

Holy Spirit is Communicated How?

#0675

Study given by W.D. Frazee—May 18, 1963

“And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?” Zechariah 4:2-4.

It is wonderful that a prophet asks questions. We have in our home a little girl about three years old. I observe that she asks questions. Her daddy and I were going to get water last evening before the Sabbath. On the way down there was something she was curious about and began to ask her daddy about it. He would answer the best he knew, but that only led to another question and another. That little mind was storing up information.

If we could keep that state of mind, that questioning mind, how much we could learn by the time we got to be forty or sixty years old. Unfortunately somewhere along the line the idea comes to our little heads that it is embarrassing to ask questions. That little three year old doesn't think about being embarrassed, and we ought not to be.

Here is the prophet asking questions. I think that is a good attitude to encourage. Let's ask questions along with the prophet and see what we can learn. Notice God not only answers questions, He sometimes asks questions. Having made statements to the prophets questions, we read:

“Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof? And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves? And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.” Zechariah 4:11-14.

The prophet not only was not above asking questions, he was not above admitting that he didn't know some things. That is a good attitude too, isn't it? And both of those attitudes open the way for teaching and learning.

You may be interested in reading all this chapter, but we have read enough to help us get a picture of the symbol.

In the center of the picture is a candlestick. It is made of gold. On top of it is a bowl.

What is a bowl for? To hold oil. What does the candlestick have? Seven lamps. What is this candlestick for? To give light. What does it need to give light? It needs oil. Where does it get the oil? From two olive trees.

These are very interesting olive trees. They communicate oil from the trees through the golden pipes to the bowl, and thence to the lamp. This is a symbol, and a symbol we want to understand. So we will study it comparing Scripture with Scripture. Remember that the whole objective of it is to give light.

Let's go to John as the first text in unraveling this mystery:

"Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life" John 8:12.

Jesus is identified with light. I want to notice what it is about Jesus that gives light:

"In Him was life; and the life was the light of men" John 1:4.

Is it not true that it was the life of Jesus that gave light to those about Him in the deeds of mercy He preformed and in the words of mercy He spoke? His life was light in a dark world, wasn't it?

Now let's notice a limiting factor:

"As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world" John 9:5.

How long was Jesus to be the light of the world? Without looking at the text someone might say forever. In a sense yes, but in a sense no. He Himself limits it. He didn't stay very long as we measure time. He has been gone now for nearly two thousand years. Has the world has been without any light for two thousand years? No. Speaking of His disciples He says,

"Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid" Matthew 5:14.

Exactly the same words He used of Himself. Isn't it a wonderful thing that you and I are appointed to be in this world what Jesus was to the world when He was here? Now notice:

“Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it gives light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” John 5:15-16.

What do they see? Your good works. That is the fruit of life. It is life made manifest. It is life in three dimensions. It is the shining of light.

Jesus indicates here that light shines from a candlestick. In John 8:12 we might refer the candlestick to Christ, but He is not in the world anymore. As we have seen, He has left His church to take His place.

“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in My right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches” Revelation 1:20.

The word seven is often used in the Bible to represent complete or full or perfect. So we have here the seven churches representing all the church of Christ from the days when Jesus was here until He shall come again. And the messages to those are given in Revelation 2 and 3.

But watch. He plainly states that these seven candlesticks represent the seven churches. Or, the composite candlestick represents the composite church. The candlestick represents the church, the people of God. As the business of a candlestick is to give light, so the business of the church is to give light.

The picture is clear so far, isn't it? And remember, light is life. Life is to be manifested in good works, doing something for people. Talk is cheap as the old saying is. So what the church teaches, what its creed is isn't necessarily light. To be living effectual light, guiding light, helpful light, drawing light, it must be lived out in the lives of the individual members.

What did the candlestick have to have in order to give light? Oil. What happens to oil that is put in a candlestick? It is burnt up. It is used in shining. What has to happen? It has to be replenished. More has to come in.

