

#24 Incense: God's Purpose

It is not possible to separate the Altar of Incense from God's eternal purpose because it is at the **golden Altar of Incense** that God's purpose is enforced during the church age. It is at the **Altar of Incense** that man stands with God to get God's will done on earth as it is being done in heaven. It is in this "ministry" that we further God's purpose upon the earth. God draws man into the circle of His sovereignty and man receives his apprenticeship training for governing with Christ in the Kingdom of God. Most all the other experiences in the Tabernacle are preparatory to this life and ministry. Man can stand with God to get God's eternal purpose carried out on the earth. We could say that the reason for all the other experiences is the Altar of Incense.

The seven outer court experiences in Jesus Christ do not come to a static condition at the second veil but must continue to grow . We must continue to grow in our repentance, our deliverance, in our salvation, in our baptism into His death and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. We must continue to grow in our consecration and our revelation of Jesus Christ. That will lead to our growth in obedience, in our praise and worship and we must grow more sensitive to hear His voice.

The lack of growth in these succeeding experiences is the primary reason believers stop short of the Holy Place life and ministry. There cannot be a functioning Lampstand Church that stops short of the Holy Place life and ministry. Since the sole light for the Holy Place came from the seven flames of fire on the Lampstand, it is logical that the Holy Place is in darkness if there is no functioning Lampstand. Since it is the Lampstand that illuminates the Altar of Incense and the Table of Showbread it is clear which must come first.

If all of God's creation was designed for the sole purpose of fulfilling God's eternal purpose, why is this such a secret in the church? If the sole purpose of man is to do the will of God, fulfill His eternal purpose and bring joy to God's heart, why has this not been the emphasis of the church? All this comes to us as revelation at the Table of Showbread. What the church needs now is a functioning Lampstand holding the seven Spirits of God to illuminate the Showbread.

Then why don't we quickly organize a Lampstand Church? Because "the believers" have been too involved in their own plans and personal blessings to complete the foundations for the Holy Place life and ministry. Also the ministries must first function in the Holy Place before they will recognize the need for the visible church to become the Lampstand Church in every location.

The Holy Place life and ministry is the result of a life union with Jesus Christ. This is the reality of the vine-branch union [John 15:1] that results in the fruit of God's eternal purpose being produced and completed.

We can put this into perspective by seeing where the Altar of Incense is in relationship with the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark speaks to us of the Kingdom of God, the government of God, the presence of God, the glory of God and of God, Himself. The ark speaks of the throne of God and all that means. It is the place where Jesus sat down with His Father. Since the veil between the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place was torn when Jesus was crucified, the Altar of Incense is directly before the Ark of the Covenant. When you are facing the Altar of Incense you are facing the presence and glory of God. You are standing in the circle of His sovereignty. This is the source of the glory, the power and authority of the universe. From the Altar of Incense we would expect to see Him, as He is. Just a quick glance should reveal to us that this is the place where God's voice is clear and His will is Done and His purpose completed.

2CO 3:18 But we all, with **unveiled face** beholding as in a mirror **the glory of the Lord**, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.

Where else could this take place except at the Altar of Incense? Some tremendous work is accomplished in us, subjectively, at the gold altar. This is in addition to the objective work that is done on the earth through the ministry of burning Incense on the altar.

From these few facts it is clear that the Altar of Incense is the key to the success of the church in fulfilling the purpose of God on the earth during the church age. It is at this Altar that God does an eternal work both in us and through us! Therefore, let us gather some facts about the Altar and the Incense from the word of God.

HEB 9:3 And **behind the second veil**, there was a tabernacle which is called the Holy of Holies, HEB 9:4 *having a golden altar of incense and the ark of the covenant* covered on all sides with gold, in which {was} a golden jar holding the manna, and Aaron's rod which budded, and the tables of the covenant.

This fact obviously contradicts what is clearly said in the book of Exodus. EXO 30:6 "And you shall **put this altar in front of the veil** that is near the ark of the testimony, in front of the mercy seat that is over { the ark of} the testimony, where I will meet with you.

