

By My Spirit: Not by Might but by God's Spirit — Zechariah 4:6

September 14, 2026

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“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” Says the Lord of hosts.” — Zechariah 4:6 (NKJV)

Highlight key: = grace / Spirit-truth · = precious promise · **bold** = key terms

1□ The Word to Zerubbabel — □□□□□□□□□□

Zechariah 4 opens with a word to **Zerubbabel**, who was rebuilding the temple after the return from Babylon. The exiles had returned from captivity with a clear mandate — build the house of the Lord — yet years passed and the work seemed frozen. The message is direct: God's work is accomplished **not by human might or power**, but by His Spirit.

In your own life, a season can feel like those twenty years — promises delayed, needs unmet, obstacles unmoved. That prolonged waiting is *not* God's original plan for you. His desire is to bless you quickly. When the returned exiles finally received this word, everything shifted because they stopped leaning on themselves and opened the channel for the Spirit to work.

- **Context** — exiles returned to rebuild the temple; a great delay unfolded
- **~20 years** — the work stalled far longer than expected
- **God's plan** — delay is not His intention; He desires to bless you quickly
- **Key truth** — not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit

Zechariah 4:6-7 (NKJV)

*“So he answered and 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. “Who are you,*

O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone With shouts of “**Grace, grace to it!**” ‘ “ — Zechariah 4:6-7 (NKJV)

2▯ The Lampstand Vision — Oil Through the Pipes

Zechariah sees a **golden lampstand** with seven lamps and two olive trees beside it. The oil flows continuously through golden pipes — a picture of divine blessing supplied by the Spirit, not by human effort. Every blessing you need — healing, provision, restoration, joy — is already flowing from heaven like golden oil through the pipes.

The problem is not that God stopped sending blessing. The problem is that we sometimes **block the pipe** with our own hand — trusting our strength, our discipline, our religious effort — and wonder why nothing arrives. Remove the hand of self-reliance and the oil flows freely again.

- **Golden lampstand** — seven lamps, seven pipes, continuous supply
- **Two olive trees** — oil dripping into the gold pipes without ceasing
- **Blessings flow** — like oil through a pipe, by the Holy Spirit
- **Blocked pipe** — when we trust our own strength, we block what God sends

Zechariah 4:2-3 (NKJV)

“And he said to me, ‘What do you see?’ So I said, ‘I am looking, and there is a **lampstand of solid gold** with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand **seven lamps with seven pipes** to the seven lamps. **Two olive trees** are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.’” — Zechariah 4:2-3 (NKJV)

Zechariah 4:12 (NKJV)

“And I further answered and said to him, ‘What are these two olive branches that drip into the receptacles of the two gold pipes from which the **golden oil drains?**’” — Zechariah 4:12 (NKJV)

3 When You Trust Your Own Strength —



The returned exiles spent years trusting **their own might** instead of God’s Spirit. That self-reliance is like placing your hand over the pipe — the blessing is flowing, but you block it yourself.

Self-reliance	Spirit-reliance
Trust my might and power	Trust My Spirit
Block the pipe — delay follows	Oil flows — blessing arrives quickly
20 years of stalled progress	Sudden breakthrough when grace is received
Speak to yourself about the problem	Speak to the mountain in faith

- **Own strength** — the people leaned on human power, not God’s
 - **Blocked blessing** — self-effort closes the channel God opened
 - **Quick change** — when they turned to grace, blessing sprang up suddenly
 - **Wrong speech** — talking to yourself about sickness, debt, or delay
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4 Speak to the Mountain — Grace, Grace! —



Before Zerubbabel stood a **great mountain** — every obstacle that seemed immovable. God’s answer is not more human effort but a shout of grace: “*Grace, grace to it!*” Whatever your mountain — sickness, financial pressure, relational breakdown, long delay — the Spirit’s method is the same: grace proclaimed in faith, not force applied in flesh.

Many believers speak to **themselves** about the problem: “*I am weak, I am sick, I will never recover, my situation will never change.*” That is the wrong conversation. Turn your words toward the mountain itself: “*You shall become a plain before me. Grace,*

grace! My path shall open. The capstone shall come forth." The people around Zerubbabel would shout "Grace, grace!" as the finishing stone was laid — that is the atmosphere of Spirit-work, not self-work.

- **Great mountain** — sickness, debt, delay, any immovable obstacle
- **Grace, grace!** — the capstone arrives with shouts of grace, not self-effort
- **Speak to the mountain** — "You shall become a plain before me"
- **Not to yourself** — do not rehearse the problem; address the obstacle in faith
- **Capstone** — the finishing stone brought forth when grace is proclaimed

Isaiah 28:16 (NKJV)

*"Therefore thus says the Lord God: 'Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a **precious cornerstone**, a **sure foundation**; whoever believes will not act hastily.'" — Isaiah 28:16 (NKJV)*

5▣ What Grace Really Means — ▣▣▣▣▣▣▣▣

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Grace is not a vague religious word. It means standing in **God's strength**, not your own — humbling yourself under His power rather than leaning on self-effort. When you say "Grace, grace!" over your mountain, you are declaring: *This is not my power; this is God's power at work for me.*

True grace produces quick fruit. After years of delay, the returned exiles saw blessing spring up suddenly — restoration, provision, and completion of the temple work. Your joy can return quickly. Your healing can break forth quickly. Your restoration can arrive quickly — when the pipe of self-effort is removed and the Spirit flows unhindered.

