

3<sup>RD</sup> QUARTER 2025

# KEEP THE LIGHT BURNING!



"And in the midst  
of the seven  
candlesticks one  
like unto the Son  
of man, clothed  
with a garment  
down to the  
foot, and girt  
about the paps  
with a golden  
girdle"  
(Revelation 1:13).

## *The Church of God* WEEKLY BIBLE LESSONS

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## Keep the Light Burning!

Welcome to the "Keep the Light Burning" Bible lesson series, where we embark on a transformative journey through the profound teachings of Christ's priestly ministry. This series is designed to illuminate the depths of His active oversight, refining work, and sustaining power within His Church. As we delve into each lesson, we will uncover the rich symbolism of the golden menorah in the Tabernacle and its eternal significance in our spiritual lives today.

Throughout this study, we will explore how Jesus, our High Priest, tends the flame of His Church—correcting, sustaining, and ensuring that our light remains bright. We will learn about His refining work, where He removes impurities to keep our faith pure and radiant. We will discover the importance of replenishing the oil, which represents the Truth and the leading of the Holy Spirit, whose presence fuels us with power, wisdom, and strength. We will also examine His daily inspection of our hearts, calling us into greater holiness and alignment with His purpose.

This series promises to be an exciting and enlightening journey, filled with anticipation and spiritual growth. Each lesson is crafted to deepen our understanding of Christ's active role in our lives and His unwavering commitment to keeping our light burning brightly. As we study His Word, we will be inspired to yield to His refining process, embrace His correction, and remain steadfast in our faith.

Get ready to be transformed as we keep the light burning together, allowing Jesus to illuminate our path and guide us into a deeper, more vibrant relationship with Him. Let the anticipation build as we prepare to uncover the treasures of His priestly ministry and experience the fullness of His presence in our lives.

*—Bishop Timothy Miller*

# Lesson 1: The Priestly Ministry of Christ – Keeping the Light Burning

For week ending July 5, 2025.

In the Tabernacle, the golden menorah was the only source of light in the Holy Place. It was the priests' responsibility to ensure that its flames never went out. They trimmed the wicks, replenished the oil, and maintained the purity of the light so that God's presence remained illuminated in the sanctuary. This was a daily work—it could never be neglected. Now, in Revelation, we see Jesus walking among the lampstands, fulfilling this ministry in a greater, eternal way. As our High Priest, He tends the flame of His Church—correcting, sustaining, and ensuring that our light remains bright. This lesson lays the foundation for understanding His active oversight, preparing us for deeper exploration in the coming weeks.

**Key Text:** *"And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle" (Revelation 1:13 KJV).*

## 1. Jesus Tends the Flame—The Work of Refining

- ✚ Just as the priests had to trim the wicks, removing excess soot to keep the flame pure, Jesus actively refines His people—cutting away impurities that could cloud the testimony of His Church.
- ✚ Without refinement, the light dims and fails to shine brightly. His cleansing work ensures that our faith remains clear and radiant (Malachi 3:2-3, Hebrews 12:5-6).

## 2. Jesus Replenishes the Oil—The Word Supplied By the Spirit

- ✚ The menorah could not burn without fresh oil (Exodus 27:20).
- ✚ Oil represents Truth, and Jesus is the Truth (John 14:6). Through the Holy Spirit, He continually fills His Church with Himself, ensuring that we remain empowered, strengthened, and unwavering in His light (John 16:13, Psalms 119:105, Zechariah 4:6).
- ✚ Jesus, as High Priest, continually fills His Church with fresh anointing, ensuring that we never grow cold or empty.

## 3. Jesus Inspects the Lampstands—The Call to Purity

- ✚ The priests didn't just trim and refill—they examined the lamps daily to ensure they were burning properly (Exodus 27:21).
- ✚ Jesus does the same for His people, inspecting our hearts, faith, and devotion to call us into greater holiness and alignment with His purpose (Psalm 139:23-24, Revelation 1:14).

## 4. Without His Oversight, the Light Would Fade

- ✚ The lampstands in Revelation represent Christ's Church, and He alone keeps them burning brightly.
- ✚ Without His continual work of refining, replenishing, and inspecting, the light would grow dim or extinguish (John 15:5, Revelation 2:5).
- ✚ Our role is to remain yielded, allowing Him to tend the flame within us.