How can this Altar be in both these places? Hebrews says it is in the Most Holy Place and Exodus says it is in the Holy Place. Which is it? During the time of the earthly tabernacle and the Old Covenant Law, **the Altar of Incense had to be in the Holy Place** because the Levitical priests had to burn incense day and night. Since they had no access into the Most Holy Place, except once a year on the Day of Atonement, the Altar must be in front of the second veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place. This second veil is what we are calling Jesus the Life! This veil was torn when Jesus laid down His life.

The reality is that God's intention was always to have the Altar of Incense in His immediate presence. During the Old Covenant times that was not possible. However, when Jesus was crucified the veil was torn from top to bottom so that the Altar was now directly in God's presence, behind the veil. Even though the Altar was in the Holy Place, the incense was never for the Holy Place but exclusively for the Most Holy Place. This fact is the basis of the revelation of the Altar of Incense. **The incense is for God alone.**

EXO 30:34 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. EXO 30:35 "And with it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, {and} holy. EXO 30:36 "And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting, where I shall meet with you; it shall be most holy to you. EXO 30:37 "And the incense which you shall make, **you shall not make in the same proportions for yourselves**; it shall be holy to you for the Lord. EXO 30:38 "**Whoever shall make {any} like it, to use as perfume, shall be cut off from his people.**"

The incense is not for man but for God. When we understand the incense represents prayer etc, we see that our prayer falls far short of this Incense and is mostly for us and for our benefit. Most of us have never considered that incense prayer is wholly for God's benefit. We also will remember that far too much prayer is just perfume for us to smell.

Then we may ask what is the purpose of incense prayer? It is designed to meet God's need and fulfil God's purpose and to cause the will of God to be done on earth as it is being done in heaven. God is now ruling according to His sovereignty and according to His purpose. If man is going to participate in His Kingdom government and rule with Christ, he also must rule according to God's sovereignty and according to His purpose. Man generally prays as if he were the king and God was the servant that did man's will. That is far from incense prayer.

Nevertheless, God has ordained that man should rule over all the works of His hands. But where is the place that man rules? **At the altar of incense!** How will man learn to rule? By apprenticeship training in the Holy Place life and ministry! Man cannot rule according to his own will or his own ideas because God has retained His sovereignty over His creation. Man must rule **UNDER GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY**. Is this rulership available to the true Christian now in this age? Yes! Where? **At the Altar of Incense!**

"The Holy Place life and ministry" means the functioning Lampstand for illumination, the Table of Showbread for revelation and the Altar of Incense to enforce God's sovereignty and Christ's victory on the earth. Why doesn't God do that Himself? Because He has given man dominion upon the earth to rule over it for God. It is God's way of training man to rule in His eternal Kingdom.

GEN 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle **and over all the earth**, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

It is not possible to speak of a functioning Lampstand Church without speaking of the ministry of burning incense. That is what the Holy Place ministry function really is. But how will man know what to burn on the altar? That revelation comes from the Showbread. The combination of the three is what is meant by the Holy Place life and ministry. The three being (1) illumination (2) revelation (3) enforcing God's will and sovereignty.

If we could look down on the Tabernacle of Moses from above we would see the progressive goal of all the Outer Court and Holy Place experiences for the church age is the Altar of Incense. Of course our eternal goal is the Ark of the Covenant which becomes a reality for the bondservants who are overcomers and the bride of Christ. This becomes a reality following the millennium and when the Tabernacle of God is finally formed and the first earth and the first heaven have passed away.

All the furniture in the Holy Place speaks to us of "LIFE" and the priesthood speaks to us of "ministry or function." Both Nadab and Abihu were consecrated priests with the proper garments and with the anointing of oil. They were **"in the ministry"**.

