

# Not by Might

BY PASTOR DAVID GUZIK



***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.”***

Zechariah 4:6

The project of building a new temple after the Babylonians destroyed Solomon’s temple had been stalled for years. Zerubbabel was the civic leader of Jerusalem and had the responsibility to finish the temple, and he needed encouragement to carry on the work. God’s Word came to him simply and powerfully: “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” was what the Lord had to say. In the vision of Zechariah Chapter 3, God spoke to Zerubbabel about the issue of purity. But purity alone is not enough to accomplish the work of God; the work of God needs resources—and not the resources of human might or power.

The idea behind the word “might” focuses on collective strength, the resources of a group or army. The word “power” focuses on individual strength. Therefore, God was saying through the prophet, “Not by the resources of many or one, but by My Spirit. It will not be by your cleverness, your ability, or your physical strength that the temple will be rebuilt, but by the Spirit of God.” The necessary resource for God’s work is the Holy Spirit, and God promised Zerubbabel a rich resource in the Spirit of God to accomplish His work. Whenever we trust in our own resources—no matter if they are small or big in the eyes of man—we don’t enjoy the full supply of the Spirit.

This great statement is connected to an earlier vision in Zechariah Chapter 4, where the prophet saw two olive trees connected to a lampstand, the kind that stood in the temple. The oil lamps of the temple lampstand needed constant supply, and it was the daily duty of the priests to make sure they never ran dry. With this vision, God showed Zechariah a continual flow directly from the olive trees to the oil lamps. From this we see that God wanted Zerubbabel to know that

the Holy Spirit would continually supply his need, just as the olive trees in the vision continually supplied oil to the lampstand. God wants His supply and our reliance on the Holy Spirit to be constant. This is also communicated in the great command to be filled with the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18, “but be filled with the Spirit,” which could more accurately be translated: Be constantly being filled with the Holy Spirit. He wants to fill you and be overflowing in your life.

## Whenever we trust in our own resources—no matter if they are small or big in the eyes of man—we don’t enjoy the full supply of the Spirit.

In Zechariah 4, the great emblem of the Holy Spirit is oil—namely, olive oil. It was an important substance in biblical times. When we think about it, oil is a good representation of the Holy Spirit:

- Oil lubricates when used for that purpose. We see that there is little friction and wear among those who are lubricated by the Spirit of God.
- Oil heals and was used as a medicinal treatment in biblical times (as in Luke 10:34). We see that the Spirit of God also brings healing and restoration.
- Oil lights when it is burned in a lamp. We see that, where the Spirit of God is, there is light. The Holy Spirit brings light to our mind and our understanding, especially helping us to understand God’s Word and God’s work, as it says in 1 Corinthians 2:10: “But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.”

- Oil warms when it is used as fuel for a flame. We see that where the Spirit of God is, there is warmth and comfort, even as Jesus promised to send this great Helper and Comforter to His people (John 14:16 and 14:26).

- Oil invigorates when used to massage. We see that the Holy Spirit invigorates us for His service.

- Oil adorns when applied as a perfume. We see that the Holy Spirit adorns us and makes us more pleasant to be around.

- Oil polishes when used to shine metal. We see that the Holy Spirit wipes away our grime and smooths out our rough edges. Titus 3:5 speaks of “the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.” He works on our life like fine oil, cleaning and restoring us.

What our life and work for the Lord needs is the presence and the filling of the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit works with and through

human energy and initiative, but it is possible to have human energy and initiative but none of the Spirit. Charles Spurgeon, the great preacher of Victorian England, explained it this way: “You all get up plans and say, ‘Now, if the church were altered a little bit, it would go on better.’ You think if there were different ministers, or different church order, or something different, then all would be well. No, dear friends, it is not there the mistake lies; it is that we want more of the Spirit.”

Is that what you want more of? Then ask for an outpouring of the Spirit over your life, and determine that your walk will not be by might, nor by power, but by His Spirit. ☞

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