vision

The Meaning of the Vision vs. 6-14

- **First: How Zerubbabel will accomplish the work vs. 6-7**

- **1st This is the Word of the LORD to Zerubbabel v. 6a**

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

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.

- **Zerubbabel was the Civic Leader of Jerusalem**
 - He had the responsibility to finish the work of rebuilding the temple.
- **The work had stalled**
 - Remember –
 - The people too Busy doing their own thing
 - Discouraged because it was not as good as Solomons temple
- **Zerubbabel needed Encouragement**
 - To carry on the work.
 - To know that when you are working for God –

- It really is Him doing the work
- **Burn – Out**
 - **Only comes when we forget who we are Serving**
 - **BUT God's Servant need encouragement**
- **So the WORD of God came to encourage**
- **Application**
 - 1st Workers of the Lord
 - We need Encouragement
 - Doing the Lord's Work is NOT easy
 - Hardest thing you will ever do
 - Spiritually Warfare
 - Criticism from all corners
 - 2nd We often Feel Alone
 - Elijah did...
 - He had expectations that God did not meet
 - Because God had other plans
 - 3rd We Often Feel Defeated
 - By our Limitations
 - By the Lack of Help – Support
 - By the Enemies attacks

- By Critics
- 4th We NEED the WORD of the Lord
 - To come to us a refresh us
 - We Need to remember who we are serving
- **2nd ‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit v. 6b**

Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

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.

▪ **1st Not BY Might –**

- Hebrew: Chayil
- Means: Army, might, wealth, strength
 - It’s a word that most often translated “army” or speaking of fighting men.
 - It’s the embodiment of Manly Men, Human Strength.

▪ **2nd Nor BY POWER**

- Hebrew: Koach –
- Means: Strength, power, might
 - This is a more generic word for “Strength”.

▪ **3rd Application - Limits to Human power**

- **1st God’s word to Zerubbabel is...**
 - The Temple WILL NOT be Rebuilt by the size of his

- Construction Crew
- The strength of his army
- Or how strong he and his people are
- How Smart they are
- No Marketing campaign can rebuild God's Temple
- With human strength and ingenuity
 - You can DO A LOT
 - BUT There is a LIMIT to what humans can do
- **2nd The Word to US – The Modern church**
 - When God calls US to do a WORK for Him
 - It is folly to think that you can DO it on OUR OWN
 - Yest sadly
 - We see so many churches attempting to grow by carnal means
 - *Spurgeon; "O churches! take heed lest ye trust in yourselves; take heed lest ye say, 'We are a respectable body,' 'We are a mighty number,' 'We are a potent people;' take heed lest ye begin to glory in your own strength; for when that is done, 'Ichabod' shall be written on your walls and your glory shall depart from you. Remember, that he who was with us when we were but few, must be with us now we are many, or else we must fail; and he who strengthened us when we were but as*

'little in Israel,' must be with us, now that we are like 'the thousands of Manasseh,' or else it is all over with us and our day is past.'

- Illustration
 - 10-15 Christian Web Sites on church growth
 - Not one of them even mentioned the Word of God or the Holy Spirit in regards to church growth
 - See LIST at the back of your notes
- 4th BUT By My Spirit
 - **God Does the WORK**
 - **We are NOT Manufactures – We are LOVING Conduits**
 - Application
 - 1st To be about God's Business (A Spiritual Work)
 - We need the work of the Holy Spirit.
 - Without HIM we are lost
 - Even if the works seems "fruitful on earth"
 - It is without fruit in heaven
 - NO Holy Spirit – NO WORK
 - With the Holy Spirit – all things are GOOD
 - 2nd God Encouragement to Zerubbabel

- God will sustain him in the difficult task of
 - Leading the people in the challenging task
 - Stay Focused on God and FILLED with the Holy Spirit
- 3rd Zerubbabel Will not need his OWN Strength or Wisdom
 - God's Supernatural Power is working
 - The Holy Spirit would Equip him to fulfill the duties
 - God will Supernaturally Empower Zerubbabel to overcome every obstacle, here represented by a great mountain.
- **3rd Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain v. 7**

Zechariah 4:7 (NKJV)

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!" ' "

- **Check this OUT**
 - The work of rebuilding the temple was so massive
 - Getting & Keeping the People motivated
 - Lack of Resources
 - So much so that it seemed like a Great Mountain.
 - Up to this point – An IMPOSSIBLE TASK
 - BUT God promised that by His Spirit

- That great Mountain would be Leveled into a Plain

Psalm 97:5 (NKJV)

5 *The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, At the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.*

- **Grace, grace to it!**

- This was God's assurance to Zerubbabel that not only will the work be finished
- But Zerubbabel
 - Will finish it BY setting the capstone and declaring that it is all a work of grace.