## Lesson 2: When the Light Goes Out – Lessons from Samuel’s Time

For week ending July 12, 2025

In our last lesson, we saw that Jesus actively tends His Church, ensuring its flame burns bright. But what happens when that oversight is neglected? The time of Samuel offers a powerful example—Israel’s light dimmed, and the lamp in the Tabernacle went out. This wasn’t just a failure in priestly duty—it was a sign of spiritual slumber, similar to Jesus’ parable in Matthew 25, where the foolish virgins let their lamps run dry. But what was missing from their lamps? The oil represents truth—the wisdom and understanding needed to stay prepared for the Bridegroom. Proverbs 23:23 says, "Buy the truth, and sell it not." Those who neglect truth and the leading of the Spirit lack discernment and will be shut out when the time comes. Today, we will uncover what led to Israel’s condition and how Jesus, as High Priest, ensures His Church remains filled with truth and burning brightly.

**Key Text:** *"And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep" (1 Samuel 3:3 KJV).*

### 1. The Fading Light – Israel’s Spiritual Slumber & Neglect of Truth

- ✚ Israel’s condition in Samuel’s time was marked by spiritual decline and priestly corruption. Eli’s sons, Hophni and Phinehas, were wicked men who abused their role and dishonored sacrifices (1 Samuel 2:12-17).
- ✚ Because of this, truth was neglected, and the lamp in the Tabernacle went out—a sign that spiritual discernment had faded. This mirrors the foolish virgins in Matthew 25, who had no oil—they had not retained the truth needed to remain watchful. Just as darkness overtook Israel, spiritual blindness will overtake those who abandon truth. Discuss this warning and the importance of loving truth (Matthew 25:8-9).

### 2. The Lamp Goes Out – A Sign of Separation from God’s Wisdom

- ✚ The menorah was meant to burn continually (Exodus 27:20), yet in Samuel’s time, it went out, marking a disturbing shift—God’s presence was lifting due to Israel’s rebellion. Similarly, the foolish virgins in Matthew 25 were locked outside the wedding feast because they had no truth when the Bridegroom came (Matthew 25:10-12).
- ✚ When truth is absent, darkness overtakes the soul. Those who fail to “buy the truth” will find themselves unprepared when Christ returns.

### 3. Samuel – A Faithful Keeper of Truth

- ✚ Even as Israel’s light dimmed, God raised up Samuel, a young priest devoted to truth and obedience. Unlike Eli’s sons, Samuel ministered faithfully (1 Samuel 2:18), and God spoke to him, marking him as a messenger of wisdom and restoration. His willingness to listen and obey made him a carrier of divine truth, just as the wise virgins in Matthew 25 had oil in their lamps, ready for the Bridegroom (Matthew 25:13).

### 4. Jesus Ensures His Church’s Flame Never Goes Out

- ✚ Unlike Eli, Jesus never neglects His priestly duties. He walks among His Church, tending the flame to prevent spiritual slumber (Revelation 1:13). He continually pours out understanding, correction, and wisdom, ensuring that His people remain filled with truth. Those who cling to deception or neglect God’s instruction risk their light growing dim, just as Israel’s did. We must seek truth, ensuring our lamps are filled and burning brightly (Proverbs 23:23, Luke 12:35-37).



## Lesson 3: The Refining Work of Christ – Keeping His Church Pure

For week ending July 19, 2025

In our first two lessons, we established Jesus' priestly ministry of tending the lampstands and examined what happens when spiritual oversight is neglected. Now, we turn to one of His most vital works—refining His Church to keep the light pure. Just as the Old Testament priests had to trim the wicks of the menorah to prevent smoke and soot from clouding the flame, Jesus trims away impurities in His people, ensuring that His Church reflects His holiness. Today, we will explore how His refining work shapes our faith, preparing us to burn brighter in a dark world.

**Key Text:** *"And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness" (Malachi 3:3 KJV).*

### 1. The Priests Trimmed the Wicks to Keep the Flame Pure

- ✚ The menorah had to burn cleanly, without excessive smoke or dimness. The priests trimmed the wicks daily, removing buildup to ensure a steady, pure light (Leviticus 24:2-4).
- ✚ This process mirrors Jesus' refining work, where He removes impurities in our lives to keep our faith burning strong. Without regular trimming, the flame grows weak and ineffective, just as spiritual complacency dulls our witness (Hebrews 12:1, John 15:2).

### 2. Jesus Purifies His Church Through Correction and Testing

- ✚ Jesus corrects and refines His people just as a goldsmith purifies silver (Malachi 3:3). His letters to the Seven Churches show His direct rebukes and encouragement—a process of cutting away what is unhealthy and strengthening what remains (Revelation 3:19).
- ✚ This refining fire is not judgment for destruction but purification for holiness, ensuring that we shine without mixture or compromise (1 Peter 1:7, Philippians 2:15).

