

EMPOWERED FOR THE CALL

*KEEP YOUR  
OIL FRESH*

PART 4



**Pastor Mason Phillips | May 17, 2026**  
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## **Day 1: The Oil That Sustains**

**Devotional:** The Israelites were commanded to bring pure oil to keep the lampstand burning continually. This wasn't a one-time filling but a daily replenishing. Similarly, Paul urges us to "keep being filled" with the Holy Spirit—a continuous action, not a single event. Like oil in a lamp or engine, the anointing in our lives requires regular renewal. We cannot coast on yesterday's encounter with God. Each morning presents a fresh opportunity to come before the Lord, to worship, to pray, and to receive what we need for today's challenges. The question isn't whether you were once filled, but are you being filled now? Don't let your lamp flicker out through neglect. Prioritize time with God today, allowing His presence to replenish what yesterday's battles depleted.

**Reading:**

*Exodus 27:20-21 NKJV*

*“And you shall command the children of Israel that they bring you pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually. In the tabernacle of meeting, outside the veil which is before the Testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute forever to their generations on behalf of the children of Israel.*

*Ephesians 5:15-18 NKJV*

*See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,*

**Reflection:** In what areas of your life are you experiencing spiritual dryness because you have not been seeking fresh oil from the Holy Spirit?

## **Day 2: No Borrowed Anointing**

**Devotional:** When crisis struck, the foolish virgins discovered a sobering truth: you cannot borrow someone else's oil. Your mother's faith, your pastor's prayers, or your spouse's devotion cannot substitute for your own relationship with God. Paul tells us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling." This isn't about earning salvation but about taking personal responsibility for your spiritual growth. God has given you everything you need—His Spirit, His Word, His grace—but you must apply yourself. You must open the Bible yourself. You must pray yourself. You must surrender yourself. The Christian life isn't a spectator sport where you watch others walk with God. When midnight comes and the call sounds, will you have your own oil, or will you desperately search for someone to lend you what can only be personally cultivated?

**Reading:**

*Philippians 2:12-13 NKJV*

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.*

*2 Timothy 1:6-7 NKJV*

*Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

**Reflection:** The wise virgins could not share their oil with the foolish ones. What does this teach us about personal responsibility in our walk with Christ, and how does it challenge the idea that we can rely on others' faith?

### **Day 3: Present Bias and Eternal Priorities**

**Devotional:** We naturally prioritize immediate gratification over future rewards, even when the future holds infinitely greater value. The foolish virgins chose present comfort over future preparation. They had the invitation, the intention, even the initial excitement—but they lacked the discipline to prepare for what mattered most. Jesus warns us not to store up treasures on earth but in heaven. The rich fool built bigger barns for temporary grain while neglecting his eternal soul. What are you investing in? Are you trading eternal rewards for temporary pleasures? The newest phone depreciates; an investment in God's kingdom multiplies eternally. Don't let present bias rob you of future glory. The choices you make today in your prayer life, your obedience, and your pursuit of God determine whether you'll be ready when the Bridegroom calls.

**Reading:**

*Matthew 6:19-21, 33 NKJV*

*Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.*

*Luke 12:15-21 NKJV*

*And He said to them, “Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”*

*Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: “The Ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, ‘What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?’*

*“So he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. ‘And I will say to my soul, “Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.”’*

*“But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?’ “So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not toward God.”*

**Reflection:** How does the concept of present bias affect your spiritual disciplines, and what immediate gratifications are you prioritizing over your long-term relationship with God?

## **Day 4: Awake in the Night**

**Devotional:** The bride in Solomon's song heard her beloved's voice but hesitated. "I've already undressed... I've washed my feet..." Excuses and comfort kept her from responding immediately. When she finally opened the door, he was gone—

only his fragrance remained. How often do we sense God's call but delay our response? We're comfortable, we're tired, we'll respond later. Paul urgently declares, "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep." The night is almost over; the day is at hand. We cannot afford spiritual drowsiness. The Master's return draws nearer with each passing moment. Don't settle for just catching the fragrance of God's presence when you could experience His full reality. Wake up now. Respond now. Live as one who walks in daylight, not stumbling in darkness, ready at any moment for His appearing.

### **Reading:**

*Romans 13:11-14 NKJV*

*And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.*

*But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.*

*Song of Solomon 5:2-6 NKJV*

*The Shulamite*

*I sleep, but my heart is awake;  
It is the voice of my beloved!  
He knocks, saying,  
"Open for me, my sister, my love,  
My dove, my perfect one;  
For my head is covered with dew,  
My locks with the drops of the night."  
I have taken off my robe;  
How can I put it on again?  
I have washed my feet;  
How can I defile them?  
My beloved put his hand*

*By the latch of the door,  
And my heart yearned for him.  
I arose to open for my beloved,  
And my hands dripped with myrrh,  
My fingers with liquid myrrh,  
On the handles of the lock.  
I opened for my beloved,  
But my beloved had turned away and was gone.  
My heart leaped up when he spoke.  
I sought him, but I could not find him;  
I called him, but he gave me no answer.*

**Reflection:** The bride in Song of Solomon missed her beloved because she hesitated when he called. What excuses or comforts are keeping you from immediately responding when God speaks to you? Are there areas in your life where you are waiting to get ready instead of living ready, and what would it look like to shift from preparation mode to readiness mode?

## **Day 5: Living Ready**

**Devotional:** The difference between the wise and foolish virgins wasn't their initial enthusiasm or their invitation to the wedding. Both groups started the same. The difference emerged during the waiting period. The wise maintained their readiness; the foolish grew complacent. Jesus will return—not might return, but will return—with a shout, with the trumpet call of God. The question isn't if but when, and more importantly, will you be ready? Living ready means maintaining fresh oil through consistent prayer, worship, and obedience. It means having your own vital relationship with God. It means prioritizing eternal things over temporary comfort. Don't wait until you hear the midnight cry to check your lamp. Examine your life today. Is your oil fresh? Is your lamp trimmed? Are you living in such a way that

whenever He calls—whether for service today or for glory tomorrow—you can respond immediately, "Yes, Lord, I'm ready"?

### **Reading:**

*Matthew 25:1-13 NKJV*

*“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

*But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’*

*“And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ “What therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.”*

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV*

*But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.*

*For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

**Reflection:** If Jesus returned today or called you to minister to someone in need right now, would you have enough oil in your lamp, and what changes do you need to make to ensure you are spiritually prepared?