

Power Partners

Part 5, Zechariah 4

1. Has anything been particularly helpful in this series on the Holy Spirit?
2. Read Zechariah's vision in chapter 4, understand that the background to this passage is that the rebuilding of the temple has been halted by opposition from surrounding people.
3. What is God saying to his people in this passage?
4. What practical impact might this message have on the lives of the people in Jerusalem?
5. What is God seeking to confront people with in his declaration in Zechariah 4:6?
6. What might this passage be saying to you and our church?
7. *(Discuss) It is worth considering at this point what happens to a church's attitude towards the Holy Spirit when it appears that they are doing well. The church generally can be guilty of relying on its own resources and effort. For you see the church is never more in danger than when it is doing well because its consciousness of its need for God's power is low. The whole sorry history of Israel's exile was to shake the people out of just such a complacency and re-awaken them to their absolute dependence on God's power and draw them closer into God's heart. (read Jeremiah 24:6-7)*
8. What helps to create a consciousness of our need for God's power?
9. *(Discuss) This trusting our future to the reviving power of God's Holy Spirit is not about wishful thinking. This is the power that restored the people of Israel. This is the power that launched the early church, this is the power that has returned again and again to renew the life and witness of the church and this is the power that will reignite our church. The only question is how badly do we want it? How much do we believe that; 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the LORD Almighty. (Hezekiah 4:6)*
10. How determined are you to see our church filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit? What are you prepared to do about it?