

CHANUKAH

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



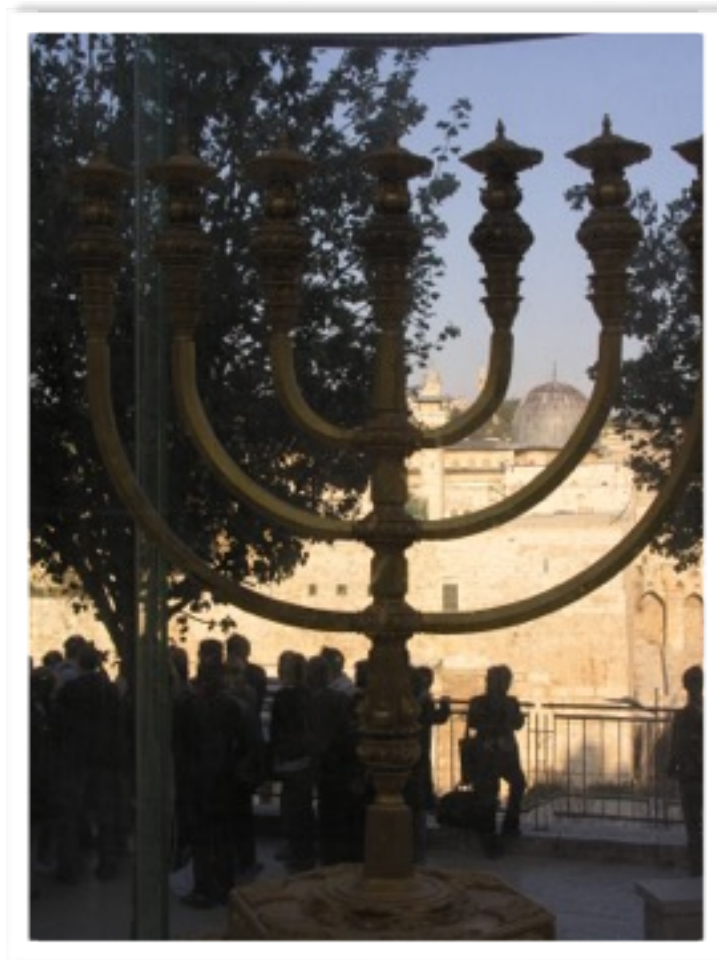
TBG UNIVERSITY
BRENTWOOD, TN

INTRODUCTION

Chanukah is a time of great joy for all believers in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a time to celebrate God's plan for redemption and restoring man's relationship with God. A time for rededication of myself to follow God's plan for my life and to understand the Father's great love for me.

We find in Galatians 5:22-23 that God is Love and the fruits of the Spirit all come from the love of God. Each night during Chanukah, you will see His love through His word as we light a candle for each of these eight special nights. Our time together will reveal our dependence on His love and the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We trust as you experience this time of great joy, that your understanding of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the works of the Holy Spirit will be increased. That your heart would be filled with His joy, a joy that has no end, and a heart that cares about and sees the lives of each of His children.



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DAY ONE - "JOY"

The Fruit of Joy:

Night one, we recognize that God is love and His love brings Joy - The "LOVE" of God manifests in our lives through the Holy Spirit to light the candle of "Joy" first. "...The Joy of the Lord is our strength." - **Nehemiah 8:10**

Read the following bible passages:

- Zechariah chapters 1 and 2
- 1 Chronicles 24:7-18 - Priestly order explained
- Psalm 115 - Hallel of Praise
- Luke 1:8-13, 24 - The account of Zechariah and Elizabeth

History of Chanukah:

The word Chanukah means "dedication" for the re-dedication of the Temple after being defiled. We come to this time of year with a thankful heart and one that brings a song of praise. This holiday comes during the 3rd month of the Jewish Calendar.

