

## The Overcomers in the Plan of God – Part II

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### Standing on Holy Ground in Christ Jesus the Messiah

**Colossians 2:16-17 (KJV)** <sup>16</sup> Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of *a* holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: <sup>17</sup> *Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.*

As we previously stated, God has designed the Body of Christ to fulfill His eternal plan, and the overcomers serve their purpose in His plan. The joints in the Body are for supplying, while the bands are for knitting, i.e., keeping the Body together. The Head, Christ Jesus, holds the body together through these joints and bands. And *these joints and bands are the overcomers.*

*The overcomers are not some special classes.* They are simply believers who conform to the original plan of God as they are *called, chosen* for a purpose, and are *faithful* to the end. Do some have a special gift? Yes, but it is not a requirement.

When God chose the children of Israel, He called them *all* to be a kingdom of priests among the nations (Ex. 19:5-6).

**Exodus 19:5-6 (HCSB)** <sup>5</sup> “Now if you will listen to Me and carefully keep My covenant, you will be My own possession out of all the peoples, although all the earth is Mine, <sup>6</sup> and you will be My kingdom of priests and My holy nation. These are the words that you are to say to the Israelites.”

*Watchman Nee made this interesting commentary comparing Jerusalem to Zion.*

### Jerusalem and Zion: The Church and the Overcomers

All should recognize that Jerusalem typifies the whole church, whereas Zion – which is in Jerusalem – represents the overcomers in the church. Jerusalem is larger than Zion, yet Zion is the stronghold of Jerusalem. What answers to the heart of God is called Zion; that which speaks of the failure and sins of the Jews is called Jerusalem.

God allows Jerusalem to be trodden down, but He usually keeps Zion intact. *There will be a new Jerusalem, but there is no new Zion because Zion never grows old.*

Each time the relationship between Zion and Jerusalem is mentioned in the Old Testament, we are shown that the characteristics, life, blessing, and establishment of Jerusalem are invariably derived from Zion. The elders were in Jerusalem; the ark was to be in Zion (1 Kings 8:1).

**1 Kings 8:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Now Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the chief fathers of the children of Israel, to King Solomon in Jerusalem, that they might bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD from the City of David, which *is* Zion.

God does good in His good pleasure to Zion, and He builds the walls of Jerusalem (Ps. 51:18).

**Psalms 51:18 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem.

God's name is in Zion, while His praise is in Jerusalem (Ps. 102:21).

**Psalms 102:21 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup> To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, And His praise in Jerusalem,

God blesses out of Zion, and Jerusalem receives the good of it (Ps. 128:5).

**Psalms 128:5 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> The LORD bless you out of Zion, And may you see the good of Jerusalem All the days of your life.

The Lord dwells in Jerusalem, yet He receives praises out of Zion (Ps. 135:21).

**Psalms 135:21 (NKJV)** <sup>21</sup> Blessed be the LORD out of Zion, Who dwells in Jerusalem! Praise the LORD!

God speaks first to Zion, and then the good tidings reach Jerusalem (Is. 41:27).

**Isaiah 41:27 (NKJV)** <sup>27</sup> The first time *I said* to Zion, 'Look, there they are!' And I will give to Jerusalem one who brings good tidings.

God dwells in Zion and thus sanctifies Jerusalem (Joel 3:17).

**Joel 3:17 (NKJV)** <sup>17</sup> "So you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, Dwelling in Zion My holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, And no aliens shall ever pass through her again."

God today is seeking, among the defeated church, *signifying ONE BODY*, 144,000 (a representative figure, to be sure) to stand on Mount Zion (Rev. 14:1).

**Revelation 14:1 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with Him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having His Father's name written on their foreheads.

Each and every time, He uses relatively few believers as channels to pour forth life into the church for her revival. As their Lord did, these few must pour forth blood in order to let life flow (*die in martyrdom*). *The overcomers are to stand on the ground of victory for the church, and instead of the church. They are to endure sufferings and shames.*

Therefore, God's overcomers must forsake all self-complacencies, pay the cost, let the cross cut off all that comes out of the old creation (*fallen flesh and the world*), and stand against the gates of Hades (Matt. 16:18).

**Matthew 16:18 (NKJV)** <sup>18</sup> And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

What is our goal in everyday life?

