

## BY MY SPIRIT

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Banska Stiavnica, 16th July 2023

**Zechariah 4:1-14** And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. <sup>2</sup> And he said to me, "What do you see?" I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. <sup>3</sup> And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." <sup>4</sup> And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" <sup>5</sup> Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." <sup>6</sup> Then he 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. <sup>7</sup> Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of 'Grace, grace to it!'" <sup>8</sup> Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, <sup>9</sup> "The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. <sup>10</sup> For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. "These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth." <sup>11</sup> Then I said to him, "What are these two olive trees on the right and the left of the lampstand?" <sup>12</sup> And a second time I answered and said to him, "What are these two branches of the olive trees, which are beside the two golden pipes from which the golden oil is poured out?" <sup>13</sup> He said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" I said, "No, my lord." <sup>14</sup> Then he said, "These are the two anointed ones who stand by the Lord of the whole earth."

בְּשׁוּב יְהוָה אֶת־שִׁיבַת צִיּוֹן הָיִינוּ כְּחֹלְמִים  
אִז יִמְלֵא שְׂחֹק פִּינוּ וּלְשׁוֹנֵנוּ רִנָּה  
אִז יֹאמְרוּ בְּגוֹיִם הַגְּדִיל יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת עִם־אֱלֹהֵי  
הַגְּדִיל יְהוָה לַעֲשׂוֹת עִמָּנוּ הָיִינוּ שְׂמֵחִים  
שׁוּבָה יְהוָה אֶת־שִׁבְתֵּנוּ כְּאִפְקִים בְּנֹב  
הַזֵּרְעִים בְּרִמְעָה בְּרִנָּה יִקְצְרוּ  
הַלֹּדֶף יִלְדֵךְ וּבִכְהָ נִשְׂא מִשְׁדֵּי־הַזֵּרַע  
בְּאֵיבּוֹא בְּרִנָּה נִשְׂא אֱלֻמָּתָיו

**Ps 126:1-6** When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. <sup>2</sup> Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then they said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them." <sup>3</sup> The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad. <sup>4</sup> Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like streams in the Negeb! <sup>5</sup> Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy! <sup>6</sup> He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

## OUTLINE

### 0. INTRODUCTION

- 0.1. "BY MY SPIRIT"
- 0.2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

### 1. THE ZERUBBABEL ANALOGY

- 1.1. LED THE RETURN
- 1.2. BUILT THE TEMPLE
- 1.3. CHURCH ANALOGY

### 2. THE WORD OF GOD

- 2.1. ITS VARIOUS FORMS
- 2.2. ITS CONSTANT COMPANION
- 2.3. ITS WARNING

### 3. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

- 3.1. ANOINTING
- 3.2. THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT
- 3.3. CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

## 4. TO REMEMBER

### 0. INTRODUCTION

#### 0.1. "BY MY SPIRIT"

- revivals

[GOFORTH *By My Spirit*] My conviction is that the Divine power, so manifest in the Church at Pentecost, was nothing more nor less than what should be in evidence in the Church to-day. Normal Christianity, as planned by our Lord, was not supposed to begin in the Spirit and continue in the flesh. In the building of His temple it never was by might nor by power, but always by His Spirit.

#### 0.2. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- ...Sheshbazzar seems to have gone back to Persia. The small community which remained behind found so many obstacles and discouragements... The northerners did not take their rebuff patiently.
- ...Zerubbabel. In this prince of the house of David the hopes of many were centred; his grandfather Jehoiachin had been rejected (Jer. 22:24.), signet ring on God's right hand though he might have been, but Zerubbabel would be restored to that place of honour (Hag. 2:20-23). Zerubbabel was hailed by Zechariah as "the man whose name is the Branch" who "shall build the temple of Yahweh, and shall bear royal honour, and shall sit and rule upon his throne (Zech. 6:12f).
- Revelation 7 churches-7 lampstands
- the two "sons of oil" → the actual persons of Joshua and Zerubbabel...

### 1. THE ZERUBBABEL ANALOGY

- **Haggai 2:23** On that day, declares the LORD of hosts, I will take you, O Zerubbabel my servant, the son of Shealtiel, declares the LORD, and make you like a signet ring, for I have chosen you, declares the LORD of hosts."

[CALVIN] Now as Zerubbabel was only a type of Christ, we must understand that this word is addressed to Christ and to all his members.

#### 1.1. LED THE RETURN

- "the Second Exodus"
  - **Haggai 2:4-5** Yet now be strong, O Zerubbabel, declares the LORD. Be strong, O Joshua, son of Jehozadak, the high priest. Be strong, all you people of the land, declares the LORD. Work, for I am with you, declares the LORD of hosts, <sup>5</sup> according to the covenant that I made with you when you came out of Egypt. My Spirit remains in your midst. Fear not.
- a decree of a gentile king (Cyrus)
- relatively few returned
- living with the mixed population
- governed by gentile kings

#### 1.2. BUILT THE TEMPLE

- altar first
- **Haggai 1:14** And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God,

#### 1.3. CHURCH ANALOGY

- **1Cor 3:16** Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?
- **1Tim 3:15** ...the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of truth.