- **In 332 BC** Alexander the Great Captures Jerusalem - This was the beginning of the Hellenistic period in Israel.
- **168 BC** Antiochus massacres Jerusalem citizens and desecrates the temple with Idols.
- **25th of Kislev (165-164 BC)** Judah Maccabee begins the revolt and captures Jerusalem. The Temple was cleansed, service renewed, priests were reinstated, and the festival of Chanukah was commemorated.

Realities during this time period:

- Through a family from Modin, Israel takes responsibility for what God said in obedience to His word
- Hellenistic thoughts and ideas had pushed God out of the equation
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria was a tyrant and slaughtered the Jews after the death of Alexander the Great
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria worshipped Greek Gods
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria - He took the Temple articles for himself
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria made laws forbidding the worship of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria sacrificed a pig on the altar of the Lord
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria had the temple dedicated to Zeus of Olympus
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria made the Jews bow to the altar of Zeus
- Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of Syria claimed to be a god himself
- The Maccabees regained control of the Temple
- The Maccabees tore down the pagan altar and rebuilt a new one
- The Maccabees renewed all the sacred vessels of the Lord

- The Maccabees ruled until Herod the Great in 36 BC

John the Baptist:

John the baptist was conceived about Sivan 30, the eleventh week - (Luke 1:8-13, 24) John most likely would have been born around Passover. (Nisan 14)

1 Chronicles 24:7-18 holds a key in understanding when Zechariah would have been in the Temple offering incense. After his week of duties in the Temple and returning home to Ein Kerem, in the Judean hillside, Elizabeth becomes pregnant.

We have a very disturbing historical event in 168 BC that tries to snuff out the plan of God. A family takes it upon themselves to revolt in order to set things right that were wrong. That action brings the service of the Temple back in order.

Zechariah a little more than 100 years later is in Temple. Zechariah was in the Temple when the Angel spoke to him about the birth of his son John. God used Zechariah through his unbelief. God used one family to help bring the forerunner of the Gospel into the scene.

Questions For Reflection:

- How is God using me as one family?
- Am I willing to take a risk to honor the Word of God?
- Do I understand it is the Love of God working through me, by the Spirit, as Zechariah declares?
- Do I give God's name Glory because of His grace and truth?

Credits:

- The Holy bible
- "A family guide to the biblical holidays" - Robin Sampson & Linda Pierce

DAY TWO - "PEACE"

The Fruit of Peace:

Tonight we light the candle of peace. Only God can bring us peace. So we know that the love of God brings us a peace that passes all understanding. We know that we have a Prince of Peace in the person of Jesus.

Read the following bible passages:

- Genesis 1:4
- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Peace
- Zechariah chapters 3 and 4
- Psalm 116
- Luke 1:26 -38

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was unformed and void, darkness was on the face of the deep, and the Spirit of God hovered over the surface of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. God saw that the light was good, and God divided the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. So there was evening, and there was morning, one day."- Genesis 1:1-5

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." - Isaiah 9:6

Based on [Luke 1:8-13, 24](#) the reference of the timing and birth of John the Baptist, Mary conceives Jesus 6 months after John is conceived after 30 Sivan according to [Luke 1:26-38](#).

We can see that most likely Jesus was conceived in the Hebrew month of Kislev ([most likely Chanukah](#)) in the Jewish Calendar ([December in the Gregorian calendar](#)) and moving forward 9 months you come to [September](#) or [Festival of Tabernacles](#).

That brings us to the question of when does life begin? For our family it begins at conception. The Nativity brings deeper insights of truth revealed nine months earlier. The importance of the Holy Spirit, Mary, and Joseph in those very fragile days at the beginning when God made His proclamation through the Angel Gabriel. [Luke 1:26-38](#)

He Hears Us:

"I love that Adonai heard my voice when I prayed; because he turned his ear to me, I will call on him as long as I live." - Psalm 116:1-2

Zechariah and the Spirit:

“Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” 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 4:5-6

Zechariah chapters 3 and 4 reveals to us that God is at work in each person’s life. We are dependent on the Lord’s Spirit to be at work in our lives. Even when I don’t know the answer to something, the Spirit is there to guide me into paths for His namesake. This is such a freeing reality. We don’t have to understand everything or have all the answers.