**Philippians 3:10-11 (HCSB)** <sup>10</sup> *[My goal] is to know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,* <sup>11</sup> assuming that I will somehow reach the resurrection from among the dead. *Emphasis mine*

Seasoned saints are always hungry and thirsty after righteousness in Christ Jesus. We can *unintentionally* quote Phil. 3:14 with the wrong *arrogant* heart.

**Philippians 3:14 (KJV)** <sup>14</sup> I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. *Note: (I pursue as my goal)*

Thank God, the Holy Spirit gives us an antidote for the poison of pride or arrogance that might arise in the soul.

**Philippians 3:16 (HCSB)** <sup>16</sup> In any case, we should *live up to whatever [truth] we have attained*. *Emphasis mine – The measure of the gift and revelation given to us.*

Apostle Peter had some advice to those shepherding the flock of God.

**1 Peter 5:2-4 (NKJV)** <sup>2</sup> Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, *not by compulsion* but willingly, *not for dishonest gain* but eagerly; <sup>3</sup> nor as *being lords over* those entrusted to you, but *being examples to the flock*; <sup>4</sup> and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away. *Emphasis mine*

Yes, I know, my heart gets heavy when I read that. However, God gave us overcomers!

Apostle John reminded me that his gospel is considered the mending gospel. In other words, John brings us back to the main thing, which is centrally the unveiling of Jesus Christ and His purpose for the church. John reminds us not to lose our “*first love or best love*” for Jesus Christ. Let’s review the list of the overcomers God used at the church in Ephesus.

The early church in Ephesus was guided by several “*overcomers*” key spiritual leaders, including the Apostle Paul, Priscilla and Aquila, and Timothy.

### **Founders and Early Teachers**

- **Paul:** Founded and spent nearly three years ministering to the church, training local pastors and elders.
- **Priscilla and Aquila:** A prominent Christian couple left by Paul to guide and nurture the early believers.
- **Apollos:** An eloquent and powerful Jewish preacher from Alexandria who helped instruct the local believers, after guidance from Aquila and Priscilla.

### **Successors and Overseers**

- **Timothy:** A close companion of Paul who was later sent to lead the church, organize its practices, and fight false teachings.
- **Tychicus:** A faithful coworker and messenger who assisted in pastoral duties.
- **Apostle John:** Tradition and early church history indicate he lived and led the Christian community in Ephesus during his later years.

Revelation and the letter to Ephesus is where we want to focus our attention. The one thing the overcomers had in common was the free flow of the Holy Spirit to fulfill their calling. Brother Lane did an excellent job with his example.

*It is this second baptism (baptizo) that is in view regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit is more than a temporary "putting in" or immersion of the believer. It involves a physical envelopment that changes the person forever, like a cucumber becoming a pickle. The person is brought under the power and influence of the Spirit, joining him to Christ. Emphasis mine*

Every Christian is a lamp or light per se, but the anointing for God's purpose appears to be determined by Him. Brother Lane explained this as well.

*In the divine sense, anointing suggests being "set aside" for a special purpose or consecrated before God. Emphasis mine*

With that thought in mind, Apostle John's unveiling of Jesus Christ gives us the picture of the churches as lampstands.

**Revelation 1:20 (HCSB)** <sup>20</sup> The secret of the seven stars you saw in My right hand and of the seven gold lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

That is the view of Jesus saying, I see what is happening in the Body of Christ, and I need to commend and suggest some corrections. We also need to note that Christ is not making suggestions as if He is sitting on the right hand of the Father, but Christ is walking among the churches in their locales.

**Revelation 2:1 (HCSB)** <sup>1</sup> "Write to the angel of the church in Ephesus: "The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand and *who walks among the seven gold lampstands ...*: Emphasis mine

The churches at each location should have "ONE" expression, but individually, members are accountable for their own actions.

To the desirable church in Ephesus, the Lord says to the angel or messenger. There is an issue with your Lampstand, or your shining position.

**Revelation 2:4 (HCSB)** <sup>4</sup> But I have this against you: You have abandoned the love [you had] at first.

We have to always remind ourselves: if the Lord does not chasten us, the problem is with our ears, our hearts, or, worst-case scenario, Jesus says, ***"I do not know you."*** Therefore, it is good news when He does chasten; this is how we learn and grow.

