

New Sermon Series: Encounters with THE Holy Spirit

7/27/25 “For God’s Work: Hear This,” Zechariah 4:1-7, MEV

INTRODUCTION *imagine GAG destroyed, us told to rebuild with our hands, neighbors hostile*

Most Messianic of all OT books; **Context:** Challenged people to view temple restoration as part of God’s larger plan to bring a greater restoration in future: Christ’s 1st & 2nd comings

People had become too interested in own stuff (paneled homes, 1:4)

Gold lampstand with bowl: olive oil symbolized God’s Holy Spirit (7 representing fullness/completeness); oil from bowl through pipes to lights to keep lamps full & burning

7 lights: represent people spreading His light to world because of Holy Spirit’s power in their lives

2 olive trees on either side of the lamp: represent royal & priestly ministries of Zerubbabel (gov., line of Jesus) & Joshua (high priest)

MAIN IDEA: God gives us His Spirit to do His work. Why? Here are four reasons.

I. First, God gives us a great work (6) *Zerubbabel build temple*

A. to fulfill His plan

1. for us...*grow us, know Him, serve/humility*

Ephesians 2:10, NLT: For we are God’s masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago.

2. for others...*around us, following us, benefiting*

3. for the world...*salvation plan, Christ’s return*

B. we may or may not think it’s a great idea

C. it will be difficult

ILLUSTRATION:

II. Second, we will encounter obstacles (7) *mountain*

A. seem too big for us to overcome...*opposition, cold hearts*

B. can overwhelm or discourage us... *too big, we can’t do it*

C. others may discourage us from trying

D. can cause us to want to quit

ILLUSTRATION:

III. Third, our effort alone is not enough (6)

Might: strength, *skill*, wealth

Power: strength, power, *ability*

NOTE: Our skills and natural abilities contribute to the Body of Christ, but are not enough to achieve God’s work.

A. can work hard but that mountain will remain

B. natural giftings are not enough to do God’s task

1. despite more practice

2. despite our excelling...*in what we’re good at or improving in what we are weak at*

C. working harder won’t accomplish the task

ILLUSTRATION:

IV. Finally, we need God’s Spirit to accomplish the work (6)

My Spirit: the Holy Spirit, which is God, sent by Jesus (John 16:7)

“Our spiritual power does not lie in money, genius, anointed plans, or dedicated work. Rather, power for spiritual conquest comes from the Holy Spirit.” – *Bill Bright*

A. working through us...*His wisdom, His power*

1. leading us

2. empowering us

3. through our cooperation with Him

B. by His Spirit, obstacles will be overcome (leveled)

C. we will experience joy... “*Grace! Grace!*”: *shouts of triumph declaring God’s favor*

ILLUSTRATION:

CONCLUSION:

ALTAR: