

# Case Closed: The Power of the Spirit

November 11, 2018

## Scripture:

<sup>1</sup>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” (Zechariah 4:1-6, ESV)

## From the Introduction:

In order to “close the case” of the Mystery of the Gospel, we must realize the need to move away from worldly standards and understanding, and our own purposes, and allow that which is greater to reveal God’s purpose.

**Outline:**

- 1) Not by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) The Hebrew word, *haiyl*, refers the \_\_\_\_\_ strength and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) The world measures a \_\_\_\_\_ standards by its military power and wealth.
- 2) Not by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) The Hebrew word, *kōah*, refers to \_\_\_\_\_ strength and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - b) The world measures an \_\_\_\_\_ standards by their strength and ability.
- 3) By the \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) “My Spirit” refers to the will or power of the \_\_\_\_\_ God.
  - b) God does not measure success by power or might but by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Remember:**

“<sup>22</sup>And Samuel said, ‘Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.’” (1 Samuel 15:22, ESV)

**Reflect:**

“Will God ever ask you to do something you are not able to do? The answer is yes—all the time! It must be that way, for God's glory and kingdom. If we function according to our ability alone, we get the glory; if we function according to the power of the Spirit within us, God gets the glory. He wants to reveal Himself to a watching world.” – Henry Blackaby

**Seek:**

- 1) The world offers us enticing options for seeking its ways in finding peace and security. However, God offers us the only true path, a path in which we must walk in the Spirit, and not in the flesh. Reflect on this past week and consider those moments when you found yourself caught between the two. How did the Spirit help you to overcome?

**Share:**

- 1) Time can create in us a feeling of passivity; it was true in Zechariah's day as the people waited on the rebuilding of the temple, and in ours as we wait on the return of our Lord; maybe you have been or are there now. Share with the group ways in which we all can overcome our passivity as we wait for the blessed hope of Christ's return.

**Serve:**

- 1) Jesus told his disciples that the Holy Spirit will come to empower them to witness. Maybe you have found yourself witnessing by your own power and in the power of the Spirit. How do these differ? Why is it important to serve in the power of the Spirit and not the flesh?

**Prayer:**

- Pray in the coming week that God will take your eyes off the might and power of the world and others and fix them on His Spirit.