

5 -- THE GOLDEN LAMPSTAND (The Blessed Oil)

In this lesson, we will move farther into the Holy Place, the first apartment of the tabernacle. Here we learn that God is not only concerned about our past (the forgiveness of our record of sin as symbolized in the Outer Court), but also in our life today. God used the sanctuary to point us to the path of spiritual health and strength, showing us how to “*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” In the first apartment, or Holy Place, were the lampstand, the table of showbread, and the altar of incense. Today we will study the golden lamp located on the south side of the Holy Place.

1. What was the lampstand made of and what kind of work was to be done in making it?

Exodus 25:31 You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be of one piece.

2. How many branches did it have and how were they arranged?

Exodus 25:37 You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.

Note: The candlestick was placed on the southern side of the Holy Place, parallel to the wall, the seven lamps forming a row. As a result, the light was shed on the opposite or northern wall, where the table of show-bread stood. This was the only light source in the Holy Place.

3. What was to be burned in the lamps?

Exodus 27:20, 21 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.

Note: Pure olive oil was used to keep the lamp burning bright in the sanctuary.

4. What does the golden lampstand tell us about Jesus and us?

John 8:12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven. Also 1 John 2:5,6; John 17:18.

Note: Jesus is the only true and safe source of light (truth) we have to follow in this darkened world. The same mission of revealing the true and loving character of God that He came to accomplish, He delights to do through His sincere followers! John 14:9; 17:4,18.

5. What does the oil represent?

1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward...

Note: Oil is used in the Scriptures as a symbol of the Holy Spirit (Zechariah 4:1-6, Revelation 4:5). Often anointings were done as a symbol of the infilling of the Holy Spirit for service or healing (James 5:14, 15).

The Holy Spirit and His Work

6. Is the Holy Spirit an impersonal force, or is He God?

Acts 5:3, 4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit...? ... You have not lied to men but to God."

Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Note: The apostle Peter declared that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God. Furthermore, Jesus told us to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19, 20), thus informing us that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead, placed in full equality with the Father and the Son. The Bible also states that we can grieve the Spirit, which means that He has emotions. He is not simply an impersonal force. In Scripture, the Holy Spirit is referred to as Comforter, Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit, Spirit of truth, the seven Spirits of God, the Helper and simply the Spirit. All of these titles denote personality.

7. Was Jesus filled with the Holy Spirit?

Luke 4:1 Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.

Note: Just as Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit, God desires His followers to be filled as well.

8. What precious promise did Jesus make to His disciples shortly before His crucifixion?

John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.

9. Why was it necessary for Jesus to go away?

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Note: This text reveals to us that part of the work of ministration that Jesus performs for us as our Heavenly Priest, is to send to us the Holy Spirit.

10. While in vision on the island of Patmos, where did the apostle John see Jesus?

Revelation 1: 12, 13 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Note: John, while in vision, saw Jesus in the first apartment of the heavenly sanctuary dressed in His priestly attire.

11. How intimate is the Holy Spirit's union with the believer?

John 14:17 ... but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Note: Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, seeks an intimate living relationship with His beloved children.

12. What promise is thus fulfilled?

Matthew 28:20 ... lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age (world).

Note: Jesus promised to "never leave us nor forsake us" (Hebrews 13:5).

13. Is it possible to tell whether or not a person has been filled with the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 7:20 Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

14. What “fruits” is the text here referring too?

Galatians 5:22, 23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. ...

Note: There are those who teach that the evidence that a person has the infilling of the Holy Spirit is speaking in “tongues,” but according to Jesus, it is a life transformed by the Holy Spirit to reflect the character of Jesus. This is God’s ultimate goal through the plan of redemption. To reproduce in fallen man the image of God which was lost in the Garden of Eden through sin.

15. How does this love get into my heart?

Romans 5:5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

16. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

John 16:8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.

Note: Here we see the work of the Holy Spirit demonstrated in the sanctuary. Sin is addressed in the Outer Court, righteousness is taught in the Holy Place, and Judgment, we will discover, takes place in the Most Holy Place.

17. How does the Holy Spirit work through us to bring about this change?

John 17:17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

Note: The Holy Spirit inspired the Holy Bible (2 Peter 1:20-21) and works through it to transform our lives. The 1st apartment, the Holy Place, teaches us the process called sanctification, of which the lampstand comprises the 1st Component (Ephesians 5:26; John 7:38, 39).

18. What is sanctification and how does it work?

2 Peter 3:18 ...but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Note: Sanctification is spiritual growth. It is victory over the power of sin. It takes only moments to be justified: Just long enough to repent and invite Jesus to take control of our life, accepting His gift of His sacrifice for us, and demonstrating this decision through baptism. But to remain a follower of Jesus is the work of a life time, resulting in spiritual growth--or the perfecting of character--through strength in Jesus. This is sanctification. It too is a gift from Jesus. It is Jesus living and working in us through the Holy Spirit’s power to give us victory over Satan. It is a day by day surrender to His way over ours. This growth comes naturally when we maintain our relationship with Jesus. Satan, “*the accuser of our brethren*,” brings many trials and difficulties to discourage us; but Jesus promises, “*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*” We need only to cling to Jesus by faith and claim His mighty promises.

19. Does the Spirit fill those who deliberately break God commandments?

John 14:15-17 If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever... the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Acts 5:32 And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.

20. What is the one sin that cannot be forgiven?

Matthew 12:32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

Note: This statement is in reference to the “unpardonable sin” against the Holy Spirit. The work of the Holy Spirit includes convicting people of what is right and wrong (John 16:8). It is not a single offense, but rather a progressive resistance to truth that results in a final rejection of God’s will (Hebrews 10:26, 27). The conscience is seared when a person repeatedly opposes and neglects the impressions of the Holy Spirit until he no longer hears His voice. Therefore, a person who has a haunting fear that he has committed the “unpardonable sin” very likely has not.

21. When God blesses a person with the Holy Spirit what does He want them to do?

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.

Note: God fills us with His Spirit to give us power for witnessing!

22. How willing is God to give us the Holy Spirit?

Luke 11:13 If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Note: Friend, Jesus is more than willing to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. But God is a gentleman and waits to be asked, and not just today, but each and every day.

23. How does Jesus, through the Spirit, gain entrance into my heart?

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

Note: Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the Word of God, is a knock at the door of the heart; it is the voice of Jesus, asking for entrance. When we respond to Heaven’s prompting, by asking for forgiveness and turning from our sin, the door of the heart is open to the Heavenly Guest.

Your Response to Jesus

Dear friend, Jesus is the One who lived and died for you and He is waiting and yearning to pour the precious oil of the Holy Spirit into your life, to fill you with His healing peace and strengthening joy. Would you like to ask Him now to take possession of your mind and heart?

Answer _____