



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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By God' Spirit!

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6 - 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.

Zerubbabel, leader of the Jews who returned from captivity. "Be strong . . . and work: for I am with you" (Haggai 2:4). Judah's people had already returned to worshiping God, and He promised to bless their efforts. Now it was time for them to work. We must be people of prayer, Bible study, and worship, but eventually we must get out and do what assignment God has given us. He wants to change the world through us. God has given you a job to do in the church, at your place of employment, and at home. **The time has come to be strong and work, for God is with you!**

The angel woke the prophet Zechariah out of his sleep and asked him what he saw and he said the golden candlestick and two olive trees. Two olive trees were seen, one on each side the candlestick, from which oil flowed into the bowl without ceasing. Oil is a good representation of the Holy Spirit. However, Zechariah didn't understand the vision and the angel said: "*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 4:6). It meant that the completion of the temple in Jerusalem would not depend on human strength or effort, but would be accomplished by the Spirit of the Lord. God promised Zerubbabel that the work would be achieved through divine grace alone.

Many people believe that to survive in this world a person must be tough, strong, unbending, and harsh. But God says, "**Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.**" It is only through God's Spirit that anything of lasting value is accomplished. The returned exiles were indeed weak—harassed by their enemies, tired, discouraged, and poor. But actually they had God on their side! As you live for God, determine not to trust in your own strength or abilities. Instead, depend on God and work in the power of His Spirit! When the work is done through human **might** or **power** we can take credit for it, but when the work is done by the continual supply of the **Spirit**, then it is all to the glory of God's **grace**.

No matter what difficulties we face or how frustrating our work may be, God's Spirit is with us. To withstand the power of evil forces, we must depend on God's strength and use every piece of His armor (Ephesians 6:11-17). As you do battle against "the rulers of darkness of this world," fight in the strength of the church, whose power comes from the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah let Zerubbabel not by an army, not by weapons, powerless, but by spiritual power the Holy Spirit. Trust in weapons is vain because David was able to defeat Goliath by coming in the name of the LORD (1 Samuel 17:45). Powerlessness of men, often due to sin and unbelief. A broken covenant stripped Samson of his strength, apostasy produced a nation of cowards, and unbelief rendered the apostles helpless to contend with Satanic forces.

The spiritual power of God gives men courage to rebuke sin, is mightier than physical forces, accompanies the baptism of the Holy Ghost, enables men to speak with authority, and fills life with healing influences. The prophet's spirit was willing to attend, but the flesh was weak. We should beg of God that, whenever He speaks to us, He would awaken us, and we should then stir up ourselves. The church is a golden candlestick, or lamp-bearer, set up for enlightening this dark world, and holding forth the light of Divine revelation.

Christ is our Zerubbabel; mountains of difficulty were in the way of his undertaking, but nothing is too hard for Him. What comes from the grace of God, may, in faith, be committed to the grace of God, for He will not forsake the work of His own hands. When we trust in our own resources – whether they be small or great in the eyes of man – then we don't enjoy the full supply of the Spirit.

God is saying to the church today, Not by Might, nor by Power, but By My Spirit!