

1. "By My Spirit," says the Lord! (Zechariah 4:1-6)

“Now the angel who talked with me came back and wakened me, as a man who is wakened out of his sleep. And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ So I said, ‘I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.’ So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me, saying, ‘What are these, my lord?’ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, ‘Do you not know what these are?’ And I said, ‘No, my lord.’ So he answered and 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.”



1.1 How can we accomplish the work of God?

- God works out of an unceasing flow of life and power, symbolized by the continuous flow of olive oil. This is a candlestick or menorah like that found in the Temple.
- Why an olive tree? Because of their longevity = an unfailing supply of the Spirit.
- God wants to point us to His sources of power – sources that never go dry.
- Who are the two trees?
- Everything in our society is geared towards seeing ourselves as the power source.
- The lie of humanism and the false promise of godhood: believe in yourself!

On the other hand, the Apostle Paul said, “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells...” (Romans 7:18a); “...I... labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily” (Colossians 1:29).

1.2. The Failure of Might and Power.

Might is the word *chayil*.

- It refers to strength that is organized with man’s wisdom.
- It means ability and efficiency. It is our ability to engage in organized activities.

Power is the word *koach*, which means power or strength.

- When used of human beings it can speak of our exertions.
- “You know that I have served your father with all my power” (Genesis 31:6). In other words, Jacob said – I put my back into it, I put my sweat into it. This speaks of the flesh of man. It is raw power.

These two things together represent what can do: his strength, his wisdom, and technology.

2. The Anointing of the Messiah.

- Recall that “Messiah” means “Anointed One.”
- Kings of Israel were “anointed ones” but one day the ultimate King would arrive.
- He is the *Christos*, the *Moshiach*, the Anointed One.
- To perform His unique mission, the Man Jesus was anointed without measure.

1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, and He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, nor decide by the hearing of His ears; 4 but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, and faithfulness the belt of His waist.
(Isaiah 11:1-5)

- This passage shows us who receives this anointing, what it is, and what are its effects.
- This ruling comes from the stump of Jesse: David’s kingly line. Messiah will come from the House of David.
- Interesting: the word *branch* is *ntzr*, written the same way as the word Nazarene!

- The result of this anointing is discernment; He doesn't judge with the sight of His eyes.

3. What Is This Sevenfold Anointing?

This sevenfold anointing is all the working of the Spirit, expressed in seven different ways. Think of the Menorah, which is one candlestick, but has seven lights.

The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.

3.1. *The Spirit rests upon us.*

- This is the presence of the Spirit upon us, including the charismatic Gifts of the Spirit.
- The six named things that come after are things He provides or works within us.
- Lists of this type are fairly common in the Bible. The first item serves as a heading and the other items explain the category.
- The Spirit gives wisdom, but also builds wisdom into your spirit. "I will bless the LORD, who has given me counsel; my heart also instructs me in the night seasons" (Psalms 16:7).

3.2 *Wisdom (chokmah).*

This isn't necessarily wisdom as we think of it in English. The commentators say that the Hebrews saw it as being able to discern the nature of a thing by its appearance.

- In modern English, we call this analysis. Using this word, the Bible speaks of the wisdom of Solomon.
- The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom (Proverbs 9:10).
- Wisdom brings success (Ecclesiastes 10:10) and is the principal thing (Proverbs 4:7).

3.3. *Understanding (binah).*

- The men of Issachar had understanding of the times, to know what to do (1 Chronicles 12:32).
- In Daniel 9, the prophet had understanding that he got from studying the Scriptures.
- In Proverbs 3:5, we are told not to lean on our own understanding.

In Hebrew thinking, understanding allows us to discern between things based on their appearance. In other words, you are taking wisdom and using it to *compare and contrast* different things. We call this *discernment* or *critical thinking*. Together, this branch of the candlestick helps the king make decisions and rule!

3.4 *Counsel (etsah).*

This is the word for conclusions, and rendering of advice; giving wise plans. (“My advice is...”)
You are applying the wisdom and understanding of God for others.

- Rehoboam split the kingdom in half because he rejected the counsel of the old men, and listened his young friends (see 2 Chronicles 10).
- Psalm 1 says, “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...”
- Proverbs 12:15 says: “The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise.” The counsel of the Lord – it shall stand!

3.5. *Might (geburah).*

- This is not supernatural power for miracles (*dunamis*) but power in the inward man to carry out God's plans (see Ephesians 3).
- Ephesians 6:10 says to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Being strengthened with the might of God on the inside is a different word: *ischus*.
- This might from God enables you to keep standing when you're under attack.

Counsel and might make up the next pair of branches that give the king practical power.

3.6. *Knowledge (dahath).*

- This knowledge and skill, as well as intimate knowledge of the Lord and his ways.
- Moses was familiar with God's ways, whereas the people saw God's deeds.
- God says His people are destroyed for lack of this knowledge (Hosea 4:6).

3.7. *The fear of the Lord (yirah).*

- The Spirit produces within us a holy reverence for God.
- "He who rules over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God" (2 Samuel 23:3).
- "The fear of the LORD is to hate evil..." (Proverbs 8:13a).
- David says "the fear of the Lord is clean" (see Psalm 19). Solomon says, "The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death" (Proverbs 14:27).
- One ingredient for church multiplication in Acts was the empowering Presence of the Holy Spirit. However, the other ingredient was the fear of the Lord!
- In Isaiah 11:3, Messiah's "delight is in the fear of the LORD..." That word means to smell, to breathe it in. The fear of the Lord might be the discernment of the Messiah.

- When you don't know what to do or how to discern, look for the fear of the Lord.
- Joseph said, "How... can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" (Genesis 39:9b).

This last pair of branches, knowledge and the fear of the Lord, enables the king to know God and walk before Him in godliness. Take all seven of these spirits or anointings together, and this was the anointing that rested upon Jesus so powerfully.

4. Why Represent the Spirit as a Seven?

- Biblical numerology is nothing weird or occult. Sometimes, however, certain numbers do call our attention to things and patterns that God is emphasizing in the text.
- The number seven is probably woven into the Bible more deeply than any other. It is often viewed as *the symbol of spiritual perfection and completion*.
- Think of the various kinds of Sabbaths in the Scriptures.
- Seven used extensively in Revelation, including reference to the "seven Spirits of God."

4.1. Seven Spirits before the Throne.

"Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ..." (Revelation 1:4b-5).

- John wants us to see that the Holy Spirit is perfect in wisdom and perfect in his ability to strengthen the people of God in their trials.

4.2 Jesus, the One Who has the Seven Spirits.

“These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God...” (Revelation 3:1).

- As Jesus inspects the churches, He has all of the wisdom and insight of the Holy Spirit.
- He can also set dead churches on fire again if they repent!

4.3 Seven Lamps of Fire.

“And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” (Revelation 4:5).

- This may refer to answered prayer and the activity of God that is released from His Throne as the believers pray to Him.
- Answers to prayer are coming all the time, released in an orchestrated way by the Spirit’s power. In response to our prayers the grace of the Spirit is flowing down to us.
- The lamps of fire speak of the holiness we must pursue at the end of the age!

4.4 Seven Horns and Seven Eyes.

“And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth” (Revelation 5:6).

- The fact that the Lamb has seven eyes means that He seals up the perfection of wisdom.
- Horns were a symbol of power and kingship. So, His having seven horns means that Jesus has received all power from God. As Messiah, he possesses the fullness of both power and wisdom.
- But it’s not through His power and wisdom alone that Jesus defeated Satan, but through His sacrifice as the Lamb of God. John says he saw a slain Lamb with seven horns and seven eyes!