The hard part is for us to trust (faith) the Spirit to lead us.

*“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be **in you**.” - John 14:16*

Oil has always been the fuel for the Menorah. In the same way, if we have become the home of God, then we are now the living Menorah. As living Menorahs we must have the oil of the Holy Spirit to power the Light.

There is no light without the fuel to sustain the light. We must depend on the Lord’s Spirit to fuel the light that we are to shine into the darkness.

Our responses should underscore the acceptance of the Spirit:

- Recognize the work of the Holy Spirit as Jesus himself revealed would take place
- Recognize our need to be obedient to the Holy Spirit
- Rejoice in the fact that God has given us the Holy Spirit and that He dwells in us
- Begin a daily lifestyle of practicing life in the Holy Spirit

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” - Ephesians 4:30

“ When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.” - John 16:13-15

Day Three: “Patience”

The Fruit of Patience:

Tonight we light the candle of patience. “Patience is a virtue.” That is a phrase we commonly hear in life. Patience is something we must learn. We are not born with patience. So we know that the love of God must cultivate patience in our life.

Patience - “the quality of being patient, as the bearing of provocation, annoyance, misfortune or pain, without complaint, loss of temper, irritation, or the like.”

Read the following bible passages:

- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Patience
- Zechariah chapters 5 and 6
- Psalm 117
- John 10:20-38

God’s Steadfast love toward us:

“Praise the Lord, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord!” - Psalm 117

“And those who are far off shall come and help to build the temple of the Lord. And you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you. And this shall come to pass, if you will diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God.” - Zechariah 6:15

We find in Zechariah 5 and 6 the people of Israel had neglected rebuilding the Temple of God after returning to Jerusalem and rebuilding the wall. Both Haggai and Zechariah address this neglect and issue with the people of Israel. We see that from 539 BC to 521 BC the Temple is not being rebuilt. Finally in 521 BC we see the people start work on the second Temple. Although, the Temple was nothing like Solomon’s Temple, “Herod the Great” would come later and make major improvements on the second Temple as an appeasement tactic to the Jewish people.

- 586 BC the Babylonians take Jerusalem
- 539 BC - Jews come back from Babylon
- 521 - 516 BC Second Temple built

As you read Zechariah notice these are names and their meanings:

- **Heldai** Means “worldly.”
- **Tobijah** Means “Yahweh is good.”
- **Jedaiah** Means “Yahweh has known.”
- **Josiah** Means “Yahweh supports.”
- **Zephaniah** Means “Yahweh has treasured.”

What does the rebuilding of the Temple have to do with Chanukah? One aspect is the neglect of the people to make the rebuilding of the temple a priority.

Why didn't they start building the Temple right away?

We can see God's patience exhibited in history waiting for the people to obey him. God sent His prophets Haggai and Zechariah to help get the people into proper alignment with him. It is as if they forgot that a Messiah was coming and their responsibility in relationship to God as Jews.

How does that mindset affect people today? Have we forgotten that a Messiah is coming? We have a hope that a Messiah is coming (Yeshua).

*“For **we are the temple of the living God**; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord,” - 2 Corinthians 6:16-17*

*“I will give you the land of Israel.’ And when they come there, they will remove from it all its detestable things and all its abominations. **And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them.** I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh, that they may walk in my statutes and keep my rules and obey them. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God.” - Ezekiel 11:17-20*

*“And I will give **you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you.** And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.” - Ezekiel 36:26-27*

*“Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: **I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.” - Jeremiah 33:31-34*

*“but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the **Father is in me and I am in the Father.**” - John 10:38*

Whether you were a Jew 2,000 years ago or living today, God wants to be in relationship with us. He wants to give us a new heart and put His Spirit within us. The natural man has trouble understanding this amazing opportunity. We should encourage each other during this Chanukah season, and beyond, to begin or continue to be mindful of the cultivating work God wants to do in our life.