**Revelation 2:5 (HCSB)** ***<sup>5</sup> Remember then how far you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. Otherwise, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place – unless you repent. Emphasis mine***

When our testimony for the Lamb and His eternal purpose does not match the Holy Spirit's supplying, the testimony becomes out of place. There is a great risk at that time of offering ***"strange fire"*** in the worship service. What Christ reveals is that ***not all in the Body are failing or falling into the state of degradation.***

**Revelation 2:7 (HCSB)** ***<sup>7</sup> "Anyone who has an ear should listen to what the Spirit says to the churches. I will give the victor (the overcomer - anyone) the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in God's paradise. Emphasis mine***

What is common to all the churches is that the Body of Christ has the joints which are for supplying, and the bands are for knitting each one in the "ONE" Body of Christ. The Head, i.e., Christ Jesus, holds the body together through these joints and bands. ***And these joints and bands are the overcomers.***

The victor, or overcomer, in the local church is considered to be the lampstand for that local body. T. Austin-Sparks did a commentary entitled *The Oil for the Lampstand* based on Exodus 25:31-40; 27:20. A lot of T. Austin-Sparks' messages and other works are supplied by the Golden Candlestick Trust. They ask that when you use his material to post this statement.

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## **The Oil for the Lampstand**

We come now to speak of the oil for the lampstand, or the candlestick; the oil which is to provide the testimony which is to be found in the Lord's House and in relation to priestly ministry. We know quite well that the oil of the Old Testament is the type of the Spirit in the New Testament.

So, that being the case, we have here the Spirit in sevenfold expression. There are seven lamps in this one lamp. It is one vessel, and it is one Spirit. If we were to use Paul's language, we should say, "There is one Body and one Spirit..." Here is one vessel of testimony and one Spirit in the vessel, yet expressed in a sevenfold way.

This sevenfoldness is divided into three; that is, it is divided into one and two threes: the central stem and three branches on each side.

The lampstand is before the Lord; a sevenfold expression of the Spirit divided into one and two threes.

There you have the sevenfold light expression of the Spirit; life as central and basic, and holiness, truth, the fear of the Lord, love, grace, and fire.

Brother Sparks builds upon the Centrality of the Cross and the working of the Holy Spirit in the believer from Romans 8.

**Romans 8:1-2 (NKJV)** <sup>1</sup> There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

**Romans 8:5-6 (NKJV)** <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

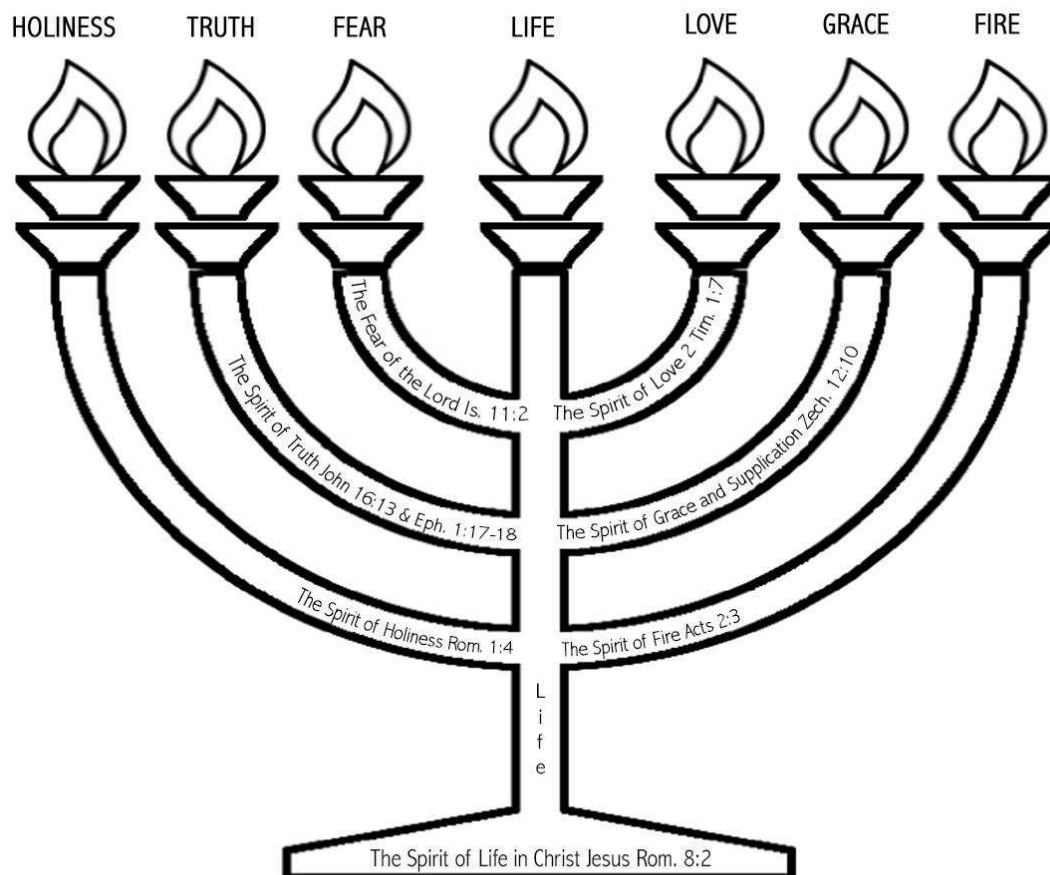
**Romans 8:10-11 (NKJV)** <sup>10</sup> And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

