



Your Hands; God's Power
Zechariah 4
Pastor Guy Gray
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Getting the Vision – Level One

To fully understand the message of Zechariah, you need to read it at two levels. At the first level is about God's people answering God's call to re-build the physical temple in Jerusalem. At the second level it's a prophetic word about God's work in building the kingdom of Christ in our broken world. At both levels, the only hope of success is an absolute miracle of God.

The vision in chapter four follows the pattern. At level one, it is about Zerubbabel, the governor of Jerusalem, as he answers God's call to build the temple. The challenge is overwhelming. Chapter three focuses on the internal struggle that Joshua faced in answering God's call to build. Joshua had to wrestle with his guilt and shame before God. He had to learn to receive the gift of forgiveness and to stand in the perfect righteousness of God. Chapter four focuses on the external struggle. Zerubbabel had to deal with a task that was completely beyond his own ability or resources. He had to deal with opposition from enemies. For Zerubbabel, answering God's call to build was as crazy as literally trying to move a mountain by hand.

God's word to Zerubbabel is one of the most encouraging messages in all of Scripture. God says: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit says the LORD of hosts. Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain... The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it." (Zechariah 4:6-9). Zerubbabel needed to know: though it would be his own hands doing the work, it would be God's power producing the results. It's the promise of the power of God's Spirit working in and through Zerubbabel. This is the only hope of success. To get up every day and build, this is the promise that Zerubbabel must hold onto.

Getting the Vision – Level Two

There is a second, deeper level to the vision. This prophetic word points past Zerubbabel and the building of the physical temple. This is God's word for our lives, right here, right now.

The golden lamp stand gives us a clue to its deeper meaning of the vision. The lamp stand has seven lights and each of the lights has seven channels of oil flowing into it. The oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit's power. There are 7x7 channels of oil flowing into the lights! The implication is that these are really bright lights. All of this points forward to the church of Jesus Christ. In the Book of Revelation we find Jesus walking in the midst of seven golden candle stands, each one represents one a real body of Christian believers, His church, shining as a light in our dark world.

In Zechariah four, we are reminded that God is building His church in our broken world. This is God's master plan, and each one of us is called to be a part of it. But this is a monumental task. It cannot be done by our own power or ability. It can only be accomplished through the power and the gifts of the Holy Spirit working in and through each one of us. God's word to Zerubbabel is His word for us as well: "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts."

Your Hands; God's Power

Do you know that your contribution is needed? Do you know that God wants to work through your life? Do you know that His plan is to build His church as a light for the world? Have you answered God's call to

build? Do you understand that everything depends on God's power and not your own? But still, you must roll up your sleeves and put your hands to the work, or nothing is going to happen.

Each and every follower of Christ is given the promise God's Spirit for life and ministry. God gives the gifts of the Holy Spirit to equip us to build. Your job is to respond in faith. Say yes to Jesus. Step out and do something. Do this, even if your efforts seem small. Do this, even if you aren't sure exactly what spiritual gift God has for you (you will never find out until you step out and do something!).

The Spirit of God works powerfully through weak, imperfect people. That means each one of us. This is the promise of Zechariah 4.

More on the Holy Spirit and Gifts of the Spirit in your life

1 Corinthians 12:1-31; Romans 12:4-8; 1 Peter 4:10-11.