- **Application**

- With Shouts of GRACE - All Glory to GOD
- When the work is done through human might or power,
 - We can take credit for it
- But when the work is done by the continual supply of the Spirit,
 - Then it is all of grace and to God's glory.

- **Second: More encouragement for Zerubbabel vs. 8-10**

- **1st His hands shall also finish it vs. 8-9**

Zechariah 4:8–9 (NKJV)

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.*

- **This prophecy will be fulfilled in about 3 years**

- The Temple will be finished.

- **God FINISHES What He Starts**

Philippians 1:6 (NKJV)

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

- **2nd For who has despised the day of small things? V. 10**

- **1st For who has despised the day of small things**

Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV)

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."

- Don't get Discouraged by the SMALL things
 - Remember all things are SMALL to God
- Application
 - 1st Be Faithful

- Weather it is BIG or SMALL

Luke 16:10 (NKJV)

10 He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.

- God has a wonderful purpose even if it is difficult to understand
- God Rewards on FAITHFULNESS
- 2nd God Builds Character in these Seasons
 - Those days are not

- A Mistake
- Nor are they Punishment
- They are days of
 - Priceless shaping and preparation.
 - They are not days to despise
- Personally –
 - Most of my days in the ministry has been the days of Small things
 - Look for the hard jobs
 - Anyone can do an easy job
- Learn to be Content
 - *Benjamin Franklin; “For want of a nail, the shoe was lost. For want of a shoe, the horse was lost. For want of a horse, the rider was lost. For want of a rider, the battle was lost. For want of a battle, the kingdom was lost, And all for the want of a horseshoe nail.”*
- **2nd These Seven Rejoice / Plumb Line**

Zechariah 4:10 (NKJV)

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.”

- These Seven
 - In the last chapter we saw a stone with seven eyes being placed before Joshua the high priest (Zec 3:9)

- Seven eyes speaks of God's "Omniscience"
- The fact that God sees and knows everything.
- God will be glad when He sees...
- The plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel
 - The plumb line is what builders use to determine if something is vertical.
 - The eyes of the Lord are watching Zerubbael and his "small" building project.
 - God is rejoicing to see Zerubbabel at work.

• **Third: Explanation of the olive trees and lampstands vs. 11-14**

○ **1st What are these two olive trees v. 11-13**

Zechariah 4:11–13 (NKJV)

11 *Then I answered and said to him, "What are these two olive trees—at the right of the lampstand and at its left?"*

12 *And I further answered and said to him, "What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the golden oil drains?"*

13 *Then he answered me and said, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."*

▪ **Zechariah understood the message of encouragement to Zerubbabel**

- But he didn't exactly understand how it connected to the vision of the olive trees and the lampstand.

○ **2nd These are the two anointed ones v. 14**

Zechariah 4:14 (NKJV)

14 *So he said, "These are the two anointed ones, who stand beside the Lord of the whole earth."*

- **These are the two anointed ones**

- These men are “Anointed” with oil, the Holy Spirit.
- It seems there is a “double” interpretation
 - A double fulfillment regarding this picture.
 - 1st In the days of Zechariah
 - The two olive trees were a picture of
 - Zerubbabel and Joshua
 - They were the “anointed ones”, the ones chosen to build the Temple.
 - The work of the Spirit through them would cause the Lamp of Israel to shine once more.
 - 2nd The second fulfillment is yet to happen.
 - During the Great Tribulation period, there will be two mysterious men show up who will perform miracles just like Moses and Elijah did.
 - They will be “witnesses” for the first 3 ½ years of the Tribulation.
 - Some of us think they might even be Moses and Elijah.

Revelation 11:3–4 (NKJV)

3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy one thousand two hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth.”

4 These are the two olive trees and the two lampstands standing before the God of the earth.

Closing

- Praying that God would pour out His Spirit upon ALL the churches in these last days
- Spirit of the living God,
 - Fall afresh on me!
- Spirit of the living God,
 - Fall afresh on me!
- Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me
- Spirit of the living God,
 - Fall afresh on me!