LEV 10:1 Now Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took their respective firepans, and after putting fire in them, placed incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them. LEV 10:2 And fire came out from the presence of the Lord and consumed them, and they died before the Lord. LEV 10:3 Then Moses said to Aaron, "It is what the Lord spoke, saying, ' **By those who come near Me** I will be treated as holy, And before all the people I will be honored. "'So Aaron, therefore, kept silent. They also **lost their "LIFE"**.

God requires a certain "LIFE" from those who come near to minister to Him. We must also

minister before Him according to His divine order.

2CH 29:11 “My sons, do not be negligent now, for the Lord has chosen you **to stand before Him, to minister to Him, and to be His ministers and burn incense.**” This is the four aspects of “the ministry” but we see 3/4 of the “ministry” is toward God and only 1/4 is toward the people. Some consider “the ministry” to be 50 % toward the people, 40 % for themselves and 10 % toward God, or some % in between. This is the primary reason we don’t have sufficient “LIFE” to support the Holy Place life and ministry. 75% toward people is easier than 75% toward God. It is good to stop and take inventory of our lives if we are called “into the ministry”.

We could say that the Lampstand speaks of “unity for a purpose”. The Showbread speaks of “the revelation of that purpose” and the Altar of Incense speaks of the “function in that purpose”. The Lampstand was hammered out of one piece of gold and represents perfect unity. However, perfect unity without function is beautiful but provides nothing in the purpose of God. Revelation of the Showbread, the bread of His presence, is exciting but if we fail to put it into action we do nothing toward God’s eternal purpose. It is clear that unity and revelation is not necessary to sit in a pew or have covered dish dinners.

The main problem with incense is that it is not burned according to man’s will but according to God’s will and in harmony with God’s sovereignty and according to His eternal purpose. The gold altar is not the place we come to fill our pockets but the place we step into the circle of His sovereignty to initiate the will of God for the earth. This is far above seeking a blessing for man. Is there no incense for man’s blessing? Yes! That is seen in the brass censor.

As we study the Incense and the Altar for Incense we discover that the number 4 appears several times. The altar is the “**place**” for burning incense. Burning incense on the “high places” of human desire is not acceptable.

EXO 30:1 “Moreover, you shall make an altar as a place for burning incense; you shall make it of acacia wood. The altar has four sides and is one cubit on each side. It has a top, sides, horns and a gold molding. EXO 30:3 “And you shall overlay it with pure gold, its top and its sides all around, and its horns; and you shall make a gold molding all around for it. It has two poles with four ends for carrying. This is fastened through four rings to support it. There are four horns on the top. There are four things that cannot be placed on this altar. (1) strange incense (2) burnt offering (3) meal offering (4) a libation (drink offering).

EXO 30:9 “You shall not offer any strange incense on this altar, or burnt offering or meal offering; and you shall not pour out a libation on it.

The incense is made with four elements. (1) Stacte (2) Oncha (3) Galbanum (4) Pure Frankincense, each in equal parts.

EXO 30:34 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Take for yourself spices, stacte and onycha and galbanum, spices with pure frankincense; there shall be an equal part of each. It must be (1) perfume (2) salted (3) pure (4) holy. EXO 30:35 “And with it you shall make incense, a perfume, the work of a perfumer, salted, pure, {and} holy.

The incense was used four ways. (1) it was placed before the Ark (2) it was burned on the altar (morning, night and continually) (3) It was burned in the golden censor (on the Day of Atonement) (4) burned in the bronze censor. (To stop the plague and protect the people.)