### 3. Without Refining, the Light Grows Dim

- ✚ If the priests ignored the wicks, smoke would cloud the menorah's flame. Likewise, sin, complacency, and false doctrine cloud our ability to reflect Christ (Ephesians 4:14,15).
- ✚ Jesus warns that if a lampstand does not remain pure, He will remove it (Revelation 2:5).
- ✚ His refining process ensures we remain a bright, unwavering testimony to the world (Ephesians 5:27).

### 4. The Refined Church Burns Brightly in Darkness

- ✚ Jesus desires a Church that radiates His glory, free from compromise (Ephesians 5:27). Those who submit to His refining will shine brighter, reflecting His truth, wisdom, and righteousness (Daniel 12:3).
- ✚ This process is ongoing—our flame must be continually maintained, ensuring that when He returns, we are prepared and radiating His glory (Matthew 5:16, Luke 12:35). Like a lamp requiring constant trimming, our faith needs dedicated refinement. Without vigilance, the light of our testimony dims, leaving us ineffective. Jesus' refining power ensures we remain ready, unwavering, and shining brilliantly to reflect His righteousness.

## Lesson 4: Christ's Oversight of Ephesus – Rekindling First Love

For week ending July 26, 2025

Jesus actively tends the lampstands, ensuring His Church burns brightly. In our last lesson, we saw how His refining work purifies and strengthens believers. Now, we focus on the first Church in Revelation—Ephesus. Though they were faithful in doctrine, Jesus saw a troubling issue—they had abandoned their first love. This warning teaches us that truth alone is not enough; love for Christ must be the fuel that keeps our flame burning. As we study His message to Ephesus, we will explore how Jesus corrects, restores, and calls His Church to rekindle devotion.

**Key Text:** *"Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent" (Revelation 2:4-5 KJV).*

### 1. Ephesus Had Truth, but Their Love Had Grown Cold

- ✚ Ephesus was faithful in many ways—they resisted false teachers, endured hardship, and upheld correct doctrine (Revelation 2:2-3). Yet, Jesus saw a critical issue: they had abandoned their first love. Knowledge without devotion leads to a cold, mechanical faith.
- ✚ Jesus wants both truth and passion in His Church. Love must be the fuel for our flame, not just correct theology (1 Corinthians 13:2, Matthew 22:37).

### 2. Jesus Calls for Repentance and Restoration

- ✚ Christ does not overlook Ephesus' condition—He calls them to remember, repent, and return (Revelation 2:5). This is a clear pattern for restoration:
  - Remember what your devotion was like before it faded.
  - Repent for drifting away.
  - Return to the works fueled by genuine love.
- ✚ This call applies today—if our flame has weakened, we must rekindle passion for Christ (Psalm 51:12, Hosea 6:1).

### 3. The Warning – Without Love, the Lampstand Is Removed

- ✚ Jesus warns Ephesus that if they do not repent, He will remove their lampstand (Revelation 2:5). This shows that without true love for Christ, a church loses its ability to shine His light.
- ✚ A Church might still have activity, teaching, and structure, but without genuine devotion, it becomes lifeless and ineffective (John 15:6, 1 John 4:8).

### 4. Jesus Works to Rekindle Love in His Church Today

- ✚ Christ still tends His lampstands, calling believers and churches to rekindle their devotion (Revelation 1:13). He actively trims, refines, and restores us so we do not grow cold.
- ✚ His oversight ensures our flame does not fade, but we must respond to His call. Revival begins when we return to Him wholeheartedly (James 4:8, Romans 12:11). In turning back, we find renewed spiritual fervor, deeper intimacy with Christ, and a restored ability to shine His light brightly into the world. This renewal transforms not only individual lives but also entire congregations, igniting a passion that fuels faith and service.

## Lesson 5: Smyrna – Faithful Through Suffering (The Spirit of Preservation)

For week ending August 2, 2025

In our last lesson, we saw Christ's call to rekindle first love, ensuring passion fuels faith. Now, we turn to Smyrna, the persecuted Church, where Jesus offers no rebuke—only encouragement. Smyrna endured great tribulation, yet Christ assured them that their faithfulness in suffering would lead to eternal reward. This lesson reveals the Spirit of Preservation, which strengthens believers in hardship, keeping them steadfast until the end. Jesus does not promise to remove their trials—He promises to preserve them through it, ensuring their faith endures.

**Key Text:** *"Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10 KJV)*

### 1. The Spirit of Preservation Strengthens the Church in Tribulation

- ✚ Unlike other churches, Smyrna received no correction from Jesus—only encouragement to remain faithful despite severe suffering (Revelation 2:9-10). Their poverty, slander, and imprisonment could not destroy them because the Spirit of Preservation upheld them.
- ✚ This confirms that tribulation does not signify God's abandonment but rather His strengthening work, equipping believers to stand firm (James 1:12, 2 Timothy 3:12). What does it mean to be preserved through suffering rather than removed from it?

### 2. Jesus Strengthens His Church Through Trial

- ✚ Christ knew Smyrna's afflictions, and rather than removing them, He strengthened their endurance (Revelation 2:10). Suffering produces spiritual fortitude, and through the Spirit of Preservation, believers are empowered to endure hardships while remaining faithful and unwavering (1 Peter 4:12-13, Hebrews 5:8).
- ✚ This Spirit ensures that faith does not fail—even in persecution. How does trusting in Christ during difficulties change our perspective on suffering?

### 3. The Crown of Life – The Eternal Reward for Endurance

- ✚ Jesus promised Smyrna that if they remained faithful unto death, He would give them a crown of life (Revelation 2:10). This reflects His assurance that our sufferings are temporary, but the reward is eternal (Romans 8:18).
- ✚ The Spirit of Preservation sustains believers, ensuring they do not lose heart but continue pressing toward their eternal inheritance (2 Corinthians 4:17, James 1:12). What does it mean to endure hardship with eternity in mind?

### 4. Christ Walks With His People in Their Trials

- ✚ Jesus did not offer Smyrna a way out of suffering, but He assured them of His presence through it (Revelation 2:9). He is the First and the Last, meaning He is our strength at the beginning, middle, and end of every trial (Isaiah 41:10).
- ✚ The Spirit of Preservation ensures that no affliction goes unnoticed or unredeemed, and Jesus walks alongside His Church, keeping them steadfast (Matthew 28:20, 2 Corinthians 12:9). How can we find confidence that Jesus is walking with us through trials?

## Lesson 6: Pergamum – Marking What Matters (The Spirit of Marking)

For week ending August 9, 2025.

We have seen Christ rekindle love and preserve faith through suffering, ensuring His Church remains strong. Now, we turn to Pergamum, a Church struggling with compromise. Jesus commends their steadfastness in a hostile environment, but He warns them against allowing false doctrine to mix with the truth. This lesson highlights the Spirit of Marking, which calls believers to stand firm, reject deception, and bring attention to things significant in God's work. Marking is more than personal identity—it is about ensuring the visibility of truth, preserving prophetic signs, and making Christ's Church undeniable to a lost world. Jesus challenges Pergamum to clarify what is marked as holy and remove what dilutes His message.

**Key Text:** *"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it" (Revelation 2:17 KJV).*

### 1. Pergamum Held Fast in a City Dominated by False Marks

- ✚ Pergamum was a center of idol worship, where false gods were honored and marked in stone (Revelation 2:13). Despite this, believers in Pergamum held fast, refusing to deny Christ. Yet, their identity was being blurred by compromise, weakening their distinction as God's people.
- ✚ The Spirit of Marking calls the Church to make truth visible and identifiable, ensuring Christ's message stands clear and undefiled (Ephesians 1:13, 2 Corinthians 6:17). How does ensuring the visibility of truth impact outreach and evangelism?

### 2. The Danger of Mixing Truth with False Marks

- ✚ Jesus rebukes Pergamum for tolerating corrupt teachings, particularly the doctrines of Balaam and the Nicolaitans (Revelation 2:14-15). While they had not abandoned the faith, they allowed confusion to take root.
- ✚ The Spirit of Marking warns against this, urging believers to make clear distinctions between truth and deception. This applies to doctrine, prophetic signs, and even the practical visibility of the Church (2 Timothy 2:15, Galatians 5:9). How can we guard against subtle compromises that blur the truth?

### 3. A White Stone and a New Name – The Mark of Divine Identity

- ✚ To those who overcome, Jesus promises a white stone with a new name (Revelation 2:17).
- ✚ This is a mark of divine approval, signifying acceptance into God's kingdom. Just as prophets placed memorial stones to mark God's work, believers today must actively highlight spiritual truths—ensuring churches are visible, prophetic sites are honored, and God's message is clearly set apart (Joshua 4:6-7, Isaiah 62:2). What are ways we can ensure the Gospel remains clearly marked in our communities?

### 4. Christ Calls Us to Mark What is Holy and Remove Deception

- ✚ Jesus commands Pergamum to repent and refine their message (Revelation 2:16). He, as High Priest, tends the lampstands by purging false marks, ensuring His Church remains distinguished by truth.
- ✚ The Spirit of Marking directs believers to honor prophetic signs, ensure the clarity of truth, and make Christ's Church undeniably visible (Romans 12:2, Colossians 2:8). How can we embrace the Spirit of Marking in both spiritual and practical ways?