Consider this:

"Then came Hanukkah in Yerushalayim. It was winter, and Yeshua was walking around inside the Temple area, in Sholmo's Colonnade. My sheep listen to my voice, I recognize them, they follow me, and I give them eternal life." - John 10:22,27 CJB

What was Jesus doing in Jerusalem in the Temple during Chanukah?

Questions for Reflection:

- Why was Jesus in Jerusalem during Chanukah?
- Why was Jesus walking around inside the Temple area?
- Do you see yourself as the Temple of God where He dwells?
- Do I recognize God wants to build Himself in my Temple?
- Am I patient enough with myself to allow the new creation that He has started inside of me?
- Think about how patient God is with us.
- Am I obeying the voice of the Lord?

Day Four: “Kindness”

The Fruit of Kindness

Tonight we light the candle of kindness. The definition of kindness is the quality or state of being kind. A kind act. A favor.

Read the following bible passages:

- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Kindness
- Zechariah chapters 7 and 8
- Psalm 118
- John 9:5-7

Psalm 118

This entire chapter is fantastic. Notice the following words and their impact on each of us. Take time to read the whole chapter for your own and see what God does.

*“Let Israel say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”*

*Let the house of Aaron say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.”*

*Let those who fear the Lord say,
“His steadfast love endures forever.” - Psalm 118:2-4*

*“The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone.*

*This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvelous in our eyes.*

*This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.” - Psalm 118:22-24*

*“The Lord is God,
and he has made his light to shine upon us.” - Psalm 118:27*

*“Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever”! - Psalm 118:29*

Zechariah 7 & 8:

“Thus says the Lord: I have returned to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called the faithful city, and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, the holy mountain. Thus says the Lord of hosts: Old men and old women shall again sit in the streets of Jerusalem, each with staff in hand because of great age.

And the streets of the city shall be full of boys and girls playing in its streets. Thus says the Lord of hosts: If it is marvelous in the sight of the remnant of this people in those days, should it also be marvelous in my sight, declares the Lord of hosts?

Thus says the Lord of hosts: Behold, I will save my people from the east country and from the west country, and I will bring them to dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. And they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in faithfulness and in righteousness.” - Zechariah 8:3-8

*“Thus says the Lord of hosts: Peoples shall yet come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one city shall go to another, saying, ‘Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the Lord and to seek the Lord of hosts; I myself am going.’ Many peoples and strong nations shall come to seek the Lord of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the Lord. Thus says the Lord of hosts: **In those days ten men from the nations of every tongue shall take hold of the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’**” - Zechariah 8:20-23*

John 9 - 10: Jesus, The blind man, and the Chanukah connection:

*“As long as I am in the world, **I am the light of the world.**” Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.” - John 9:5-7*

The timing of the miracle of the blind man from birth in John 9 takes place during Chanukah. This makes a lot of sense when you see Jesus himself declared to be the light of the world in John 9:5-7. The blind man could finally see the light. Even though the blind man did not recognize Jesus as the Son of God at first, later he realized that Jesus was the Light to the world. The miracle of the blind man brings us a deeper understanding of the miracle we have in the Messiah.

“At that time the Feast of Dedication took place at Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly.” Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe.

The works that I do in my Father's name bear witness about me, but you do not believe because you are not among my sheep. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?” The Jews answered him, “It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.”

Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your Law, ‘I said, you are gods’? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’? If I am not doing the works of my Father, then do not believe me; but if I do them, even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father.” - John 10:22-38

Questions for Reflection:

- Does the Light to the world make sense to me?
- Do I understand the purpose of the chief cornerstone?
- Why do the religious leaders of the day make life difficult for the blind man and his parents?
- Am I willing to “ take the robe of a Jew, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.’”?
- Do you believe the Light of God shines upon you?
- Do I see the remnant of the Jews back in Israel as marvelous in my eyes as it is to His?

