



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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Victory Comes Through Divine Spiritual Strength!

Scripture: Zechariah 4:6 - Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.**

There was opposition to God's plan in Zechariah's day, and He prophesied future times of trouble. **But God's Word endures.** God remembers the agreements He makes with His people. He cares for His people and will deliver them from all the world powers that oppress them. Although evil is still present, God's infinite love and personal care have been demonstrated through the centuries. God keeps His promises. Although our bodies may be destroyed, **we need never fear our ultimate destiny if we love and obey Him.** **Zerubbabel** is a pivotal Old Testament figure of royal Davidic descent. As the governor of Judah, he led the first wave of Jewish exiles returning from Babylon and spearheaded the reconstruction of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Many people believe that to survive in this world a person must be tough, strong, unbending, and harsh. But God says, "*Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit.*" The key words are "by my spirit." **It is only through God's Spirit that anything of lasting value is accomplished.** The returned exiles were indeed weak—harassed by their enemies, tired, discouraged, and poor. But actually they had God on their side! **As you live for God, determine not to trust in your own strength or abilities. Instead, depend on God and work in the power of His Spirit!**

Trusting in weapons is vain. Goliath relied on human strength, sizing up the battle based on physical weapons, size, and armor. David relied entirely on the spiritual authority of "*Lord of Hosts*" (1 Samuel 17:45). **True victory in life's impossible challenges (our "giants") is not achieved through human strength or worldly resources, but trusting in God's power.**

It's dangerous trusting in yourself. For many people, the rugged individualist is a hero. We admire the bold, self-directed men and women who know what they want and fight for it. They are self-reliant, neither giving nor asking advice. What a contrast to God's way. A person can't know the future and can't predict the consequences of his choices with certainty. **The totally self-reliant person is doomed to failure, but the wise person is protected by dependence on God** (Proverbs 28:26). No one can claim to be adequate without God's help. No one is competent to carry out the responsibilities of God's calling in his or her own strength. Without the Holy Spirit's enabling, our natural talent can carry us only so far. As people of God, we need the character and special strength that only God gives. The Spirit gives new life to all who believe in Christ.

We need wisdom and spiritual understanding. Paul was exposing a heresy in the Colossians church that was a forerunner of Gnosticism (1:9-14). Gnostics valued the accumulation of knowledge, but Paul pointed out that knowledge in itself is empty. To be worth anything, it must lead to a changed life and right living and that can only be accomplished by the Holy Ghost. His prayer for the Colossians was that they might understand what God wants, and that they might also have the power to do God's will. Knowledge is not merely to be accumulated; it should give us direction for living. Paul wanted the Colossians to be wise, but he also wanted them to use their knowledge according to the Word of God.

We obtain our spiritual power through the Holy Ghost. Power from the Holy Ghost is not limited to strength beyond the ordinary. That power enables men and women to speak with courage, boldness, confidence, insight, ability, and authority. We often try to accomplish many things by our own power and authority. However, accomplishing it with the Holy Ghost shows what God has done for us.

Don't be like the Laodicean church; they were complacent and rich (Revelation 3:14-20). They felt self-satisfied, but they didn't have Christ's presence among them. He knocked at the door of their hearts, but they were so busy enjoying worldly pleasures that they didn't notice that He was trying to enter. **The pleasures of this world—money, security, material possessions—can be dangerous, because their temporary satisfaction makes us indifferent to God's offer of lasting satisfaction.**

As Zechariah told Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.**

Stop Depending on Yourself to Overcome Situations in Your Life, but on the Spirit of God!