His commentary shows us the characteristics of the overcomer.

The shadow of things to come is now seen as *Light and Life* in Body of Christ.

## The Sevenfold Light Expression of the Holy Spirit

Rev. 1:4-5, Rev. 3:1, Rev. 4:5, Rev. 5:6.



Based on a message by Theodore Austin-Sparks: The Oil for the Lampstand  
Created by Austin-Sparks.Net

### The Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus

The "one" is the central, shall we say, the inclusive and basic feature of Romans 8:2: "the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus". Everything else springs out of that. *The Holy Spirit*, before anything else in the active way of testimony when it is a matter of expression in testimony and in ministry, *makes the sanctuary of God a functioning thing*; not just a beautiful picture, model, or idea. It is the Spirit of Life. *Emphasis mine*

There is the center, the spring of everything in testimony, and before there can be any other kind of expression, there must be the manifestation of the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Life; then everything else lives.

### The Spirit of Holiness

Down on the one side, over the uppermost lamp you will write Romans 1:4: "the Spirit of Holiness". "Declared to be the Son of God according to the Spirit of Holiness by the resurrection of the dead". The context, I feel, rules out the idea that that refers to the raising of others. It relates to His own resurrection. According to the Spirit of Holiness, raised from the dead, declared to be the Son of God with power.

It ought never to be necessary to say to a young believer, "You must give up this, and you must give up that; you must stop going here, and you must stop going there." We ought never to approach anyone on that ground. Many will say, "If I become a Christian, must I give up this? And must I give up that?" And it is a mistaken thing to say, "Of course you must!" Never should we say a thing like that, and never ought it to be necessary to say it to a young believer. Our attitude should be: ***You let the Lord come into your heart and suspend all those questions. You let the Lord have His place and all your problems along that line will solve themselves.*** *Emphasis mine*

## **The Spirit of Truth**

The second branch down on that side will have written over it John 16:13: "...the Spirit of Truth". Alongside of that we might well place Ephesians 1:17-18: "...a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him". That is the meaning of the truth. Life works out in revelation of Jesus Christ, and truth is not academic or technical truth. Truth is personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus in a living, experimental way. Knowing is not just technical, mental, intellectual knowledge in the Word of God; it is association with a person. To know the truth is to come into association with the truth in a living way, and that truth is not something in itself. It is in Jesus, "as the truth is in Jesus".

## **The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord**

The third lamp down on that side will have over it Isaiah 11:2: "The Spirit of the fear of the Lord". If we ask what the fear of the Lord is, we shall have the answer best in Him concerning whom those words were written in the first instance. And we shall see that the fear of the Lord in Him meant that in perceiving the will of the Father, He never argued about it or debated it, but instantly did it. The fear of the Lord is *an* immediate and instant response to the known will of God.

