Read Zechariah 4. Over 2,500 years ago, God gave Zechariah a vision to encourage His people as they struggled to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem. The work was difficult, opposition was strong, and the beginnings seemed small compared with the glory of the former temple. Yet God offered Zerubbabel a promise that still strengthens his people today: "Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the LORD..." The golden lampstand in Zechariah's vision received a continual supply of oil from two olive trees, providing an abundance of light without depending on human effort to replenish it. The message was clear: the restoration of God's house would not ultimately depend on human strength, resources, or ingenuity, but on the unfailing provision of God. The Lord promised the completion of the temple, and Ezra 6:14–15 records that fatihful fulfillment.

Today, God is building something more wonderful than a physical temple. Through Jesus Christ, God is creating a people who belong to Him – a spiritual house made up of believers from every nation. The Church is not defined by a building, a particular congregation, or a single location. All who are in Christ belong to the new covenant community through whom God makes His presence known to the world. Each Christian has the privilege of being a temple of Holy Spirit, called to reflect God's holiness and grace in everyday life. The lampstand was designed to give light; we are called to shine in a world that desperately needs the light of Christ. Yet we cannot fulfill this calling through determination alone. God's Spirit supplies what we need to grow in holiness, serve one another, and share the gospel. When we grow weary or feel inadequate, we can remember that the success of God's work does not rest entirely on our shoulders. Our responsibility is to trust Him, obey Him, and faithfully participate in what He is doing.

Zechariah's vision also reminds us not to despise small beginnings. Some mocked the rebuilding effort, but God rejoiced to see the work progressing. We, too, can become discouraged when our efforts seem insignificant, when the local church faces obstacles, or when spiritual growth happens more slowly than we would like. But God sees what others may overlook, and He is never limited by the size of our resources or the strength of our opposition. His promises are completely trustworthy. God will remain faithful to His promises! We find strength when we learn those promises, courage when we stand upon them, and confidence when we live by them. We don't accomplish God's work by our own strength; we need to trust God who supplies the strength.

Prayerfully consider the following this week: Where in your life are you relying primarily on your own abilities and resources instead of trusting Holy Spirit to help you live faithfully? What promise of God could you learn more deeply and hold on to as a source of strength and courage in a present struggle or responsibility? How might you shine the light of Christ more intentionally this week, trusting that God can use even your smallest acts of faithfulness to accomplish His purposes in the world?

Weekly Memory Verse:

"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel, saying, 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of armies."
Zechariah 4:6

Weekly Affirmation:

Today I Claim Victory By God's Strength

November 2026 Growth Goals

- ○ Read the Books of Zechariah & Malachi
- ○ Watch the Bible Project videos on Zechariah & Malachi *(available on the website)*.
- ○ Memorize one of the weekly memory verses.
- ○ Write out a list of things for which you are thankful, at least one thing from each day of the month. Read it over Dec. 1st.