Day Five: “Goodness”

The Fruit of Goodness

Tonight we light the candle of goodness. According to Webster’s dictionary, goodness is the nutritious, flavorful, or beneficial part of something or the quality or state of being good. A person of such unaffected *goodness* that his friends were inspired to lead better lives.

Read the following bible passages:

- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Goodness
- Zechariah chapters 9 - 10
- Psalm 27:1
- John 12: 35-36

“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” - Psalm 27:1

Zechariah 9 - 10:

In Zechariah 9 and 10 we see the redemption of mankind prophesied many years before Jesus entered the picture on earth. You will see Zechariah tells us that the king is coming and he will be mounted on a donkey. We see that happen in the book of Matthew chapter 21. You also find in these two chapters, God’s promise to bring the people of Israel back.

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your king is coming to you;

righteous and having salvation is he,

humble and mounted on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” - Zechariah 9:9

“Then the Lord will appear over them,

and his arrow will go forth like lightning;

the Lord God will sound the trumpet

and will march forth in the whirlwinds of the south.” - Zechariah 9:14

“Though I scattered them among the nations,

yet in far countries they shall remember me,

and with their children they shall live and return.

I will bring them home from the land of Egypt,

and gather them from Assyria,

and I will bring them to the land of Gilead and to Lebanon,

till there is no room for them.” - Zechariah 10:9-10

Light can be found in many places in our Bible. God has set us apart to believe in the Light and become the sons and children of Light. The amazing opportunity to watch the land of Zebulun and Naphtali become glorious through Jesus showing up is wonderful.

Zebulun is where modern day Nazareth is located. Naphtali is where Capernaum is located. Both of these cities are key in the life and ministry of Jesus.

“The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!” - Matthew 21:6-9

“So Jesus said to them, “The light is among you for a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you. The one who walks in the darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.” - John 12:35-36

“for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true).” - Ephesians 5:8-9

“But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

*The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.” - Isaiah 9:1-2*

*“the people dwelling in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death,
on them a light has dawned.” - Mathew 4:16*

Questions For Reflection:

- Is the Lord your Light?
- Do we see that our King has come and is coming again?
- Am I awakened in my Spirit to understand that I am to walk as a child of the Light?
- Do I understand how God has made the land of Zebulun and Naphtali glorious?
- Do I believe in the Light and so that I can become a child of light?

DAY SIX: “FAITHFULNESS”

The Fruit of Faithfulness:

Tonight we light the candle of faithfulness . According to Webster’s dictionary, faithfulness is described as having or showing true and constant support or loyalty.

Read the following bible passages:

- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Faithfulness
- Zechariah chapters 11
- Psalm 119:105
- Matthew 5:14, 16

Zechariah 11:

In Zechariah 11 we see two issues. One is the foreshadowing of Judas and Jesus over 30 pieces of silver. The other is the knowing neglect of the shepherds responsibility to the sheep.

Psalm 119:

“ Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path” - Psalm 119:105

*“The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.” - Isaiah 40:8*

*“Forever, O Lord, your word
is firmly fixed in the heavens.*

*Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.” - Psalm 119:89-90*

Do you recognize that Psalm 119 did not promise that the whole distance would be illuminated in order to see clearly our destination? What God did promise is that His word would be a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path. That conveys that there is a level of trust in God that He will be faithful to us.

Matthew 5

“You are light for the world. In the same way, let your light shine before people, so that they may see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.” - Matthew 5:14,16

Individually we have to realize that God chose us to be a light to the world and that we have to let our light shine. We are created in the image of God. We are to be the children of God. God’s master plan was to put His Spirit inside of us in order to let our light shine.

