

BY HIS SPIRIT

By Todd Bentley

It's the presence of the Holy Spirit that brings the anointing. It's not by our might or by our power. Zerubbabel faced many challenges, but the word of the Lord strengthened him. The house of the Lord looked like rubble; the memory of its former splendor was almost wiped out of men's minds. But God had not forgotten! In fact, it was time to rebuild. In the second year of King Darius, God called Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah, to be the chief authority who would oversee the rebuilding of the temple of Solomon (Hag. 1:8)

It was a massive undertaking because the temple of God lay in ruins. And to make matters even more difficult, the people were completely caught up in their own affairs concerning their houses and lands (Hag. 1:4) They didn't have a passion for souls and revival, nor were they concerned that the temple was desolate. It was a time of great uncertainty for Zerubbabel. He was stretched to the max because he didn't know how the building project was going to come together.

In the natural, he didn't have the manpower, the financial resources, or the teamwork to get the job done. So God sent Haggai, the prophet, to challenge the people to consider their ways – a challenge that had positive results because the people responded with reverence for the Lord (Hag 1:5, 12).

At this point God began to stir up the spirits of Zerubbabel and "Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and worked on the house of the Lord of hosts, their God" (Hag 1:14). Zerubbabel continued to struggle, however. A few months later, when he was quite desperate, the angel of the Lord came and spoke to him.

In effect, through the angel of the Lord the angel was saying: "I am going to work such a supernatural work in your life that if I were to describe it, you wouldn't believe it! People are going to know that the rebuilding of the temple was a supernatural feat. They'll realize that it was not in your own might, your resources, your own ability, or your own network of friends that accomplished this job. The only thing the people will see is the natural – the rebuilt temple that came about by My Spirit. It's going to be so supernatural that they're going to be so astounded by the great work that I will do" (Zech. 4: 1-7, 9) author's paraphrase).

As God's people we have come to a crossroads time similar to Zerubbabel's. We're wondering how to get from point A to point B. We're wondering how we're going to fulfill what God has called us to. Some of us are stuck on the mountains called "impossibility" and "Obstacle," wondering how we will ever overcome all the difficulties that prevent us from fulfilling our mandate from God. Others remember a prophetic word that they would start a ministry, but as they look at their circumstances it doesn't look like a ministry will ever be launched.

Some people, like Zerubbabel, feel called to restore great works of God that were attacked and decimated, but they're overwhelmed by the obstacles to this restoration process. Others' lives are hindered by their difficult marriages or financial situations, or by infirmities in their bodies. Having said that, let's remember that Zerubbabel was called by God. He was chosen for a specific job and God was not going to abandon him and let him fail. Zerubbabel's weakness would work to God's advantage because then the Lord could show himself strong on Zerubbabel's behalf.

The Lord will also come to us with great support. Like Zerubbabel, we are called and chosen to accomplish specific assignments. For some of us, it's time to see the job through, and for others the vision is a time set in the future. But either way, let's soak up some encouragement as we see the way God helped Zerubbabel by sending the angel of the Lord to him in Zechariah 4. It was in this encounter that he received a vision of the anointing.

Before the angel came, Zerubbabel cried out in prayer something like this: "God, how am I going to fulfill what you told me I was going to do? How is it ever going to come to pass in my life?" The Lord answered: "You don't have what you need in the natural to do what I've called you to do. Everything you need is in the anointing – the provision, favor, and resources. It doesn't come by might nor by power, but it is by My Spirit. Who are you, oh mountain? It's not by what you have or don't have in the natural.

God is saying to that seemingly impossible obstacle in your life: "Oh great mountain, you shall become a plain! I will finish what I started and I will bring forth the capstone. It will be so supernatural that the only thing the people will be able to say is 'Grace, grace, grace!' They're not going to know how it happened, but the temple is going to stand – completed – done in the natural." The Builder and Maker is God, and the anointing is the answer. We won't crumble when circumstances become intense or filled with pressure. For when the mountains seem so high, our desperate cries to God cause His hand to intervene in our circumstances. That's when He makes our mountains into plains (Is. 49:11). Pressure push the breakthroughs all the way through!

Success did not come through Zerubbabel's own power or might, but by the Spirit of God who brought the anointing. Zerubbabel received a supernatural anointing by God's Spirit to see the project through to the end: "His hands shall also finish it" (Zech. 4:9). So let's be encouraged by the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord. Let's not give up! We can say as King David said: "The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; don not forsake the works of Your hands" (Ps. 138:8).

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