## Lesson 7: Thyatira – Guarding Truth with Discernment (The Spirit of Teaching)

For week ending August 16, 2025

Jesus is refining His Church, ensuring that truth is marked, preserved, and upheld. In our last lesson, we saw how Pergamum struggled with compromise, requiring clarity in identity. Now, we turn to Thyatira, a Church commended for its love and service but rebuked for allowing false teaching to take root. This lesson highlights the Spirit of Teaching & Truth, which equips believers to discern sound doctrine, reject deception, and uphold purity in the Church. Jesus warns Thyatira that tolerating falsehood leads to corruption, urging His people to test all teaching and remain grounded in truth.

**Key Text:** *"Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols" (Revelation 2:20 KJV).*

### 1. Thyatira Was Commended for Love but Warned About Deception

- ✚ Jesus praises Thyatira for its love, faith, service, and endurance (Revelation 2:19).
- ✚ However, their tolerance of false teaching threatened to corrupt their strength. The Spirit of Teaching helps believers guard against deception, ensuring faith is rooted in biblical wisdom rather than misleading doctrines (Ephesians 4:14, Proverbs 2:6). Why is love not enough without discernment? How can truth refine our devotion?

### 2. The Danger of Tolerating False Teaching

- ✚ Thyatira allowed Jezebel's influence—a false prophetess leading believers into impurity and deception (Revelation 2:20). The Spirit of Teaching calls the Church to test every doctrine, ensuring it aligns with Christ's teachings rather than cultural trends (1 John 4:1, 2 Timothy 3:16).
- ✚ False doctrine contaminates truth, leading to spiritual decay. How can we recognize when false teachings have crept into the Church?

### 3. The Call to Hold Fast to Pure Teaching

- ✚ Jesus commands those who have not been deceived to hold fast to truth until He comes (Revelation 2:24-25).
- ✚ The Spirit of Teaching strengthens believers in right understanding, enabling them to remain steadfast in faith even when surrounded by error (Colossians 2:8, Psalm 119:11). What are practical ways we can hold fast to sound doctrine?

### 4. Christ Rewards Those Who Walk in Truth

- ✚ Jesus promises authority to those who overcome, just as He received authority from the Father (Revelation 2:26-27).
- ✚ The Spirit of Teaching leads believers into wisdom that produces spiritual maturity, qualifying them for greater kingdom responsibility (Matthew 7:24, Proverbs 4:7). What are the long-term benefits of walking in truth?

## Lesson 8: Sardis – Awakening from Spiritual Slumber (The Spirit of Perfection)

For week ending August 23, 2025

Truth must be actively upheld in the Church. In our last lesson, we examined Thyatira's struggle with false teaching, seeing how Jesus calls His people to hold fast to sound doctrine. Now, we turn to Sardis, a Church that had the appearance of life but was spiritually dead. Jesus calls Sardis to wake up, strengthen what remains, and walk in true righteousness. This lesson reveals the Spirit of Perfection, which revives believers from spiritual complacency, restores passion, and calls us to live in the fullness of Christ's righteousness.

**Key Text:** *"Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God" (Revelation 3:2 KJV).*

### 1. Sardis Had a Name but No Life

- ✚ Sardis was known as a Church with a reputation, yet Jesus saw beneath the surface. Though they had the appearance of being alive, they were spiritually weak and on the verge of death (Revelation 3:1-2).
- ✚ The Spirit of Perfection calls believers to recognize their true condition, ensuring that our faith is genuine, not just outwardly active (Matthew 23:27, 2 Timothy 3:5). What does it mean to have an appearance of godliness but lack spiritual life?

### 2. The Call to Watchfulness and Strengthening What Remains

- ✚ Jesus commands Sardis to be watchful and strengthen what remains (Revelation 3:2). This reveals the Spirit's awakening work, calling believers to return to vigilance, revival, and genuine faith. Without renewal, what remains will fade completely.
- ✚ The Spirit revives passion and restores the pursuit of holiness, ensuring we remain fully alive in Christ (Romans 13:11, Ephesians 5:14). Where do we see signs of spiritual slumber in the Church today?

### 3. The Spirit of Perfection Calls Us to True Righteousness

- ✚ Jesus rebukes Sardis for not being perfect before God (Revelation 3:2).
- ✚ This does not mean flawlessness, but rather spiritual completion—walking in the fullness of Christ's righteousness. The Spirit of Perfection leads believers into maturity, refining our works, and deepening our spiritual integrity (Colossians 1:28, Philippians 3:12). What does biblical perfection mean, and how do we walk in it?

