

## INTRODUCTION

**“Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit...”**  
(1 Corinthians 14:1, NIV, *emphasis added*)

- God has called us to eagerly desire (from the Greek word *zēloō*, meaning to pursue with zeal) the spiritual gifts He gives, but this call is in the context of walking in His love (*agape*) as defined in 1 Corinthians 13.
- God wants us to be informed and understand the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1). Learn more from previous sessions’ notes which are available at [evidentlife.org/eagerlydesire](http://evidentlife.org/eagerlydesire)

**God, who is the Spirit (2 Cor. 3:17), is calling us to draw near to Him (Jam. 4:8), and to enter into His holy presence through Christ Jesus with thanksgiving and praise (Ps. 100; 118:19-23). He has given us the pattern of the Tabernacle to better understand our identity in Him (1 Pet. 2:4-5), and what it looks like to draw near to Him in this New Covenant in Christ Jesus (Heb. 8:5-6, Ex. 25:9).**

### I. THE LAMPSTAND

- A. Inside the Holy Place, on the south side of the inner sanctuary of the Tabernacle, there was a lampstand (“menorah” in Hebrew) and its utensils made of a talent (~75 pounds) of pure gold, with branches like blossoming almond branches, and seven lamps which gave light in this space.**

*<sup>31</sup>“You shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: its base, its stem, its cups, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. <sup>32</sup> And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; <sup>33</sup> three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. <sup>34</sup> And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, <sup>35</sup> and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand. <sup>36</sup> Their calyxes and their branches shall be of one piece with it, the whole of it a single piece of hammered work of pure gold. <sup>37</sup> You shall make seven lamps for it. And the lamps shall be set up so as to give light on the space in front of it. <sup>38</sup> Its tongs and their trays shall be of pure gold. <sup>39</sup> It shall be made, with all these utensils, out of a talent of pure gold. <sup>40</sup> And see that you make them after the pattern for them, which is being shown you on the mountain.*  
(Exodus 25:31-40, *emphasis added*)

- B. It was constructed exactly as God commanded them to make it (Exodus 37:17-23), and setup when the Tabernacle was dedicated on the anniversary of deliverance from Egypt.**

*<sup>24</sup> He put the lampstand in the tent of meeting, opposite the table on the south side of the tabernacle, <sup>25</sup> and set up the lamps before the Lord, as the Lord had commanded Moses.*  
(Exodus 40:24-25, *emphasis added*)

### C. Symbolism of the lampstand in Scripture:

- i. **Gold:** purity, sanctification, and holiness (*Malachi 3:3*)
- ii. **Almond** (“šāqēd” in Hebrew) **branches/blossoms:** watchfulness (“šāqad” in Hebrew), awakening, alertness (*Jeremiah 1:1-12*)
- iii. **Lampstand/Seven Lamps:**
  - a. Jesus (*John 8:12; 9:15; Ps. 119:105; Rev. 21:23*)
  - b. The Holy Spirit (*Zech. 4:2, 10; Prov. 2:27; Rev. 4:5*)
  - c. The Church as God’s vessel (*Matt. 5:14-16; Rev. 1:12-13, 20*)

## II. PURE BEATEN OLIVE OIL, THE FUEL FOR THE LAMP

- A. Some translations describe the lampstand using the word “candlestick”, but this would be an incorrect statement given that the lampstand was not fueled by a wick and wax. Israel was commanded of God to regularly bring “pure beaten olive oil” (high grade flammable oil), as an act of devotion for the lamp to constantly be burning before the Lord.

*<sup>20</sup> “You shall command the people of Israel that they bring to you pure beaten olive oil for the light, that a lamp may regularly be set up to burn. <sup>21</sup> In the tent of meeting, outside the veil that is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening to morning before the Lord. It shall be a statute forever to be observed throughout their generations by the people of Israel.” (*Exodus 27:20-21, emphasis added*)*

### B. Symbolism of oil in Scripture:

- i. **Devotion and Intimacy with the Lord**  
(*Gen. 28:18; Ex. 27:20-21; Luke 12:35-48; Matt. 25:1-13*)

*<sup>1</sup> “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. (*Matthew 25:1-13, emphasis added*)*

ii. Anointing and Holy Spirit

(1 Sam. 10:1; 1 Sam. 16:13; 1 King 1:39; Ps. 23:5; Ps. 133:2)

*<sup>11</sup> Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.” <sup>12</sup> And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, “Arise, anoint him, for this is he.” <sup>13</sup> Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward... (1 Samuel 16:11-13, emphasis added)*

III. THE FIRE ON THE LAMP BURNING REGULARLY BEFORE THE LORD

- A. The priests were to use the pure beaten olive oil to keep the fire burning constantly, with the lamp tended all night long before the Lord (Ex. 27:20-21).
- B. The fire and lamp are, in part, symbolic for the Holy Spirit in our lives causing us to shine for the glory of God and bring His light to the world. Jesus is no longer in the world (John 9:5, 16:28), but His Spirit in us now enables us to do His works and bring His Word and Gospel as light to the world (Matt. 5:14-16).

*<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16, emphasis added)*

*<sup>16</sup> For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” <sup>18</sup> we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. <sup>19</sup> And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, <sup>20</sup> knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. <sup>21</sup> For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:16-21, emphasis added)*

*<sup>1</sup> When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4, emphasis added)*