- **Not my strength** — I do not rely on my own might to receive blessing
- **God's strength** — I stand in His power and under His authority
- **Humility** — bowing under God, not standing in self-righteousness
- **Quick fruit** — joy, restoration, and provision spring up when grace is received

- **After years of delay** — sudden change when the pipe is unblocked
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6□ Joshua's Filthy Garments — □□□□□□□□

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Zechariah 3 shows **Joshua the high priest** standing in filthy garments before the Angel. Joshua represents the people — their representative before God. The filthy clothes represent **self-righteousness** — trying to earn blessing through your own obedience, discipline, fasting, and religious effort.

The returned exiles had spent twenty years saying, in effect: *"I will receive blessing because of my obedience, my submission, my religious activity."* That independence from grace is the filthy garment. God does not bless you because you are good enough. He blesses you because **Jesus made you righteous** — your sins forgiven, your iniquity removed, rich robes of His righteousness placed upon you.

- **Filthy garments** — self-righteousness; trusting your own goodness
- **Removed** — "I have removed your iniquity from you"
- **Rich robes** — clothed in Christ's righteousness, not your own works
- **Jesus made you righteous** — not because you are good, but because He is
- **20 years** — the people stood in self-effort until grace was received

Zechariah 3:3-4 (NKJV)

"Now Joshua was clothed with **filthy garments**, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, 'Take away the filthy garments from him.' And to him He said, 'See, **I have removed your iniquity from you**, and I will **clothe you with rich robes**.'" — Zechariah 3:3-4 (NKJV)

7□ Be Still — Let God Fight — □□□□□

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When the people stopped striving in their own strength and rested in God, blessing broke forth quickly. Three passages converge on the same truth: **be still**, return to

rest, and let the Lord fight for you. This is the practical outworking of Zechariah 4:6 — if the work is not by might nor by power, then your part is to be still, know that He is God, and let Him fight while you hold your peace.

The exiles who returned from Babylon had to learn what every believer must learn: clinging to God's strength, God's submission, and God's righteousness — not your own independence. When they finally rested in that truth, the delay ended. The temple was finished. Blessing sprang up. The same Spirit who supplied oil to the lampstand supplied strength to complete the work without human force driving it forward.

- **Be still** — Psalm 46:10; know that He is God
- **Returning and rest** — Isaiah 30:15; quietness and confidence are your strength
- **The Lord will fight** — Exodus 14:14; hold your peace while He acts
- **Spirit, not might** — the same thread from Zechariah 4:6 throughout Scripture

Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)

“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!” — Psalm 46:10 (NKJV)

Isaiah 30:15 (NKJV)

*“For thus says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel: **‘In returning and rest you shall be saved; in quietness and confidence shall be your strength.’** But you would not,” — Isaiah 30:15 (NKJV)*

Exodus 14:14 (NKJV)

“The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace.” — Exodus 14:14 (NKJV)

8□ Stand in Christ's Righteousness Before the Mountain

When you face the great mountain, do not stand in your own righteousness. Clothe yourself in **Jesus' righteousness** — then speak to the obstacle with the authority of

grace. You are not approaching the mountain as someone trying to be good enough. You approach as one already clothed in Christ, already forgiven, already accepted. That is why *“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit”* and *“Grace, grace!”* belong together. The Spirit works where human strength has failed. The mountain that stood for twenty years becomes a plain when Zerubbabel — and you — stop striving and start receiving. Whatever needs, sicknesses, troubles, or questions remain in your life, God is able to change them. He is able to remove the mountain. Blessing and restoration can spring up quickly when you lean on His Spirit and not your own.

- **Not my righteousness** — filthy garments of self-effort removed
 - **Christ’s righteousness** — rich robes given freely by grace
 - **Before the mountain** — stand clothed in Him, then declare grace
 - **Grace, grace!** — the mountain becomes a plain when God’s Spirit works
 - **God finishes it** — what He started through Zerubbabel, He completes by His Spirit
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The Takeaway

1. **Not by might nor by power** — Zechariah 4:6; God’s work is done by His Spirit
2. **Oil through the pipes** — blessings flow continuously unless self-effort blocks them
3. **Speak to the mountain** — grace, grace; do not rehearse the problem to yourself
4. **Filthy garments removed** — Zechariah 3:3-4; stand in Christ’s righteousness, not self-works
5. **Be still** — Psalm 46:10, Isaiah 30:15, Exodus 14:14; rest while the Lord fights
6. **Delay is not God’s plan** — when grace is received, blessing springs up quickly

Whether your delay has lasted months or many years, the word to Zerubbabel is the word to you today: stop blocking the pipe of blessing with self-effort. Receive the rich robes of Christ’s righteousness. Be still. Let the Lord fight. Speak grace over every

mountain — and watch the Spirit finish what human strength could never start.

Scripture-based study on Zechariah 4 — not by might but by God's Spirit, the lampstand vision, and speaking grace to every mountain. If it strengthened you, share it with someone who needs this truth today.