

Zechariah And God's Spirit

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Haggai was called to encourage the Jews to finish the rebuilding of the temple. At the same time, God called Zachariah to deliver the same message. But unlike Haggai, Zechariah does so by showing the people the future glory of the temple and that's why it needed to be finished. He does so by relaying several visions and revelations he had been given. While the visions may make no sense, Zechariah is careful to make sure interpretations are given so the message can be easily learned.

One of the great principles of the Bible, relating to God, is found in Zech. 4:6, *"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.'"* Zerubbabel led the Jews back from Babylon to Jerusalem to begin rebuilding. They got the foundation of the temple laid quickly but then political problems arose and hostile opposition got in the way and the work stopped. Sixteen years have now passed and the work has not been completed. How discouraged Zerubbabel must have been. For sixteen years, he has been trying to get the people to work but without success. But now an encouraging word from the Lord has come to Zerubbabel. It will not be human power or might that complete this work. It will be God's Spirit. In fact, nothing gets done without God's Spirit.

This is not to say that the Spirit doesn't have power or might. He does, but the Spirit is not dependent on it to get God's will accomplished. In Job 26:13 we find that God's wind (or spirit) made the heavens fair. See also Gen. 1:2. When it comes to Jesus' death, we read, *"how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God."* (Heb. 9:14.) The Spirit was involved in the Lord's resurrection and will be with ours, *"If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you."* (Rom. 8:11.) Get a concordance and see all the things the Spirit was involved in so that God's will would be accomplished. It doesn't come from human origin and human power. The Spirit may use these but doesn't have to. In Zerubbabel's case, God's Spirit would stir the people up to get the work done. How? We are not told but faith is required in the principle.

What is the usual consideration that people first think of? Usually it is the human resources available to them. A committee is made to oversee other committees to plan this ministry or that ministry. In many cases, that's what people need to direct them. But in the end, human resources are always limited. And seldom do folks consider the infinite resources made available to them through the Spirit. In Zephaniah, one of the problems, if not the biggest problem, was that God's people didn't "inquire" of Him. We read of, *"those who have turned back from following the Lord, who do not seek the Lord or inquire of him."* (Zeph. 1:6.) Our responsibility is to rely on God and not ourselves. Seek Him in every aspect of life. Zechariah said, *"On that day the Lord their God will save them... For how great is his goodness, and how great his beauty!"* (Zech. 9:16-17.) We inquire of the Lord because we see this in God. His will be done. His beauty is beyond compare. Always check with God earnestly and diligently as we move about to serve Him as a congregation and individually. But remember, it is by God's spirit that His work gets accomplished. And the end product will be a good and beautiful as God is.