In Zechariah's vision that was taken care of by two living olive trees that were continually pouring the golden oil out of themselves into the golden pipes and from them into the golden bowl, thence to the candlesticks.

Would you like to have a tree or two like that? That is what I want to study about. We need to be sure we are connected. We need to be sure we are part of a candlestick that is connected.

I fear there are a lot of candlesticks today that are not giving any more light than the picture of the seven-branched candlestick on the Arch of Titus in the city of Rome. When Titus captured Jerusalem and destroyed it in A.D. 70, he brought back

the golden candlestick and the engraving of it is on that great arch. But it is not giving any light. It is a has been.

There are a lot of churches that are just about like that candlestick. Any church that does not have contact with those two olive trees is nothing but a piece of furniture. The only source of heavenly oil is in these two olive trees.

Let's go back to Zechariah.

“And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep. And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord. Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit, saith the LORD of hosts”
Zechariah 4:1-6.

What is it that enables the church to shine? The Holy Spirit. These good works that are to be done by the members of the church are not to be done merely by human power. That would be by might. But the situation that challenged the people of God at that time was beyond the ability of human wisdom to fathom, of human power to solve.

They were trying to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple. It was a time of discouragement. God said to His people, Arise and shine and I will be with you. Be sure you are connected with those olive trees. Be sure the golden oil is flowing into the bowl and through the golden pipes to those candlesticks that they may shine. It is not be human might or human power, but by My Spirit.

This oil fitly represents the Holy Spirit. How is the Holy Spirit communicated? What is it that God sends from heaven from these two olive trees that enables the church to be the light of the world? That is what I want you to think about.

I fear that Satan has in many way caused us to have mystical and perverted and distorted ideas of the communication of the Holy Spirit. There are many false movements in the world today that claim to be led of the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, baptized with the Spirit. In many cases they are filled with a spirit; but the Bible talks about the spirits of devils working miracles (Revelation 16:14-16), and we do not want that kind of spirit, do we?

When the Spirit of God is at work, His goal is ever clear, and that is to communicate something to you and me that will be manifested as light, and that light is good works. Then watch this point: There will be something in what heaven communicates to the church, which, if it is received and accepted, will be lived out.

When many think of the Holy Spirit they merely think of some happy feeling. They think of getting religion and feeling like shouting or doing other exuberant things. I don't question but that the Spirit of God sometimes makes people very happy. He sometimes makes people very sad too. There is a time for both. But the great goal of it is to give light, and that light is good works that men see.

If there was a house that needed to be built for some widow and orphans, and God would give me His Spirit, and all I got out of that was a happy feeling, would I ever get that house built?

Suppose it was as simple as getting some wood to burn in the stove for the widow and her children. Suppose the Spirit of God comes to me and I just feel happy all over. Will that get the wood in the stove?

You can see that if ignorant people receive the Spirit of God and all they get out of it is a happy feeling there will not be much light that shines. There must be some practical, definite instruction that heaven will send to earth in order that the members may know how to shine and live the good life that gives light.

I wonder if God has ever done anything like that? My dear friends, that is what these olive trees are doing. That is what their business is. Notice:

“Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth” Zechariah 4:14.

The margin says, “sons of oil.” This is where the oil comes from. Do you know the names of those two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth? I only know the name of one of them, but I am glad I know at least fifty percent. Some day we are going to find out the name of the other.

When God had Moses make the sanctuary He said, Moses, I want you to make two angels, two cherubim of gold. Put one on one end of the mercy seat and one on the other. Toward the mercy seat shall their faces be. Those were the two cherubim, the two angels that stood one on either end of the mercy seat, and the Shekina, the Holy light, was in between.

What was that light? That was the actual presence of God. That was not something Moses made. God was there in that light. And on either side were those two cherubim, two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

I told you that I know the name of one of them. Some of you know it too. The aged Zacharias was ministering as priest in the sanctuary. As he stood there offering incense, one of these angels appeared. Not an angel of gold, but a literal angel from heaven; one of the two anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth. He told Zacharias his name:

“And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel,
that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak
unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings” Luke
1:19.