### 4. Overcomers Will Walk in White Before the Lord

- ✚ Jesus promises that those who awaken and overcome will be clothed in white garments, reflecting purity and victory (Revelation 3:5).
- ✚ The Spirit of Perfection produces holiness, ensuring believers are ready to stand blameless before Christ at His return (Revelation 19:8, 1 Thessalonians 5:23). How can we actively walk in Christ's righteousness today?

## Lesson 9: Philadelphia – Boldly Proclaiming the Word (The Spirit of Publishing)

For week ending August 30, 2025

The mission of the Church is not just to preserve truth, but to declare it with clarity and boldness. In our last lesson, we examined Sardis, a Church needing revival. Now, we turn to Philadelphia, a Church that embraced its calling to publish and proclaim the Word of God, stepping through the doors Christ had opened. This lesson highlights the Spirit of Publishing that opens doors and empowers believers to speak up, preach, and boldly proclaim truth so that hearts can hear and respond. The Church is called not to hide the Gospel but to make it widely known, using every avenue—spoken word, written material, and digital media—to awaken the world to Christ.

**Key Text:** *"I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name" (Revelation 3:8 KJV).*

### 1. Publishing Means Declaring Truth Boldly

- ✚ Philadelphia was faithful, and Jesus opened doors for them to advance His kingdom (Revelation 3:8). The Spirit of Publishing opens doors and ensures that biblical truth is not just kept within the Church but actively spoken and shared.
- ✚ Publishing is more than writing—it is preaching, teaching, evangelizing, and making the Word known to all who will hear (Psalm 68:11, Mark 16:15). Why is it important for believers to openly declare truth rather than keeping it private?

### 2. The Call to Preach and Proclaim the Gospel

- ✚ Publishing in biblical times meant public proclamation—prophets spoke boldly, apostles preached in marketplaces, and Jesus Himself declared the Kingdom wherever He went. The Spirit of Publishing urges believers to speak up, lift their voices, and proclaim Christ boldly, whether in the pulpit, online, or in everyday conversations (Romans 10:14-15, Acts 17:17).
- ✚ How can believers be more intentional about speaking truth in daily life?

### 3. No Opposition Can Shut What Christ Has Opened

- ✚ Jesus declares that no force can block the doors He opens (Revelation 3:8). Governments, cultural resistance, and personal fears may try to silence the Church, but the Spirit of Publishing empowers believers to move forward boldly, knowing God's Word cannot be stopped (Isaiah 55:11, Acts 5:38-39).
- ✚ How can we overcome fear and boldly proclaim truth even in hostile environments?

### 4. Faithfulness in Proclamation Leads to Greater Kingdom Work

- ✚ Jesus affirms that Philadelphia's commitment to speaking the Word makes them pillars in His kingdom, securing their place in eternity (Revelation 3:12). The Spirit of Publishing reminds believers that the more we declare truth, the more doors will open—Christ entrusts greater works to those who faithfully proclaim His name (Luke 16:10, 2 Timothy 2:2).
- ✚ What steps can we take to be more bold in sharing the Gospel?

# Lesson 10: Laodicea – Rekindling the Flame (The Spirit of Evangelism)

For week ending September 6, 2025

A flame that dims is at risk of dying out. In our last lesson, we saw how Philadelphia embraced divine opportunities, ensuring the Word was spread boldly. Now, we turn to Laodicea, a Church whose flame had faded into lukewarmness. Jesus calls them to rekindle their fire, burn with zeal, and spread the light to others. This lesson highlights the Spirit of Evangelism and the zeal which fuels believers to burn brightly, ignite faith in others, and reject complacency. A fire must be tended, or it loses its heat—Christ calls us not just to hold faith but to become torches of revival for the world.

**KEY TEXT:** "I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth" (Revelation 3:15-16 KJV).

## 1. Lukewarmness Is a Fading Flame

- ✚ Laodicea believed they were rich and in need of nothing (Revelation 3:17), yet Jesus revealed their true condition—wretched, poor, blind, and naked. Their fire had dimmed into complacency. Lukewarmness is not just stagnation—it is the slow cooling of passion until the flame is gone. The Spirit of Evangelism ignites believers, ensuring faith remains heated, vibrant, and contagious (Romans 12:11, 2 Timothy 1:6).
- ✚ What are signs that our spiritual fire is fading?