***It is fear to disobey, fear to be out of line with the Father's will.*** It is fear to grieve Him. In another place it says, "He shall be of quick scent in the fear of the Lord." A heart that is wholly set upon the Lord is quick to discern the Lord's will and quick to obey it. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of the fear of the Lord. *Emphasis mine*

The Holy Spirit is very quick in His registration of what is and what is not the mind of the Lord and calls for an immediate response as that is made known. In us, the fear of the Lord is not long-drawn-out contentions and arguments with the Lord, not delays, but perceiving the will of the Lord. Having reason to believe that the Lord has spoken, at all costs, we respond. That is the Lord Jesus, upon whom the Spirit rested without measure.

### **The Spirit of Love**

On the uppermost branch, corresponding to holiness on the opposite side, we have 2 Timothy 1:7: "the Spirit of love". Some people have got an idea of holiness which is really a cold righteousness without any love. They call it holiness, but really it is legality; and it is a loveless thing: hard, cruel and icy. Holiness is not like that. Holiness is balanced by love. Love is holy. Holiness is love. "The love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit..." (Rom. 5:5).

### **The Spirit of Grace and Supplication**

The second lamp on this side may have Zechariah 12:10 over it; "the spirit of grace and supplication", balancing truth, knowledge, and revelation. When we come into a living knowledge of the Lord, a living revelation of the Lord, in the first place it does not produce pride, arrogance, and self-importance.

There is all the difference between possessing a lot of truth doctrinally and technically and having revelation. Revelation produces humility. It must do that because it is so vast that the one who has it knows quite well that the thing is altogether beyond them. It is not the cleverness of their brain; it is not what they have thought out and produced by any quality of their own intellect.

This is something altogether of the Spirit of God, and therefore a graciousness is found, a spirit of grace. There is no virtue in our having revelation. It is all of grace, and therefore it produces in us graciousness. And a further significance is supplication. Here is the man who had great revelation, and for other believers he bows his knees unto the Father, "I bow my knees unto the Father"; "I make supplication for you"; "I pray for you, that He would grant unto you a spirit of wisdom and revelation". The Spirit of Life works out in grace and supplication.

### **The Spirit of Fire**

Finally, the third on that side of the lampstand, Acts 2:3: the Spirit of fire. "He shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matt. 3:11 and Luke 3:16). This reminds us of Ezekiel chapter one. Fire has many purposes, many uses, many effects, but there in Acts 2 surely fire is the Spirit of power. It is the Spirit of holiness; fire is purging. It is the Spirit of Life; fire is living. But particularly the Lord's word concerning Pentecost was, "Ye shall receive power, when the Holy Spirit is come...". The fire was the symbol of a new power from heaven, as it proved that day. Now love in Christ by the Spirit is power. This requires much dwelling upon.

I think we are not wrong in saying that that means the sevenfold expression of the one Spirit, the sevenfold outworking of one source, the Spirit of God. If you put all those passages together and see them as being the sevenfold expression of the Holy Spirit, you will also see that each of these seven comes under the heading of horns and eyes, power and perception.

**Revelation 5:6 (NKJV)** <sup>6</sup> 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. *Scripture added*

In other words, holiness itself is a horn; it is a power: then the power of Christ, the power of the Lamb. Truth as the truth, not just revelation, coming through in any way, has the whole power of the enemy set against it, because of the power of revelation.

Once you get a thing by revelation, you are out, you are emancipated, you are through, something is done; that is tremendous. You may have all the doctrine, and it makes no difference, and the devil does not mind how much doctrine you have.