(1) EXO 30:36 (1) "And you shall beat some of it very fine, and put part of it before the testimony in the tent of meeting, where I shall meet with you; it shall be most holy to you. (2) EXO 30:7 "And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it; he shall burn it every morning when he trims the lamps. EXO 30:8 "And when Aaron trims the lamps at twilight, he shall burn incense. { There shall be } perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations. (3) LEV 16:12 "And he shall take a firepan full of coals of fire from upon the altar before the Lord, and two handfuls of finely ground sweet incense, and bring {it} inside the veil. LEV 16:13 "And he shall put the incense on the fire before the Lord, that the cloud of incense may cover the mercy seat that is on {the ark of} the testimony, lest he die. (4) NUM 16:46 And Moses said to Aaron, "Take your censer and put in it fire from the altar, and lay incense {on it;} then bring it quickly to the congregation and make atonement for them, for wrath has gone forth from the Lord, the plague has begun!" NUM 16:47 Then Aaron took {it} as Moses had spoken, and ran into the midst of the assembly, for behold, the plague had begun among the people. So he put {on} the incense and made atonement for the people.

Four things were required to burn incense (1) The altar (2) the incense (3) fire (4) consecration.

NUM 16:40 as a reminder to the sons of Israel that no layman (not consecrated) who is not of the descendants of Aaron should come near to burn incense before the Lord; that he might not become like Korah and his company-- just as the Lord had spoken to him through Moses. 2CH 26:18 And they opposed Uzziah the king and said to him, "It is not for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord, but for the priests, the sons of Aaron **who are consecrated to burn incense.** Get out of the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful, and will have no honor from the Lord God."

All are called to pray, praise, worship and offer thanks to the Lord. This is basic. However, pure incense, that is a sweet smelling perfume, that ascends up to God as a vapor pleasing to Him, is the work of a perfumer and not too common to see. In the light of the revelation of the Incense Altar we will see our ministry to God is quite pitiful.

PSA 141:2 May **my prayer be counted as incense** before Thee; The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.

REV 5:8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and **golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.**

REV 8:3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might **add it to the prayers of all the saints** upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

REV 8:4 And the **smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints,** went up before God out of the angel's hand.

The primary purpose of prayer is to find out what is on God's heart and ask Him to do it on earth. This seems so foolish to say such a thing. MAT 6:8 "Therefore do not be like them; for **your Father knows what you need, before you ask Him.** MAT 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. MAT 6:10 '**Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.** MAT 6:11 'Give us this day our daily bread. MAT 6:12 'And

forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. MAT 6:13 'And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.]'

This prayer is vertical and is centered upon God and His purpose. Debts, forgiveness, temptation and deliverance are necessary for us to serve God and bring joy to His heart. His will being done on the earth, in the same measure it is being done in heaven, is the foundation for the Kingdom of God upon the earth. The Kingdom of God functioning on the earth is God's purpose and our training ground. MAT 12:28 "But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. The Kingdom of God will always overcome all other kingdoms and the evidence is manifest when the demons are cast out and the adversaries are forced to cease. PSA 8:2 From the mouth of infants and nursing babes Thou hast established strength, Because of Thine adversaries, To make the enemy and the revengeful cease.

The Kingdom of God is functioning perfectly in Heaven. This is why it is called "the Kingdom of Heaven". Everybody in heaven is doing the will of God. All the adversaries have been cast out. The main focus of God's work now is on the earth. However, God gave that dominion, rulership and authority to man. The Devil was quick to usurp man's authority but God will not. God will work to establish His Kingdom upon the earth but since that dominion was given to man, man must ask God to do it. The Kingdom of God will be established on the earth wherever the will of God is being done. Every place Jesus stood the Kingdom of God was manifest because He always did the will of God.

For man to try to pray down his own will upon the earth is pitiful because that would just establish the kingdom of man. Man has authority to rule over the earth but under the sovereignty of God and for His purpose. Man has authority to rule when the will of God is being done. MAT 6:9 "Pray, then, in this way: 'Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name. MAT 6:10 **'Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.** MAT 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but **he who does the will of My Father** who is in heaven.