## 2. THE WORD OF GOD

### 2.1. ITS VARIOUS FORMS

- conscience - visions (apocalyptic) – prophecies - Scripture

### 2.2. ITS CONSTANT COMPANION

- challenge: wait for the power of the Spirit!

### 2.3. ITS WARNING

- → the temptation to rely on human resources → wait for the SPIRIT!

## 3. THE SPIRIT OF GOD

- the Church → growing in the Spirit

### 3.1. ANOINTING

- Anointing with the Spirit. (Isa. 11.1-3; 61.1: 'The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me'.)
- [WRIGHT] ...watchword, " Not by power, nor by might, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." The God of Israel designed to make his people " a light to lighten the Gentiles," and the glorious light of the lamps of the golden candlestick...

### 3.2. THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT

[PHILLIPS] ...Darius ordered that he immediately provide the necessary money and materials— even the animals needed to restore the temple sacrifices— upon pain of death (Ezra 6:1- 12). Not by might, nor by power, but surely by the Spirit of God who was working through all these events...

- opposed to:
  - [CALVIN] (חַיִל) seems to mean combined force, either of wealth or of armies
  - [CALVIN] (צָבָה) is the strength or vigour of men—courage or valour.
- greater than armies, collective accomplishments
  - **Is 31:3** The Egyptians are man, and not God, and their horses are flesh, and not spirit.
- greater than human strength and creativity
  - **1Cor 3:11-13** For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.<sup>12</sup> Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—<sup>13</sup> each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done.

[CALVIN] When therefore we now see things in a despairing condition, let this vision come to our minds— that God is sufficiently able by his own power to help us, when there is no aid from any other ; for his Spirit will be to us for lamps, for pourers, and for olive-trees, so that experience will at length show that we have been preserved in a wonderful manner by his hand alone.

### 3.3. CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY

- **Rom 8:14** For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
- **Eph 6:12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places

I WOULD remind you first of all that, from a practical standpoint, this third division of our study of the subject of authority is the most important of all. Notice that I say from a practical standpoint. This is because all that we have been considering up to this point may be of no value to us unless we know and experience the authority of the Holy Spirit. We can study the authority of the Lord and of th(t Scriptures in a purely intellectual manner. We may have intellectual convictions. But they do not of necessity affect our lives and our work. Only when the authority of the Holy Spirit comes to bear upon us do all these things become real

and living and powerful to us. More than that, all that we believe about the Scriptures and about the Lord Himself can only be applied in our ministry, and so become relevant to the world and its situation, as we are under the authority and power of the Holy Spirit. So from the practical standpoint there is no question but that this is the most important matter of all.

V prvom rade chem vám pripomenúť, že z praktického hľadiska je toto naše tretie oddelenie najdôležitejšie zo všetkých (Autorita Ježiša Krista, Autorita Písma). Všimnite si, že hovorím z praktického hľadiska. Je to preto, že všetko, o čom sme doteraz uvažovali, pre nás nemusí mať žiadnu hodnotu pokiaľ nepoznáme a nezažijeme autoritu Ducha Svätého. Môžeme študovať autoritu Pána a Písma čisto intelektuálnym spôsobom. Môžeme mať intelektuálne presvedčenie. Ale to nevyhnutne neovplyvňuje náš život a našu prácu. Iba keď na nás začne pôsobiť autorita Ducha Svätého, vtedy sa všetky tieto veci stávajú skutočnými a živými a pôsobia na nás mocou. Viac než to, všetko, čo veríme o Písme a o Pánovi sa dá aplikovať v našej službe, a tak byť relevantným pre svet a jeho situáciu, ak som pod autoritou a mocou Ducha Svätého. Takže z praktického hľadiska niet pochýb, že toto je najdôležitejšia vec zo všetkých.

- 1Thes 1:5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.

### 3.3.1. "IN THE SPIRIT"

- Rom 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.
- Gal 5:16 But I say, walk (περιπατεῖτε) by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.
- Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk (στοιχωμεν) by the Spirit.
- Jude 1:20 But you, beloved, build yourselves up in your most holy faith; pray in the Holy Spirit;
- 1 Corinthians 14:12 So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church

### 3.3.2. DISCERNING SPIRITS

- 1Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons.
- Eph 4:14 so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.

### 3.3.3. CARNAL OR SPIRITUAL?

- 1Cor 3:1-3 But I, brothers, could not address you as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ.<sup>2</sup> I fed you with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it. And even now you are not yet ready,<sup>3</sup> for you are still of the flesh. For while there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not of the flesh and behaving only in a human way?

### 3.3.4. THE FRUIT AND GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit works:

- mysteriously → John 3:8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- inwardly → Mt 13:33 "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven that a woman took and hid in three measures of flour, till it was all leavened."

## 4. TO REMEMBER

- There is no difficulty in life that should not be dealt with under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit.
- Christian growth is greatly dependent on the ability to discern the work of the Holy Spirit.
- The results of the work of the Holy Spirit may not be visually spectacular but they are glorious.