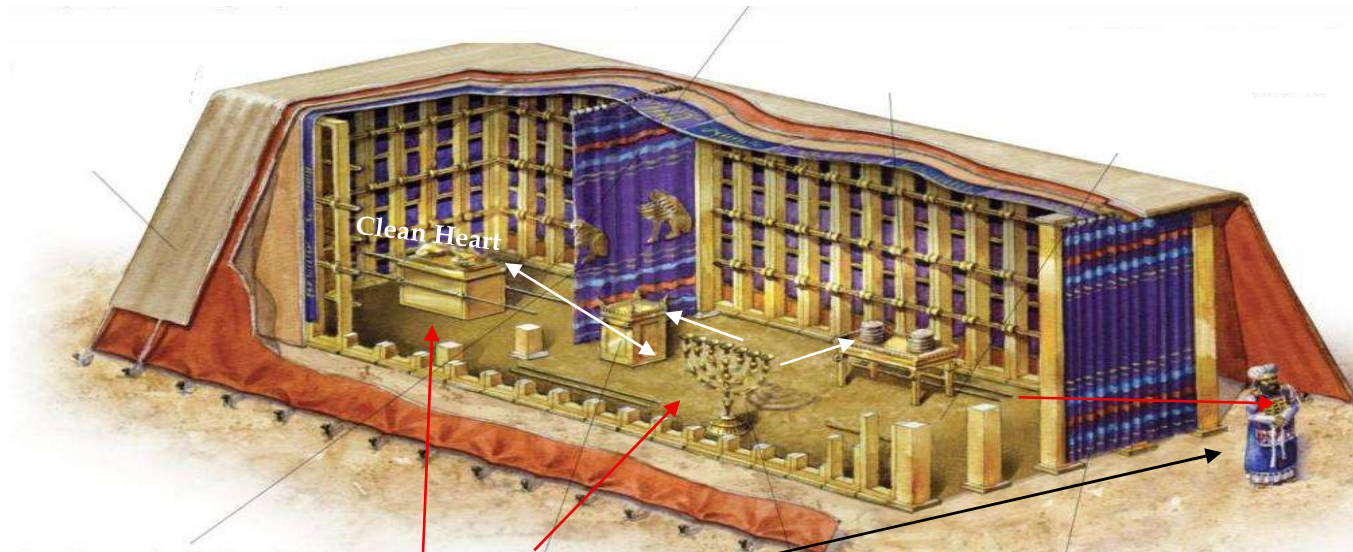
I think he likes to bury us under mountains of doctrine sometimes, but get revelation, and that is a thing that affects him. It is a tremendous power. It is a horn. It is the power of the Lamb. The fear of the Lord! A quick scent and instant obedience is power.

Love! Surely this can be brought in relation to the horn; what power there is in Divine love! Grace and supplication! Fire! Yes, all are expressions of the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of Christ, all in a living way, all through Life, the Spirit of Life.

And the same is true of the eyes, spiritual perception. Holiness in the life works out in keen spiritual perception. "The pure in heart shall see God," and the pure in heart see everything else. To walk near to the Lord in any measure of holiness is a painful thing because of the resultant perception.

It brings with it difficulties and problems, as you see and as you feel. Then the whole question sometimes of fellowship arises, but holiness is a keenly perceptive power in the life. And the same is true of revelation; oh, what difficulties revelation raises when you have seen! It is a power. *End of excerpts*

### The Tabernacle



The Tripartite Man is Spirit, Soul and Body (Flesh – Sin Nature is Present)

The Heart, by biblical application, is the Conscience (the voice of the spirit) plus the Mind (the leading part) of the Soul. In the Old Testament, the Intuition and Fellowship that are in the spirit of man were in a comatose state, but the Conscience was still active to allow men to know basically right from wrong. The New Testament believer is “born-again” with the Spirit of God in his spirit. God’s dwelling place.

What is missed in the Body of Christ is the location of the “Lampstand” in the believer.

The Holy Spirit must flow from the spirit of man to the soul of man, and it is not always automatic. The Sermon on the Mount reveals this to us.

**Matthew 5:3 (NKJV)** *Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

**Matthew 5:6 (NKJV)** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

**Matthew 5:8 (NKJV)** *Blessed are the **pure** (single in purpose to accomplish God’s will) **in heart**, For they shall see (perceive, and be aware of) God (’s will). *Emphasis mine**

The divine life in action is not for regeneration; it is because of regeneration that we have the desire and the ability (*power of the Holy Spirit*) to do the perfect will of God. If and when we are pure in heart in seeking God, we will see God. Seeing God is a reward to the pure in heart. This blessing is both for today and for the coming age.

**Revelation 22:11-13 (NKJV)** <sup>11</sup> He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." <sup>12</sup> "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*"

**Revelation 22:20-21 (NKJV)** <sup>20</sup> He who testifies to these things says, "**Surely I am coming quickly.**" Amen. *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!* <sup>21</sup> The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.

**Note: To have one talent is okay, just don't bury it.**