If we are going to participate in the Kingdom of Heaven, doing the will of God is not an option, it is a requirement. Just to be in the immediate family of God it is essential that we do the will of God. MAT 12:50 "**For whoever does the will of My Father** who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother." LUK 8:21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these **who hear the word of God and do it.**"

There are two essential principles for the church to establish the Kingdom where they stand. Doing the will of God personally and inquiring of God for His will to be done on the earth as it is being done in Heaven. The church acting on her own initiative, independently of the will of God, is not the principle of the Kingdom but the principle of Satan. ROM 8:14 **For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.** Those who are being led by the Spirit are doing the will of God. These then are His brothers and sisters and mother or the sons of God.

If all these things are requirements for the Kingdom, how and where do we discover these things? In the Holy Place life and ministry! The Lampstand is the illumination, the Showbread is the revelation of His will and the Altar of Incense is the ministry function. That is to pray His exact will down on the earth.

If only those who do the will of God can participate in the Kingdom of God and only the overcomers can sit with Him on His throne, then it is true that the basis of overcoming is doing the will of God personally.

It is commonly taught that Jesus' death at Calvary purchased us an experiential place in the Kingdom of God. However, we discover that only those who do the will of God participate in the Kingdom of God. Jesus did restore to man a "legal right" to use His name and to function under His authority and the sovereignty that the Father has given Him over heaven and over earth. The primary revelation we need to burn Incense at the gold Altar is that man has no autonomous authority so that he can act independently from the sovereignty of Jesus Christ, God's Son and ideal man.

The gold of the Altar speaks of God's purpose and the crown on the top speaks of Christ's sovereignty to rule. The Incense speaks of the prayers of the saints that inquire of God for His will to be done on the earth. God's exact will for the moment is learned at the Table of Showbread. It is the fire on the Lampstand that illuminates the Showbread and the Altar of Incense.

EXO 25:36 "Their bulbs and their branches {shall be of one piece} with it; all of it shall be one piece of hammered work of pure gold. EXO 25:37 "Then you shall make its lamps seven {in number;} and they shall **mount its lamps so as to shed light on the space in front of it.**

Man's absolute authority to burn Incense on the Altar of Incense is his "legal right" as a member of Christ's body under Christ's sovereignty AS THE Head of His body. The Altar of Incense operates by our "legal right". Satan was legally defeated at Calvary but he has not yet been caused to cease his work and deception. That work has been assigned to the "Lampstand Church". Even the consecrated church has no independent authority to command Satan or rule the earth. All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Jesus. The church's sole authority is limited to His Headship over His body that is under His sovereignty. The church, which is His body, then stands in His legal position on earth.

Satan is still prince of this world and the ruler of darkness but he is a renegade king. If all authority was given to Jesus Christ in heaven and on earth, that means that Satan has none.

1CO 15:25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.

Christ is in heaven but His body is on earth. Jesus Christ will rule through His body. Where? At the Altar of Incense! A church without authority is not His church but the true church must operate within His Kingdom and under His government. A renegade church is operating on the principle of Satan and has no power over Satan. The church only has authority within the permission of God's sovereignty. However, the church has no authority except as it lives and functions under His sovereign authority. This is why believers screaming "In the name of Jesus" often falls to the ground, powerless.

- (1) Altar speaks of sacrifice.
- (2) Incense speaks of prayer.
- (3) Gold speaks of God's eternal purpose.
- (4) Crown speaks of ruling through prayer.

- (5) Horns speak of strength, power and authority.
- (6) Fragrant smoke rising speaks of access to God's presence.
- (7) Fire speaks of Holy Spirit's assistance.

We could say that the first two pieces of furniture (Lampstand & Table of Showbread) are summed up and completed in the third (the Altar of Incense). The first two are preparation and the third is function and fulfillment. Since the primary ministry of the priests was divided between these three we may ask which one is more important? There cannot be one without the others. It is not a matter of importance but is a matter of balance. There is a definite connection between trimming the lamps and burning the Incense.

EXO 30:8 "And when Aaron **trims the lamps** at twilight, he shall **burn incense**. { There shall be } perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generations.