Here is one of these anointed ones that stand by the Lord of the whole earth, and he is coming to communicate something. In Zachariah's symbolic prophecy these anointed ones were olive trees, and they were communicating oil. But here is the real angel. He is not an olive tree. He is an angel. He is not communicating oil. He is communicating a message.

You say, I though we read in Zechariah that oil represented the Holy Spirit. Precisely, but the Holy Spirit is manifested in a message of what to do. Not just some happy feeling. As you read the first chapter of Luke you will find that the angel came not merely to tell Zacharias and Elizabeth they were going to have a son, but what to do about that son. His whole program in life was to be under the direction of that angel.

As the result of listening to that angel they moved from where they were to a more rural location. There were certain changes in the diet that took place. The whole manner of life of that boy from birth to death was influenced by what that angel brought from heaven. Was John's life light while he lived? Oh, yes. Why? Because his parents and he, as he entered into it with his growing years, were connected with heaven through that message that Gabriel brought.

That is what it means to be connected with a church that has the visits of this angel. This is golden oil indeed. But it cannot be manufactured in the mills of this world. The trees of this world do not grow it.

These trees are in heaven. These anointed ones stand by the Lord of the whole earth. One of these two anointed ones name is Gabriel, and these messages from heaven are glad tidings. Isn't it wonderful that God thinks so much of His people, His church in this world, that when He has a message from heaven to deliver He sends the highest angel in glory, the one that is right by His side? Isn't that wonderful?

An ambassador of the highest rank is sent from heaven to earth to give us these messages. These messages are golden oil. But their purpose is that we shall receive them into our hearts and live them out in our daily lives. Thus they bring light to those around us. Every home that receives these messages and live them out will be a lighthouse in this world. Every human being who receives these messages and lives them out will be a light in his home, his community, and wherever his influence extends.

What does this have to do with the Holy Spirit? These cherubim communicate the golden oil to the candlestick. That was the Holy Spirit. Here we see the angel bringing a message, but that message is always a message of the Holy Spirit.

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” 2 Peter 1:21.

When Zechariah told what the angel had said and done, he was filled with the Holy Ghost. Now watch this point. A prophet is one who sees the angel of prophecy and in whose heart the Holy Spirit comes and inspires him to tell that which the angel has brought. If you have a church which has a prophet then you are connected with the olive trees and the golden oil is flowing.

We were studying a few moments ago that when Jesus was in the world He was the light of the world. When He went back to heaven He left His church to be the light of the world. But He never intended that would continue to happen unless the church were receiving supplies from the heavenly sanctuary.

“Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men” Ephesians 4:8.

No sooner had Jesus arrived in the heavenly sanctuary than He pled with His Father for that wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit. He told His disciples He would when He left. He said He would go to heaven and pray the Father for them, and He would send them another comforter, even the Spirit of God (John 14:16). Now let's see how these gifts were distributed.

“And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:11-13.

Notice the expression, “for the work of the ministry.” That is not talking simply about the work of the ministers. It is talking about the work every member of the church is to do in ministering to others in service. But notice that it is dependent upon receiving these gifts.

I repeat, it is a wonderful thing to be connected to a church where the golden oil is flowing; where the Spirit of God is operating in bringing messages from the heavenly sanctuary.

Somebody says, “We have the Bible and it came that way, didn't it?”

Yes, the Bible did come that way. All the prophets from Moses to John received this holy oil. We have the work of the Holy Spirit speaking to us in these inspired pages. We are dealing not merely with Isaiah and Peter and David and John, Moses and Samuel. We are dealing with the Holy Spirit. We are dealing with these glorious messengers from heaven.

We are in contact with the olive trees. Does this oil received into our lives make changes? Certainly. And if we follow this, will the life we live be the light of the world? Yes.