## 2. Christ Calls for a Blazing, Unstoppable Passion

- ✚ Jesus urges Laodicea to buy gold refined in fire—faith tested and purified through pursuit (Revelation 3:18). A flame must be tended, stoked, and fed, or it will die out. The Spirit of Evangelism pushes believers to fuel their faith, ensuring it is not merely maintained, but spread to ignite others (Jeremiah 20:9, Psalm 69:9).
- ✚ How can we stir up zeal and keep our fire burning?

## 3. Fire Spreads—True Evangelism Is Contagious

- ✚ A fire does not burn alone—it lights up everything around it. Lukewarm faith is contained, but true evangelism spreads the flame. Jesus calls Laodicea to reject passivity and share the Gospel boldly, ensuring others catch fire as well (Revelation 3:19, Acts 1:8). The Spirit of Evangelism equips believers to ignite faith in others, ensuring revival moves beyond themselves (Matthew 5:14-16, 2 Corinthians 5:20).
- ✚ What are ways we can share our fire and spark faith in others?

## 4. Christ Stands at the Door—Waiting for the Flame to Rise Again

- ✚ Laodicea is given one final call—Jesus stands at the door, knocking, waiting for those who will hear His voice and respond (Revelation 3:20). The Spirit of Evangelism sparks zeal and pushes believers to answer the call, ensuring their fire is reignited and set ablaze for His Kingdom (Joel 2:12-13, Romans 10:13-15).
- ✚ How can we ensure we are always burning brightly for Christ?



## Lesson 11: The Spirit's Work – The Refining Process for a Burning Church

For week ending September 13, 2025.

A fire must go through refinement to burn brighter and purer. In our journey through Revelation's churches, we've seen how Christ actively tends, corrects, and strengthens His people. But refining is not always comfortable—it involves purging, testing, and deep transformation. Without it, our flame dims. In this lesson we will focus on the Holy Spirit's refining work, shaping believers into strong, purified, and enduring flames, ready to illuminate the world.

**KEY TEXT:** *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord"* (II Corinthians 3:18 KJV).

### 1. Refining Fire Removes Impurities – Trials That Purify Faith

- ✚ Just as silver and gold must go through fire to be purified, believers must endure refining to burn brighter (Proverbs 17:3).
  - Recognize trials as spiritual refinement—God removes weaknesses so faith grows stronger (James 1:2-4).
  - Allow correction to refine you—Christ corrects to strengthen, not condemn (Hebrews 12:6).
  - Remain steadfast in difficulty—faith is purified through endurance (Romans 5:3-5).

### 2. The Spirit's Refining Calls Us to Let Go of the Old

- ✚ God removes what hinders growth, refining believers into usable vessels (Jeremiah 18:6, II Corinthians 3:18).
- ✚ Surrender areas of compromise—let go of distractions that weaken faith (Matthew 6:33, Colossians 3:2).
  - Embrace transformation—refinement produces a heart that reflects Christ (Ezekiel 36:26).
  - **Trust the process**—even when refining feels painful, God is shaping something greater (Isaiah 48:10).

### 3. Endurance Through Refining – Pressing On Without Growing Weary

- ✚ Refinement is meant to strengthen, not destroy (Isaiah 40:31, II Corinthians 4:17).
  - Draw strength from prayer and the Word—God renews those who seek Him daily (Psalm 119:105).
  - Learn to praise in the process—worship shifts focus from struggle to transformation (Acts 16:25-26).
  - Stand firm in faith—God does not allow refining without a purpose (Philippians 1:6).

### 4. A Refined Flame Burns Brighter – Bringing Light to Others

- ✚ Once refined, our flame shines purer and stronger, spreading revival (Matthew 5:14-16, Zechariah 13:9).
  - Share your testimony of transformation—show others the power of spiritual refining (Psalm 66:10-12).
  - Step boldly into your calling—refined believers carry the fire of purpose (Jeremiah 20:9).
  - Encourage others to embrace the refining process—help others see trials as growth, not punishment (Romans 8:28).

## Lesson 12: Walking in the Light – Fueling a Sustainable Fire

For week ending September 20, 2025.

A fire doesn't just need ignition—it needs fuel to last. In our previous lesson, we explored how the Spirit refines believers, removing impurities to make our faith burn brighter and stronger. Now, we turn to the daily practice of walking in the light, ensuring that our fire remains steady, growing, and illuminating others. This lesson highlights how believers must actively fuel and protect their flame, making sure it does not flicker or fade.