Both together is correct, effective and proper prayer. We cannot pray effectively in spiritual darkness. Neither can we pray the rhema of God without revelation. Without the light and revelation we do the best we can and begin to pray down our own will according to our own desire.

If we put this into a statement we could say:

The Lampstand illuminates the Table of Showbread to give the immediate revelations to burn incense. The Altar is the place we bring God's revealed will of His purposes to Him in prayer, by faith in His sovereignty and power, that He is able to perform all that He has spoken. (Rhema)

The basis of the one piece of gold in the Lampstand is that the character of God, the purpose of God and the sovereignty of God merge into one **in His overcoming church**. The church cannot arrive at the reality of God's sovereignty if we ignore His character and His eternal purpose. This is the basis of "light". It is Christ's victorious authority and our delegated authority that is the legal basis of burning Incense.

Incense prayer is not just having a dialogue with God where we try to get God to do what we want Him to do. It is also not just asking according to what others have asked. It is not assuming what would be good to ask because we need it. The Showbread speaks to us of hearing His voice, the rhema, the now word and what is on God's heart. It speaks of what God wants to accomplish, to meet His need, at the moment. The incense is mixed and blended to be a perfumer's mixture. Selfish and self-centered prayer is not incense. It may have a place with the bronze censer but not at the gold altar.

The perfumer's mixture may be seen as a blending of prayer, praise, worship and thanksgiving. The result is that we become co-laborers with God. God works and we work with Him. The Incense was formulated and then salted. Salt speaks of covenant and also of friendship and loyalty. That means that God has ordained Incense prayer to be within His covenant and it will be answered by covenant. God is always loyal to His covenant.

If we pray down fire upon the Samaritans to burn them up, is that Incense? No, that is flesh. Incense functions with Christ's character and according to His purpose.

JER 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which

you do not know.’

EZE 36:37 ‘Thus says the Lord God, “This also I will let the house of Israel ask Me to do for them: I will increase their men like a flock.

ZEC 10:1 Ask rain from the Lord **at the time of the spring rain--** The Lord who makes the storm clouds; And He will give them showers of rain, vegetation in the field to {each} man.

MAT 21:22 “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.”

If we have the revelation (Showbread) that this is the time for the spring rain, we should ask God for the rain (Incense). Asking for the spring rain in the fall is a waste of time.

We ask and don’t receive so we get discouraged and assume that God doesn’t hear. No! If we ask according to Incense, God will answer by covenant.

PSA 34:15 The **eyes** of the Lord are toward the righteous, And His **ears** are {open} to their cry.

We can find tremendous promises but many of them depend upon the reality of Incense and not upon how loud we pray. Those who stand far off from God’s Presence need to pray louder.

LUK 1:8 Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God in the {appointed} order of his division, LUK 1:9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot **to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.** LUK 1:10 And the **whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside** at the hour of the incense offering. LUK 1:11 And an angel of **the Lord appeared to him,** standing to the right of the altar of incense.

There were two prayer meetings going on at the same time. One was inside and one was outside. The Lord visited the one inside. The Holy Spirit is bringing the Old Testament practice together with the New Testament reality. This is the first mention of Incense in the New Testament.

There is very little reason to mention where the Angel was standing because it is not essential to the context. However, it clearly says that he was standing to the right of the Altar of Incense which places him between the Altar and the Showbread, **tying the two together.** God’s eternal purpose is tied together with prayer. It was at the Altar of Incense that the angel informed Zechariah that his prayer was answered. Still, with all that, he didn’t exercise faith to believe it. This is man’s part to believe. God’s part is to answer. Prayer without faith produces no smoke and makes prayer powerless.

Because the Lampstand, the Table of Showbread and the Altar of Incense are closed in on all four sides and the top in the Holy Place, it is difficult to speak of one without speaking of the others. They are more or less one life and ministry. When we speak of the Lampstand, we know that individually we have our responsibility toward the other members of Christ’s body. However, corporately, as Christ’s body, we are responsible to the HEAD, Jesus Christ and we have our responsibility toward God’s eternal purpose and what brings joy to His heart.

