

Guidelines for the Exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying  
Message Nine : Lighting the Lamps

**I. Overview :**

After Israelite twelve tribes's offerings and the speaking of God in Num. 7, God instructed Moses to light the lamps. The purpose of lighting the lamps was for offering, fighting, and moving. The light of the lampstand, which is based on the strength of the priests' service, indicates whenever God's word comes, His people receive light. The lighting of the lamps points to the proper way to meet; whether praying, singing, praising, or prophesying in the meetings should cause the lamps to shine. The holy task of lighting the lamps was priests' service. To experience the lighting of the lamps in the meetings, we must have Christ as the lampstand, the divine nature as the gold, the uplifted humanity of Christ as the wick, the Spirit of Christ as the oil, and clothed the priestly garments. The priests were to maintain the lamps from evening to morning before Jehovah. To know God's administration and economy, we must have the light of the lampstand from the shining and illuminating lamps. Revelation 4 the emphasis with the seven burning lamps of fire is on the move of God's administration.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment :**

Day 1 —

A. Why does God specifically instruct to dress the lamps in Numbers 8?

Lighting the lamps for the light to shine in the Tent of Meeting was a crucial matter. Without the shining of the light, the children of Israel could not move, much less fight for God. Therefore, as soon as they consecrated something to God, they immediately lit the lamps in order for light to shine. If God's people consecrate something to God, He will shine among them, and they will have light to fight for God.

B. Why were the lamps to give light in front of the lampstand?

Not only did the lamps need to be bright; the direction of the lamps needed to be proper. This indicates that the unique purpose of lighting the lamps was for offering, fighting, and moving because offering, fighting, and moving all require light. This signifies that in the formation of God's army and service there should be light in order for God's people to fight, walk, and serve.

Day 2 —

A. Expound whether the light of the lamps is bright relating to priesthood service.

The lamps in the Holy Place were lit by the priests who had to burn the incense as dressed the lamps in the morning and lit them in the evening. To burn the incense is to pray. The reason for the lamps not bright is that the service, the priesthood, and the burning of incense are absent. The priestly ministry may be weak, like that of Eli. Whether or not the light of the lamps is bright is absolutely related to the service of the priesthood.

B. How do we as priests have to learn to fulfill our duty of burning the incense?

When we light the lamps, we have to pray at night and in the morning so that the light of God may shine brightly among us. The light should be so bright that the illumining of the light becomes God's move, His administration, His government in the universe, and His economy on earth today. This is not a small matter.

Day 3 —

A. What is the light in the Holy Place and what does it indicate?

The light in the Holy Place was a particular light, not a natural light, that is, a light that comes from the sun during the day or from the moon and the stars at night. Neither was the light in the Holy Place a man-made light. It was a light that came from the golden lampstand. The light comes out of the gold. This indicates that the light in the Holy Place comes purely out of the divine nature of Christ.

B. What are these matters for lighting the lamps in the meetings?

We have the gold to make the lampstand signifying Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God; we have the wick, Christ's humanity burning with oil; and we have the oil signifying the Spirit of Christ. As the olive tree, Christ grew on earth and then passed through a process that included incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection. When all these matters are put together, we have the coming forth of the light.

Day 4 —

A. How should we do when we come to meet as the church, God's dwelling place?

No matter where we may meet, in a building or in the open air, our gathering is the Holy Place. For this reason, we should not meet in a natural way or in a secular way. Everything we do in the meeting—our speaking, singing, praising, calling, shouting, pray-reading—must cause the holy light to ascend. This is to light the lamps in God's sanctuary so that the light may swallow up the darkness.

B. How can we see the way leading into the Holy of Holies by lighting the lamps?

Whenever we meet in the sanctuary of God, we light the lamps, causing the light to ascend with the expectation of entering the Holy of Holies. Once we enter in, the shekinah glory will replace the light we cause to ascend in the sanctuary. This is to light the lamps with the qualifications of the priesthood. We need to have these qualifications in order to be before the Testimony with the expectation of coming into the Holy of Holies.

Day 5 —

A. What are priestly garments as we, who are part of the priesthood, need to know?

The significance of the priestly garments is the expression of Christ in the priesthood. This means that the garments signify Christ lived out of the priesthood. If in our daily living we do not have the expression of Christ, then whatever we do in the church meetings will be hypocrisy. If we do not have the priestly garments, we are not qualified to light the lamps.

B. Explain Exodus 27:21, the priests set the lamps in order from evening to morning.

Nothing is said here about the day. During the Christian life, we are in the night, not in the day. Because we are in the night, we need the light to shine until the day dawns. By the light shining in the meetings during this age of night, we are enlightened to see more of Christ and to see more clearly the way into the Holy of Holies.

Day 6 —

A. How can in Psalm 73 the psalmist see through the true situation?

In Psalm 73 the psalmist saw a situation that puzzled him. The more he looked at it, the more it was unclear to him. Finally he said, "Until I went into the sanctuary of God, then I perceived their end." This shows us that when he went into the sanctuary, he understood. Likewise, many among us can give such a testimony: "Until I came into the church, then I understood." It is because in the Holy Place there is the shining of the seven lamps.

B. Describe what kind of benefits we can make from the light in the Holy Place.

As long as we come into the realm of the church, all we have to do is sit in the meetings, and meeting after meeting we will become clear inwardly. We will receive a thorough understanding of human life, and we will become completely clear about God's will. We will be crystal clear about God's economy, and we will know the age that we are in today. This is due to the light in the Holy Place.

### **III. Conclusion :**

In the beginning of Numbers 8, God mentioned only the lighting of the lamps; it shows that in order for God's people to become His army, they must have light in order to fight. According to chapter 8, not only were the lamps to shine brightly; the direction of the seven lamps also was to be the same and proper. This specially signifies that in the church should the direction of the light also be proper. This kind of shining comes only after we have been numbered, have encamped, have ministered, have been dealt with by God to remove defilement, have been sanctified, have been blessed by God, have offered to God, and after God has spoken to us. Only when we have the same and proper light are we able to offer, fight, and move. Each local church should be so bright that once people enter in, all their situations are fully exposed. The church is the lampstand in the Holy Place; not only so, there is also the priesthood for the burning of the incense. Each one of us has a share in the priesthood; we all have to learn to fulfill our duty of burning the incense.