

**From the Altar to Glory: The Golden Lampstand: Keep the Fire Burning
A Spirit-Filled Journey Through the Temple Sanctuary**

Dr. John Carmichael

[1Co 3:16-17 NASB95] 16 Do you not know that you are a temple of God and [that] the Spirit of God dwells in you? 17 If any man destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him, for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you are.

[Exo 25:31-40 NASB95] 31 "Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand [and] its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be [of one piece] with it. 32 "Six branches shall go out from its sides; three branches of the lampstand from its one side and three branches of the lampstand from its other side. 33 "Three cups [shall be] shaped like almond [blossoms] in the one branch, a bulb and a flower, and three cups shaped like almond [blossoms] in the other branch, a bulb and a flower--so for six branches going out from the lampstand; 34 and in the lampstand four cups shaped like almond [blossoms,] its bulbs and its flowers. 35 "A bulb shall be under the [first] pair of branches [coming] out of it, and a bulb under the [second] pair of branches [coming] out of it, and a bulb under the [third] pair of branches [coming] out of it, for the six branches coming out of the lampstand. 36 "Their bulbs and their branches [shall be of one piece] with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. 37 "Then you shall make its lamps seven [in number;] and they shall mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it. 38 "Its snuffers and their trays [shall be] of pure gold. 39 "It shall be made from a talent of pure gold, with all these utensils. 40 "See that you make [them] after the pattern for them, which was shown to you on the mountain.

- The journey through the sanctuary moves us deeper into God's presence.
- At the Brazen Altar, we encountered the blood. At the Brazen Laver, we encountered cleansing. Now, in the Holy Place, we encounter the Golden Lampstand.
- The Holy Place had no windows and no natural light. The lampstand was the only source of light.
- It was beautiful, golden, and sacred, but it could not shine without oil.
- Many believers today are burned out because they are trying to burn without oil.

What happens when God's people try to shine in a dark world without continually receiving the oil of the Holy Spirit?

The Golden Lampstand shows us how the Spirit-filled church keeps the fire burning in a dark generation.

I. The Lampstand Reminds Us That God's People Are Called to Shine

- a. [Exo 25:31 NASB95] 31 "Then you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand [and] its base and its shaft are to be made of hammered work; its cups, its bulbs and its flowers shall be [of one piece] with it.
- b. [Mat 5:14-16 NASB95] 14 "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; 15 nor does [anyone] light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- c. The lampstand brought light into the Holy Place.
- d. The believer is called to carry the light of Christ into the world.
- e. Jesus said, "You are the light of the world."
- f. We are not the source of the light; we are carriers of the light.

From the Altar to Glory: The Golden Lampstand: Keep the Fire Burning A Spirit-Filled Journey Through the Temple Sanctuary

Dr. John Carmichael

- g. The church is not called to blend into darkness but to shine in darkness.
- h. Application: Ask: Is my life giving light or hiding the flame? Shine in your home, workplace, church, and community. Let people see Jesus through your love, truth, holiness, and witness.

II. The Lampstand Had to Be Fueled by Oil

- a. [Lev 24:2 NASB95] 2 "Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you clear oil from beaten olives for the light, to make a lamp burn continually.
- b. [Zec 4:6 NASB95] 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.
- c. The lampstand was made of gold, but gold without oil does not burn.
- d. Oil points us to the presence, power, and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- e. Zechariah's lampstand vision declares: "Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit."
- f. The church cannot run on talent, programs, personality, or human effort.
- g. We need fresh oil.
- h. Application: Burnout often happens when we burn wick instead of oil. Do not try to serve, lead, pray, parent, preach, or endure in your own strength. Return to the source: Pray again. Worship again. Yield again. Ask again. Be filled again.

III. The Fire Had to Be Continually Tended

- a. [Lev 24:3-4 NASB95] 3 "Outside the veil of testimony in the tent of meeting, Aaron shall keep it in order from evening to morning before the LORD continually; [it shall be] a perpetual statute throughout your generations. 4 "He shall keep the lamps in order on the pure [gold] lampstand before the LORD continually.
- b. [2Ti 1:6 NASB95] 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- c. The priests had to keep the lamps burning continually.
- d. The fire did not maintain itself.
- e. They had to bring oil, trim the wicks, and remove what hindered the flame.
- f. Paul told Timothy to "kindle afresh the gift of God."
- g. Spiritual fire can be real and still need rekindling.
- h. Application: Tend your flame through: Daily prayer. Scripture. Worship. Repentance. Obedience. Fellowship.
- i. Let God trim what is choking the flame: bitterness, distraction, compromise, prayerlessness, offense, spiritual fatigue

IV. The Spirit Gives Illumination for the Holy Place

- a. [Jhn 16:13 NASB95] 13 "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.
- b. [Eph 1:17-18 NASB95] 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him. 18 [I pray that] the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,
- c. The lampstand helped the priest see what was already in the Holy Place.
- d. The Holy Spirit helps us see what God is revealing. He illuminates Scripture. He reveals Jesus. He convicts of sin. He gives wisdom and discernment.
- e. Spirit-filled Christianity is not anti-intellectual; it is Spirit-illuminated.
- f. Application: Before you decide, ask for light. Before you respond, ask for light. Before you quit, ask for light. Before you interpret your season, ask for light.
- g. Pray: "Holy Spirit, shine Your light in me. Show me what I cannot see."

From the Altar to Glory: The Golden Lampstand: Keep the Fire Burning A Spirit-Filled Journey Through the Temple Sanctuary

Dr. John Carmichael

V. The Lampstand Points to the Church as a Spirit-Filled Witness

- a. [Rev 1:12-20 NASB95] 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 and in the middle of the lampstands [I saw] one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15 His feet [were] like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice [was] like the sound of many waters. 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 20 "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- b. [Act 1:8 NASB95] 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- c. In Revelation, Jesus walks among the golden lampstands.
- d. Jesus says the lampstands are the churches.
- e. The church is God's lampstand in the earth.
- f. Pentecost was not only a private experience; it was power for public witness.
- g. The Spirit fills us so Jesus can be revealed through us.
- h. Application: The church must not become a religious machine. We need fire, but we also need first love. We need gifts, but we also need fruit. We need boldness, but we also need compassion. Let the Spirit make you a living witness.

VI. The Fire Must Keep Burning in a Dark Generation

- a. [Mat 5:16 NASB95] 16 "Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.
- b. [Act 1:8 NASB95] 8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."
- c. Darkness is real, but darkness is not stronger than light.
- d. A small flame can be seen clearly in a dark room.
- e. This is not the hour for a silent church. This is not the hour for a hidden church. This is the hour for a Spirit-filled church.
- f. The darker the generation, the more brightly the church must shine.
- g. Application: Your light is not just for you. Your family needs light. Your workplace needs light. Your community needs light. Your generation needs light.
- h. Be filled with the Spirit and shine boldly for Jesus.

- **The church cannot shine by human strength; we need the oil of the Holy Spirit to keep the fire burning.**
- The Golden Lampstand teaches us that God's people cannot shine by natural strength.
- The lampstand was gold, but it needed oil.
- It was sacred, but it needed fire.

**From the Altar to Glory: The Golden Lampstand: Keep the Fire Burning
A Spirit-Filled Journey Through the Temple Sanctuary**

Dr. John Carmichael

- It was beautiful, but it had to be tended.