

# ATTENDING TO THE LAMP

*“Keeping the Light Burning from Evening Until Morning”*

Teaching Guide · Ladies' Ministry

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**Key Text:** Exodus 27:20–21 and Hebrews 8 NKJV

**In one line:** The lamp in God's presence was never allowed to go out. You are now that lamp, and the light burns on the oil of the Spirit, so keep the flow clear.

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## Setting the Scene

- The Holy Place had no windows. One golden lampstand was the only light in the room where the priests met with God.
- The lamp never kept itself burning. A priest tended it every evening and morning: trimmed the wick, cleared the residue, topped up the oil.
- The light was never automatic. It was tended.
- Under the new covenant, you have become the lamp. The light you carry still needs tending.

## The Symbols God Chose

- **Gold:** divine, precious, refined through fire. The very stand that holds the light is costly.
- **Seven:** fullness and completion. In Revelation the seven lamps are the sevenfold Spirit of God.
- Isaiah 11:2 names the sevenfold Spirit: the Spirit of the Lord, of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord.
- Not seven Spirits, but the one Spirit in fullness. We need every part, and we receive from all seven as He guides us, not only the parts that feel comfortable.
- In Zechariah those seven lamps are the eyes of the Lord. To receive from the seven is to receive His sight, seeing as He sees.
- **Oil:** the Holy Spirit and His anointing. The lamp burns on oil, not on effort. Your light is not powered by striving.

**Isaiah 11:2 NKJV** *The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.*

## The Command to Tend the Lamp

- Pure oil, burning continually, tended from evening until morning, a statute forever.
- **Menorah:** the living, golden lampstand. Ner tamid: the lamp that never goes out.
- Continually does not mean it needed no attention. It means the attention never stopped.
- Tended through the night: the dark is not a sign something is wrong. The dark is when the tending happens.

**Exodus 27:20–21 NKJV** *...pure oil of pressed olives for the light, to cause the lamp to burn continually... Aaron and his sons shall tend it from evening until morning before the Lord.*

## Oil That Comes from Crushing

- **Zak:** pure and clear. Katit: beaten, crushed, from the first pressing of the olive.
- The oil that fed the light in God's presence came from crushing.
- Gethsemane, Gat Shemanim, means the oil press. Jesus was crushed there the night He was betrayed.
- Not everything that crushes you is meant to destroy you. God does not waste the press.

## The Bowl That Receives and Gives

- Zechariah 4: a golden lampstand, seven lamps, a bowl on top, two olive trees feeding it.
- **Gullah:** the bowl or reservoir that receives the oil and channels it to the lamps. Built to receive and release.
- Blocked pipes mean no light, even when the oil is right there.
- The oil comes from God's Spirit, not human effort. Our part is to stay connected and keep the flow clear.

| **Zechariah 4:6 NKJV** *'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.*

## A Shadow of the True Light

- **Hupodeigma and skia:** the tabernacle was a copy and shadow of the heavenly.
- The lampstand was never the point. It pointed to Jesus, the true light, and the true sanctuary.
- The new covenant writes God's law on the heart. The lamp moves from the Holy Place into the human heart.

| **John 8:12 NKJV** *I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.*

## Now You Are the Lamp on the Hill

- **Luchnos and luchnia:** you are a lamp, made to be set on a stand, up high, not hidden under a basket.
- Treasure in earthen vessels: the plainness of the jar is the point. The power belongs to God, not to us.
- You do not have to be impressive. You have to be lit, and you have to let it show.

| **Matthew 5:14, 16 NKJV** *You are the light of the world... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

## Keep Your Own Oil

- The ten virgins: all had lamps. The difference was the oil, tended in advance.
- Oil cannot be borrowed at the last minute.
- You cannot live off last year's fire, your mother's faith, or a good church service. Tend your own oil, in your own time with the Lord.

| **Matthew 25:3-4 NKJV** *Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.*

## The Lamp That Was Removed

- Ephesus worked hard, was patient and careful, did many good things, yet left their first love.
- Good works are not oil. Activity is not intimacy. The lampstand is kept by first love, not by how much we do.

- **The remedy:** remember, repent, return. Do the first works, the things you did when you first loved Him.

**Revelation 2:4-5 NKJV** ...you have left your first love. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...

## Spirit, Soul and Body: Keeping the Flow Clear

- We were made to receive and release in every part, like the bowl that receives the oil and passes it on.
- **Body:** our cells have receptors that receive what is good and release what is toxic. They can get blocked and coated, and then need cleansing.
- **Soul:** offence, bitterness, worry, buried wounds and busyness block the flow. They are the residue on the wick.
- **Spirit:** a lost first love narrows the channel to the Source. You can do everything and receive almost nothing.
- **The cleansing:** confession (1 John 1:9), forgiveness, the washing of the Word (Ephesians 5:26), returning to first love, and time in His presence.
- The goal in every part is flow. A clear vessel receives freely and gives freely, and the light burns clean.

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV** ...may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## Tending the Lamp in Daily Life

- **Begin the day being filled:** a verse, a prayer, a worship song before the day empties you.
- **Guard your first attention:** give God the first look, before the phone and the noise.
- **Trim as you go:** deal with the offence that day; forgive quickly; clear the clutter.
- **Watch the draughts:** notice what blows your light down and shield the flame.
- **Refill before empty, not after:** build small refills into the week; keep a real Sabbath.
- **End the day by tending:** a short moment before God; lay down what you carried.
- **Keep your own oil:** enjoy the fire in others but do not live off it; tend your own vessel.
- The aim is a lighter, steadier rhythm. Two small moments a day, evening and morning, keep the lamp burning.

## Reflection

- Am I bringing fresh oil, or running on empty and hoping?
- What residue needs clearing so my flame can burn clean?
- Where has the flow been blocked in me, and what needs to come into the light?
- Have I let good works quietly take the place of first love?
- Am I letting my light show, or have I put it under a basket?

## Verses to Carry

**Zechariah 4:6 NKJV** 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts.

**Matthew 5:16 NKJV** *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

**Revelation 2:5 NKJV** *Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works...*

**1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV** *...may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless...*

**Psalms 118:139 NKJV** *For You will light my lamp; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness.*

## Prayer Activation

Pray these three prayers slowly, leaving space between each one.

### Come to the Light

Lord, You are the true light, and my lamp only burns because You lit it. I come to You not to perform, but to be near the flame again. Thank You that You did not leave the light outside in a room I could not enter. You placed it in my heart. Holy Spirit, draw close now.

### Clear the Blockage

*Take a minute of quiet before praying this.* Jesus, You walk among the lampstands. Walk through mine. Show me where the flow has been blocked: the offence I would not release, the bitterness I kept rehearsing, the worry, the wound, the busyness that crowded You out. I confess it now, and I ask You to cleanse the channel. I forgive those I have been holding. Wash me with Your Word. Clear away everything that has been locking You out and locking the toxic in. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

### Receive Fresh Oil and Return to First Love

Holy Spirit, fill my vessel again. I will not run on yesterday's oil or borrow someone else's fire. And where I have let good works take the place of loving You, I remember, I repent, and I return. Take me back to where the fire was. Let the oil flow freely through me again, received and released, so my lamp burns clean and continually, from evening until morning. And let my light so shine that the people around me see You and not me. In the name of Jesus, the true light. Amen.

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*Your light is not random. It was lit by God, and it is meant to burn.*

**Now go and tend the lamp.**

*"For You will light my lamp; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness." Psalms 118:139 NKJV*