But my dear friends, God has been pleased in a special way to communicate golden oil in this last generation. And God tells us that is what He expected to do:

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy” Acts 2:17-18.

When was this to be? In the last days. Have we come to the last days? A hundred signs in the earth, the sea, and the skies tell us that the coming of Jesus draws near.

There are two great reasons why that calls for the exercise of the prophetic gift. The world is in such a terrible state. There are so many delusions, so many inventions that draw the mind away from God in heaven. We need discernment. We need the golden oil. We need instruction which will keep us from those snares.

Beside that, those who welcome Jesus at His appearing must reach the very highest standard. They must be complete in Him. Their lives must reflect the image of Jesus fully. In order that this may be so, we need the golden oil.

We have books called *Testimonies for the Church*. Why testimonies for the church?

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healing, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” 1 Corinthians 12:28.

The gift of prophecy has been set where? In the church. It is for the church. As we have seen the purpose of those communications is that the lives of church members shall be light for the world. So here are *Testimonies* for the church. Here is a candlestick which is connected up with those olive trees. The golden oil is flowing and has been flowing into this church.

What does the word “testimonies” mean. It is something somebody says or writes. It is a statement by somebody. We think of it in a court. This witness and that witness gives his testimony. Testimony is for the church.

Are these the testimonies of Jesus?

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches” Revelation 22:16.

I repeat, it means everything to be connected with a church that is connected to the olive trees. The purpose of the candlestick is to shine. If you are connected to a church that has no connection with the olive trees, then you are part of the furniture as far as what we are studying is concerned. Isn't that clear?

Every member of the church decides just how much of this golden oil he will receive. How much do you have? Do you have a quart, a pint, or a spoonful? Is it measured with an eye dropper? Every bit of oil will enable you to shine some, thank the Lord.

If you want to shine more, get more oil. There is plenty where this came from. There is more oil than you and I can receive in our whole lives. There are thousands upon thousands of *Testimonies*, bright, radiant, glorious messages from the courts above, magnifying the Bible and exalting God and leading us to Jesus. The purpose of it is that our lives shall be so changed that the things we do and say shall be the light of the world.

I want to read you a statement about this golden oil. This is in the Spirit of Prophecy comments in the *Ellen G. White Commentary*. This is one of these *Testimonies*:

“God is dishonored when we do not receive the communications He sends us; thus we refuse the golden oil” *Bible Commentary*, Vol. 4, page 1180

Wouldn't it be a shame? Gabriel leaves heaven with a wonderful message. He comes all the way down to this world and knocks at my door. Here is a message from Jesus. Jesus says, I have sent My angel to testify to you.

I say, Well I am too busy.

Ah friends, if I am too busy to listen to Gabriel, I am too busy. Yes, I am too busy. I had better not be so busy. This message calls for our first attention. It is the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy.

I feel very thankful for this golden oil, and I want to open my heart to more of it. I want to receive the Spirit operating through the Word and the *Testimonies*. This is the Spirit I want. I want the Spirit that comes from the sanctuary and leads me to the sanctuary. I do not want one that comes from beneath and leads me beneath.

As I open my heart to this precious instruction, as I open my life to this golden oil, I have faith that Jesus will help me to shine just as the candlestick shines as it receives the golden oil.

I remember a little song we used to sing when I was just a little boy in Sabbath School:

“Jesus bids us shine with a clear pure light,
Like a little candle burning in the night.

In this world of darkness we must shine,
You in your corner and I in mine.”

Ah, let's be candles for Jesus, what do you say? But remember, we will burn out if all we have is what we have today. We must be getting more and more every day, and we can have it.

May I suggest something. If you haven't done it before, get down on your knees with the Bible open before you, and there ask God to lead you.

With the Bible take one of the *Testimonies* and talk to God, and let God talk to you through His Word and through these special messages the He has given us through the Spirit of Prophecy for the last days. And as sure as God is true, the golden oil will flow into your heart and mine.

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