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Daily Devotional, Friday, November 17, 2017 - When Facing Life's Mountains

NOVEMBER 17TH 2017 BY DEE LOFLIN

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Zechariah 4:1-10

Today's passage describes a vision God gave to Zechariah. In it, the mountain is an illustration of a barrier or hindrance. We might wonder what these strange dreams can teach us today, but though the imagery is foreign, the principles are repeated throughout the Bible and are still relevant for our lives.

Zerubbabel, leader of Judah, and a group of 50,000 people had been released by their Babylonian captors to return to Jerusalem. There, God's people began to rebuild the walls of the temple, but they were attacked by those living nearby. Consequently, the people became discouraged and were ready to give up.

In verse 6, God reminded Zerubbabel through Zechariah that progress is made "not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit." In other words, when God calls us to a task, He Himself assumes responsibility for removing hindrances. God went on to ask, "What are you, O great mountain?" (v. 7). Nothing but flatland would remain once He worked through Zerubbabel.

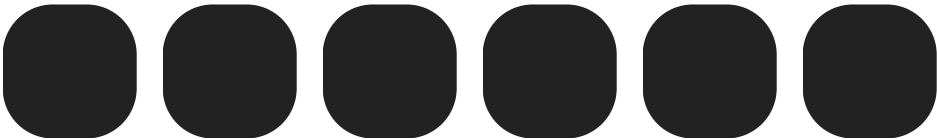
We are not to face seemingly insurmountable tasks in our own strength. Instead, we're to rely upon the power of the Holy Spirit within us. We are like the lampstand that was to be kept continually burning in the temple. In Zechariah's dream, the olive trees on each side of the

lampstand were pouring oil directly into its bowl, with no help from the priests. The Holy Spirit was acting as the olive trees—He was God’s promise of continual help to the weary people. We, too, can trust the Lord to pour His Spirit into our life for help when we face a mountain of an obstacle.

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