Seeing this we could say:

What will bring joy to God’s heart is the Lampstand church functioning as one body in the Holy Place life and ministry, within the revelation of God’s eternal purpose with a “now word” that she will carry to the Incense Altar, into the circle of God’s sovereignty, to offer up a sweet smelling savor for God’s nostrils because at last God’s sons are functioning in harmony with God’s

original purpose and His will.

Jesus said “I will build My church and the gates of Hell shall not overpower it”. All this victory works within the corporate unity of the church, which is His body. It is the Lampstand that is in view here. The believer, who is acting on his own behalf individually as a lone ranger, may want to take individual responsibility to serve God and do the will of God. Then he finds himself in some hopeless situation trying to fulfill the purpose of God all by himself. He may feel that he is a free spirit and doesn’t want to be slowed down or hindered by the church. He may have been successful in praying for the sick and casting out demons and even evangelizing. He may have studied the word and gotten revelation and be confident that God is blessing his ministry.

This kind of “ministry” may function in the “Outer Court” sense but the free spirit is helpless to function within the Lampstand church. He may see the problems and pain of becoming one with the Lampstand and be melted together with the rest of the gold. The fire of the crucible, that makes the pure gold, is just not convenient and may interfere with “my” ministry. The problem is that the independent Christian cuts himself off from the Showbread and cannot burn (God’s) Incense.

The lone ranger may be successful with the bronze censer but God’s purpose will be fulfilled by the church, which is His body. While he may faithfully pray, he cannot burn Incense at the gold altar. The gospel of the giveaways and the gospel of the bargains is the result of an outer court ministry. The “body of Christ” does not have independent members who are free spirits or extra hands or feet that are on special assignment away from the body.

The problem with the Lampstand that is hammered out of “one piece of gold” is that whoever participates in the Lampstand church must forfeit his right to his own individuality and let the free spirit fly away. The individual ambition must yield to the corporate body in order to fulfill the purpose of God in the church age. If we are out looking for the Pure Gold Lampstand Church in our area so we can be hammered into it as one piece we should be assured that it is in the process. The fact that we can’t see it is irrelevant and should not delay us from consecrating ourselves for this work.

Of course it is not possible to have a consecrated church without having consecrated individuals. It is at the consecration offering that we sacrifice our individuality to come into the unity of the Lampstand. The transition is from “my salvation”, “my need”, “my goals”, “my ministry”, “My happiness” and “my comfort” to the corporate body fulfilling God’s eternal purpose. “My ministry” is irrelevant if it is not functioning in the light of God’s purpose.

God can quickly purify the gold when he finds truly consecrated priests. When we study the Lampstand, it is so complicated, we will know only God knows how to hammer the one piece of gold into a Lampstand. This is beyond the work of man and church history shows that man has even polluted the gold.

ZEC 4:2 And he said to me, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its seven lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it; ZEC 4:3 also **two olive trees by it, one on the right side of the bowl and the other on its left side.** “ ZEC 4:11 Then I answered and said to him, “What are these two olive trees on the right of the lampstand and on its left?” ZEC 4:12 And I answered the second time and said to him, “**What are the two olive branches which are beside the two**

golden pipes, which empty the golden {oil} from themselves?” ZEC 4:13 So he answered me saying, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.” ZEC 4:14 Then he said, “These are the two anointed ones, who are standing by the Lord of the whole earth.”

Regardless of what various commentators say, the only ones who can fuel the gold Lampstand for the whole church age are the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit. These are the only ones who can pour the golden oil out from themselves and into the lamps. The gold Lampstand burns the golden oil and not candles as is sometimes taught. It is not by man’s feeble ability but by My Spirit says the Lord. These are **the Sons** of fresh oil. It may be true that the Lampstand Church is just in the very small beginnings but we must not despise the day of small things. As in the days of Zechariah, God can build with rubble if it is consecrated rubble.