God is not looking for you to be Jewish or Gentile on the outside. He is not looking for you to do something outwardly to make you something. God is desiring to be in relationship with you and to put His Spirit inside of you. From this point you are to let that fusion of light shine into the dark world. The fusion of the Creator and the created is something the enemy did not see coming.

God putting himself inside of man at Pentecost, is what we say in chess, “Checkmate”. The evil plan of the enemy was once and for all put into checkmate. It doesn't matter which way he turns, the light of God is in HIS people now, that gives the enemy no way out.

“For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.” - Romans 2:28-29

“But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” - Ephesians 5:13-14

“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”- 2 Corinthians 4:6

Questions For Reflection:

- Do you see yourself as the Light of the world?
- Do you believe that the light you are makes things visible around you?
- Are you awake in order for Christ to shine on you?
- How faithful am I to God?
- How faithful am I to others around me?
- Do I believe that the word of God stands forever?

DAY SEVEN: “HUMILITY”

The Fruit of Humility:

Tonight we light the candle of humility. Humility is described as the quality or state of not thinking you are better than other people: the quality or state of being humble, according to Webster’s dictionary.

Humility, notice, is not thinking less about yourself. God created us to be confident of the GOOD Work that He is doing in us. Many times we are told not to look too highly of oneself when it comes to faith, the word of God, and sharing our faith through the Spirit. Thinking that we are better than other people is one issue. Not believing what God said about us, and who we are to become, is equally damaging.

Read the following bible passages:

- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Gentleness (Humility)
- Proverbs 6:23
- Zechariah chapters 12 & 13
- John 8:12

Philippians 1:6

“And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.” - Philippians 1:6

Zechariah 12 & 13:

“Behold, I am about to make Jerusalem a cup of staggering to all the surrounding peoples. The siege of Jerusalem will also be against Judah. On that day I will make Jerusalem a heavy stone for all the peoples. All who lift it will surely hurt themselves. And all the nations of the earth will gather against it.” - Zechariah 12:2-3

Proverbs 6:23

“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is a light; and the reproofs of instruction are the way of life” - Proverbs 6:23

John 8:12

“I Am the light of the World; Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light which gives life.” - John 8:12

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” - John 1:1-5

“And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.” - Revelation 22:5

“The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” - Romans 13:12

“that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world” - Philippians 2:15

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.” - James 1:17

We have been chosen to shine as lights in the world. Increasing the word of God that is in you, manifests more light that will shine. The idea of working out your salvation is no more than allowing the Word of God to come alive on the inside, through belief. It's memorizing more of God's word. Unbelief is our greatest enemy, not demons or satan. You overcome them by the blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony.

The smallest candle burning bright into the darkest night, cast light to all who are around it and can be seen from very far away. Believers need to make sure that we reach for the Light first in the dark world. It is natural for all of us when we walk into a dark room to reach for the light switch. Why? You know that when you turn that switch on everything will change in that room. You will be able to see what you need to see.

So think about this? The WORD of God is the light that needs to be switched on in our lives. That light becomes the agent of change in the lives of those around you in the dark room. You are God's chosen instrument to carry the Light.

Questions For Reflection:

- How do I see humility exemplified in my life?
- Do I believe in the light of the world?
- Do I believe the word of God is the way of life?
- Do I see how dark the world is around me?
- If I can't see what is going on around me in a dark room what is the first thing I think to do?

DAY EIGHT: “SELF-CONTROL”

The Fruit of Self Control:

Tonight we light the candle of self control. Self control is defined as restraint exercised over one's own impulses, emotions, or desires, according to Webster's dictionary.

The hardest of all the fruits of the spirit is self-control. Self control requires full and complete obedience to God in a particular area of our life. Jesus exemplified this with His death on the cross. He is so awesome. He is the God of Power.

Read the following bible passages:

- Galatians 5: 22 - 23 - Self-Control
- Zechariah chapters 14
- Exodus 25: 31,37
- Numbers 8:1-3
- Luke 11:33

Exodus 25:31,37

God commanded that a menorah of pure gold was to be made. Remember it was a command that required the full obedience of Moses and the children of Israel.

