

Title: Leave the Light On

Text: *Then 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 of hosts." Zechariah 4:6*

Target: The supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is solely predicated upon whether or not we will make room for it to happen.

- I. **Our Resources are Restricted:** *"Not by might (hayil)" (4:6a)*
 - A. **Our forces are lacking:** not about the faculty of people.
 - B. **Our finances are limited:** not about the financial portfolio.

- II. **Our Resolve is Revealing:** *"nor by power" (4:6b)*
 - A. **Our strength is lacking:** our power source is not endless.
 - B. **Our skill is limited:** our abilities are not all-encompassing.

- III. **Our Redeemer comes to our Rescue:** *"but by my Spirit" (4:6c)*

"Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without wind. We are useless."
Charles Spurgeon

- A. **Established by the Spirit:** *"...for He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14:17). In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit," (Ephesians 1:13)*

- B. **Endowed with the Spirit:** *"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 have said to you." (John 14:26)*

- C. **Equipped by the Spirit:** *"And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord." (Isaiah 11:2)*

- D. **Empowered by the Spirit:** *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." (Acts 1:8). "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." (1 Corinthians 12:4)*

Takeaway: If you burn the wick with no oil, you get a **burn out**. If you burn the oil with no wick, you will have a **smoke out**. If you burn the wick sustained by the oil you will drive the **dark out**.

Discussion Questions: This is a powerful reminder that apart from God's Spirit, we can do nothing. Unfortunately, most of us operate in our own strength. The Holy Spirit is so vital to our living and to the sharing of the Gospel that Jesus himself even told His disciples it was better for

Him to go and for the Spirit to come (see John 16:5-12). Jesus goes on in Acts 1:8 to encourage his followers just before His ascension to Heaven by telling them that when the Holy Spirit comes they will receive power. Paul understood the power of the Holy Spirit as well. So much so, that he would admonish and encourage the church in Thessalonica not to quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19). Why, then, do we continue to operate in our own strength denying the Holy Spirit (or quenching)?

Many times you will hear our weekend services end in prayer. During that time the congregation may be asked to open their hands in a posture of receiving. In those times, I like to imagine myself as conduit. With open hands, I freely receive power and blessing from the LORD by His Holy Spirit. With those same open hands, I can now freely operate in His Spirit with power and blessing for those He has placed in my path. As conduit, I am connected to the power source and when I allow the Holy Spirit to fill me I am able to share that power with others.

What areas of your life have you been operating in your own strength and power that need to be given over to the LORD? What might happen if you and I were fully connected to God by His Spirit? How might those around us be changed for eternity?