

Dare to Draw Near

RESPONDING TO GOD'S INVITATION

Lesson 5 Reflection: *The Golden Lamp Stand, Part 1*

Review Last week we learned that we are probably all carrying some baggage that we are going to have to leave behind – or in the words of the writer to the Hebrews, there are some encumbrances that we need to cast off. We dealt with several of these last week through prayer.

So now, this week we have made it through the narrow door and have entered into the Tabernacle, into the Holy Place. It is beautiful, the light – the mellow candlelight, the sound of tiny bells ringing as the priests move about their duties, the smell of richly blended incense burning on the golden altar, the brilliant colors of the tapestry glowing in the candlelight.

All the light in the Tabernacle comes from the golden lamp stand. It was made from a talent of gold – about 100 pounds of solid gold. Carved with ornate almonds and almond blossoms, the lamp stand had 7 lights fueled by olive oil and trimmed every morning and every evening by the priests.

The lamp stand presents a multi faceted picture. It definitely represents Jesus who said in **John 8:12**, *"I am the light of the world, he who follows me will not walk in the darkness but will have the light of life."*

It also pictures our life in Christ when we follow the path that He lights for us.

Matthew 5:16 *"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*

But there is another concept wrapped up in the image of the lamp stand – it is the fuel that burns and brings the light. Olive oil was the used to keep the lights burning in the Golden Lamp stand. Oil is often a picture of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. So the lamp stand is a picture of the Holy Spirit shining into our hearts and fueling us, empowering us so that we can walk with Him.

In **John 14-16**, Jesus teaches the disciples about the Holy Spirit: He is our comforter. He gives us guidance when we don't know what to do. He never deceives us. He always brings the truth. He is our teacher. He gives us the very words we need to say. He is our advocate, our counselor, our helper. He discloses the future to us. He never draws attention to Himself; He always glorifies Jesus.

Later in Romans and Ephesians we learn that He strengthens our inner man. He prays for us and through us so that our prayers are effective. He initiates our salvation and then He lets us know that the God of the universe loves us. He never leaves us. No wonder Jesus said we would be like orphans and be at a disadvantage without the Holy Spirit!

The Human Spirit

The Bible teaches that we are created body, soul, and spirit

I Thessalonians 5:23 Paul tells us...

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All people are created with a

1. A body, a visible tangible physical body
2. A soul, an invisible part, which consists of the mind, the emotions and the will of the person, sometimes loosely called our personality
3. And another invisible part -- a spirit. This is the supernatural part of ourselves. It's where the Holy Spirit resides within us when we become a believer.

Now these parts are not all separate and disjointed – you are one person and these parts operate together and make you who you are! When you get saved – ALL of you gets saved, not just your spirit. Our spirits are very important to God. He wants them to be strong and leading our souls and bodies.

The Holy Spirit If Jesus words are true and it was better for Him to die and leave so we could have the Holy Spirit...

If all the things shared above are true about the Holy Spirit...

If The Holy Spirit comes and resides in our spirits when we accept Jesus as our Savior...

Then why do we as believers get dry and lost and wander away from God? Why do believers not look all that different from their unsaved neighbors?

Some of the reason is because of personal free will and bad choices, but perhaps the main reason why people become discouraged, uninspired and bored with their faith is because they do not know that the Holy Spirit sealed within them is the key to a vibrant, joyful, abundant life with Christ!

All over the book of Acts, Luke tells about how the Holy Spirit was poured out on new believers. Pentecost is probably the most familiar story when "all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance".

Luke uses other words or phrases used to describe the release of the Spirit,

- clothed with power from on high,
- the holy spirit was poured out,
- poured forth,
- they received the holy spirit,
- He (the Holy Spirit) had fallen upon them,
- the holy spirit fell,
- filled with the Spirit,
- full of the Spirit
- baptized with the holy spirit,

In **Ephesians 5:18**, we are commanded "*to be filled with the Spirit.*" And the verb form here is present continuous – meaning "*be continually filled with the Spirit.*" So receiving and being filled with the Holy Spirit is not a onetime event – we can continue to be filled. When our spirits are fueled up with the Holy Spirit, we are able to live the abundant life Jesus promised in **John 10:10!**

In Lesson 5 video, Kathy gives her testimony of a time when she received an infilling of the Holy Spirit. And don't miss the prayer at the end to receive a new filling of the Holy Spirit for yourself!

Homework In **I Corinthians 2:14-15** Paul says that if we want to know God, we can't operate out of our natural man, but we must operate out of our spiritual man.

David cried out in the Psalms, *"Renew a right spirit within me."* **Psalm 51:10**

So if God created us spirit, soul and body -- how do we strengthen and get our spirits strong and in charge?

Just like we strengthen our bodies – we exercise them! We practice!

All the spiritual disciplines of old are still great ways to strengthen our inner man. This week ask the Lord to choose one of the disciplines below, and then practice it with Him!

- Meditating on God - who He is and what He means to you
- Studying the Bible
- Prayer - just talking to God
- Worship - listening to worship music
- Fasting --
- Solitude - spending alone time with God
- Rest
- Journaling your conversations with Him
- Receiving healing prayer

Be intentional.

Schedule these things into your day.

Dare to draw near.

Lecture Notes:

Dare To Draw Near