“You are to make a menorah of pure gold. Make seven lamps for the menorah, and mount them so as to give light to the space in front of it.” - Exodus 25:31,37

“And this was the workmanship of the lampstand, hammered work of gold. From its base to its flowers, it was hammered work; according to the pattern that the Lord had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.” - Numbers 8:4

Zechariah 14:

Some of the most powerful words of hope and prophecy are tucked away in Zechariah 14. Our God will once again put His feet on the Mount of Olives. The **AWESOME POWER and Glory of God** will fill the earth. The nations will be required to give their praise to God.

*“On that day **His feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives that lies before Jerusalem on the east**, and the Mount of Olives shall be split in two from east to west by a very wide valley, so that one half of the Mount shall move northward, and the other half southward. And you shall flee to the valley of my mountains, for the valley of the mountains shall reach to Azal. And you shall flee as you fled from the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah. **Then the Lord my God will come, and all the holy ones with him.**” - Zechariah 14:4-5*

*“On that day there shall be no light, cold, or frost. **And there shall be a unique day, which is known to the Lord, neither day nor night, but at evening time there shall be light.** On that day living waters shall flow out from Jerusalem, half of them to the eastern sea and half of them to the western sea. It shall continue in summer as in winter.” - Zechariah 14:6-8*

“And the Lord will be king over all the earth. On that day the Lord will be one and his name one.” - Zechariah 14:9

*“And it shall be inhabited, for there shall **never again be a decree of utter destruction.** Jerusalem shall dwell in security” - Zechariah 14:11*

*“Then everyone who survives of all the nations that have come against Jerusalem shall go up **year after year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts,** and to keep the Feast of Booths. And **if any of the families of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, there will be no rain on them.**” - Zechariah 14:16-17*

Luke 11:

“No man, when he hath lighted a candle, puts it in a secret place, neither under a bushel, but on a candlestick, that they which come may see the light.” - Luke 11:33

*“Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a **flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.** He looked, and behold, **the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.** And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” And he said, “**I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.**” And Moses hid his face, for he was **afraid to look at God.**” - Exodus 3:1-6*

Tonight, we conclude the lighting of the Chanukiah candles for this season. I pray that these devotionals will remind us that God wants us to be in HIS fullness. Will you let Him use you? Will you join Him in the journey that raises you beyond that which you could ever ask, hope, or imagine. You have been chosen for such a time as this. Grab hold of the robe of the Jew, who knows they are with God, and follow them to hill of the Lord. Jerusalem! Blow the trumpet in Zion!!! The Day of the LORD is coming!

REJOICE!!! REJOICE!!! O' ZION The Lord Has made YOU HIS DELIGHT!

“Sh’ma Yisrael” - Paul Weber

Hear O Israel, all you chosen ones
Faithful Father, Spirit of the Lord
Messiah Son, our God is one

Majesty to great to dwell
In temples made in stone
You have chosen hearts of flesh
To make your glory known

Let your Kingdom come
Let your Will be done
Wind of Heaven blow

Make your presence known
Like an ocean wide
Let your Glory Rise

Let your Glory Rise
Cover All the Earth
Hear o Israel
Our God is One

Questions For Reflection:

- Am I guilty of hiding my light under a bushel?
- Will I raise my light and put it on a lampstand for all to see?
- Will I allow the oil of the Holy Spirit fill me to overflowing, to fuel the LIGHT?
- Will I be fully obedient as Moses was to investigate this burning bush and be favored by God?
- Will you allow God to make His glory known through you?
- Are you willing to let God make you into the unique patterned lampstand for the Lord?
- Am I willing to be a family that will worship the King?

Credits

“Shema” - Paul Wilbur
[youtube.com/oxyb9f8yxvk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oxyb9f8yxvk)