**KEY TEXT:** *"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" (1 John 1:7 KJV).*

### 1. Walking in the Light Requires Staying in the Word

- ✚ Light comes from truth, and truth is found in God's Word (Psalm 119:105). By immersing ourselves in Scripture, we allow the light to guide our steps and illuminate our paths. This continuous engagement with the Word ensures our flame burns steadily, spreading warmth and clarity to those around us.
  - Read and meditate daily—Scripture fuels the fire within (Joshua 1:8).
  - Apply the Word—don't just read, but live it out (James 1:22).
  - Seek understanding—ask the Spirit to reveal deeper truths (John 16:13).

### 2. Fueling the Flame Through Communion with God

- ✚ A flame dies without constant feeding, and the fire of faith is no different (Luke 12:35). Believers must continually nurture their spiritual flame through daily practices.
  - Prioritize prayer—keep the relationship strong (Philippians 4:6).
  - Engage in worship—true worship stirs the Spirit's presence (Psalm 22:3).
  - Practice fasting—deepen dependence on God and stir fresh revelation (Matthew 6:17-18).

### 3. Guard the Fire Against Spiritual Compromise

- ✚ Not all influences fuel the fire—some threaten to dim it (Ephesians 5:8-11). By rejecting darkness and avoiding anything that pollutes their faith, believers safeguard their light and maintain a pure connection with God.
  - Reject darkness—avoid anything that pollutes your faith (2 Corinthians 6:14).
  - Stay connected to strong believers—fellowship strengthens the flame (Proverbs 27:17).
  - Resist distractions and complacency—keep your flame sharp and active (Romans 12:11).

### 4. Spread the Light – Illuminate the World

- ✚ A well-fueled fire doesn't stay contained—it spreads (Matthew 5:14-16). This flame, nurtured with care, becomes a beacon of hope and inspiration, drawing others towards its warmth and light.
  - Share your testimony—your fire can ignite others (Acts 1:8).
  - Lead others to Christ—let your passion draw people into the Kingdom (2 Corinthians 5:20).
  - Be a visible reflection of Christ's light—let your actions speak loudly (Philippians 2:15).

## Lesson 13: The Call to Shine – Preparing for His Return with a Lit Lamp

For week ending September 27, 2025

We have explored the refining fire, the daily fuel, and the call to remain vigilant. Now, we arrive at the ultimate purpose of the flame—to shine brightly until Christ returns. A lamp is not just for ourselves, but for guiding others, illuminating the way of salvation, and standing ready when the Bridegroom appears. This final lesson emphasizes living with urgency, ensuring our flame is not just burning but shining for all to see, as we await His return.

**KEY TEXT:** *"And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut." (Matthew 25:10 KJV)*

### 1. Readiness Requires a Continual Flame – Staying Watchful

- ✚ The foolish virgins lacked oil, making them unprepared when the Bridegroom arrived (Matthew 25:1-13). Believers must keep their lamps full, ensuring they do not grow complacent (Luke 12:35-36).
  - Stay spiritually awake—do not drift into distraction (I Thessalonians 5:6).
  - Maintain deep communion with Christ—your relationship fuels the light (John 15:5).
  - Keep a heart of expectancy—live daily as if His return were imminent (Luke 21:28).

### 2. Shine the Light of Christ – Illuminate Others Before the Door Closes

- ✚ A flame that burns brightly draws people to truth and illuminates the path to salvation (Matthew 5:14-16). It serves as a beacon, guiding others toward eternal life.
  - Evangelize with urgency—bring the lost into the Kingdom (Romans 10:13-15).
  - Live visibly as a witness—let your life reflect His glory (Philippians 2:15).
  - Encourage others to prepare—discipleship fuels readiness (II Timothy 2:2).

### 3. Avoiding the Danger of a Flickering Flame – Guard Against Spiritual Weariness

- ✚ Some grow tired before the finish line, letting their flame dim (Hebrews 10:23-25). In the midst of challenges, it is vital to draw strength from the promises of God and stay committed to His path. Remember that your perseverance not only sustains your light but also serves as an example to others who are striving to keep their flames burning brightly.
  - Resist discouragement—stay strong in faith (Galatians 6:9).
  - Find renewal in the Spirit—seek fresh outpouring (Isaiah 40:31).
  - Surround yourself with watchful believers—keep each other prepared (Hebrews 3:13).

### 4. The Bridegroom Comes – Will Your Lamp Be Burning?

- ✚ Christ will return for those whose flames are shining (Revelation 19:7-8).
- ✚ Remain steadfast in righteousness—purity is essential for readiness (Ephesians 5:27). Strive to be blameless, reflecting the holiness of His calling. Let your actions and heart align with His Word, preparing you to meet Him with confidence. In unwavering faith, keep your lamp burning brightly as the Bridegroom approaches.



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