



Portion:

Title:

## SCRIPTURES

- Leviticus 21-24
- Exodus 25:31-35
- John 1:6-9
- Matthew 5:1-16
- Ephesians 3:6-21

## MAKE YOUR LIGHT OR LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE?

- Makeup of the Lampstand
- Keeping Your Lamps Lit!
- Making & Letting the Same?
- Intimacy, depth and power

*What is it about light that everyone loves, especially light that emanates from fire? In today's reading, we witness how Yahweh instructed Moses to fashion a lampstand, and a light that is meant to burn continually.*

*When we leap forward to the days of Y'Shua, and His words in the Sermon on the Mount, He reveals that we are that "light of the world" meant to burn continually. This, undoubtedly, is our call to ministry. It's a call for His disciples birthed directly from an intimate, deep and powerful relationship with Him, not a choice made from the intellect. Unfortunately, this authentic call is not always what we see today, as those "in ministry" are oftentimes self-assigned and self-empowered!*

*We are called to “let our lights SO shine” not “make our lights SO shine.” We are not called to be the source of light, but instead the conduit of His light. Over the centuries, the more diverse and specialized Christian denominations have become, the more reflective they’ve become of their own light, and subsequently less representative of His light and thus less impactful.*

*A lighthouse exists on a coastline for a specific purpose, to guide those who are seeking entrance inland, and in some instances in times of an emergency. Look around; presently the world is in a “State of Emergency!” People are frantic and in need of a beacon of light to guide them, as they near an ever-increasing tumultuous coastline. They are desperate to find their way inland. And now I leave you with this critical decision; will you “Make” or “Let” your light SO shine? One will save them; the other will end in shipwreck.*

### **THEME: MAIN SCRIPTURE(S) THAT HAS INSPIRED MESSAGE**

And Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying, Command the sons of Israel that they bring to you pure olive oil, beaten, for the light, to cause the lamps to burn **continually**. Aaron shall order it from evening until the morning before Jehovah forever outside the veil of the testimony, in the tabernacle of the congregation. It shall be a statute forever in your generations. He shall order the lamps on the pure lampstand before Jehovah forever. Leviticus 24:1-4 MKJV

***“You shall make a lampstand of pure gold.*** The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: ***its base, its stem, its cups,*** its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand. Exodus 25:31-35 ESV

### **OUTCOME: MAIN TAKEAWAY(S) I AM HOPING FOR PEOPLE**

This mystery is that the Gentiles are ***fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus*** through the gospel.

Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden

for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory.

Prayer for Spiritual Strength For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory ***he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,*** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, ***that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*** ***Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,*** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:6-21 ESV

# Let's Set the Scene: Portion in a blurb

1. This portion begins in Leviticus 21 with regulations for the priesthood. Leviticus 22 speaks of acceptable offerings and Leviticus 23 provides an overview of the biblical calendar, a listing of the LORD's appointed times (Feasts of Yahweh). And Leviticus 24 speaks of the care of the lamps and bread of the tabernacle, and blasphemy and its consequences.

## **Leviticus 21**

### **2. Regulations for Conduct of Priests:**

- (a) Don't defile themselves for the dead except for his relatives.
- (b) Don't make any bald place on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any cuttings in their flesh.
- (c) They shall not take a wife who is a harlot or a defiled woman, nor shall they take a woman divorced from her husband.
- (d) The daughter of any priest, if she profanes herself by playing the harlot, she profanes her father. She shall be burned with fire.
- (e) He who is the **high priest** shall not uncover his head nor tear his clothes; nor shall he go near any dead body, nor defile himself for his father or his mother. (*Think of the exchange*

*with Y'shua, let the dead bury the dead, Matthew 8:21-22; Luke 9:59-62).*

- (f) And he shall take a wife in her virginity.
- (g) No man of your descendants in succeeding generations, who has any defect, may approach veil or approach the altar. He may eat the bread of his God, both the most holy and the holy, only he shall not go near the veil or approach the altar, because he has a defect. *(Think of the lame man healed at the temple gate by Peter and John in Acts 3:1-16).*

## **Leviticus 22**

### **3. The Holiness of the Offerings:**

- (a) Aaron is instructed to separate the priesthood from anything unholy or unclean.
- (b) The priesthood is called to absolute obedience. The rules for who may eat the holy offering and under what conditions they may eat it are elaborated.

### **4. Offerings Accepted and Not Accepted:**

- (a) Any vows or freewill offerings or sacrifice made to Yahweh must be without blemish or defect. Those that are blind or broken or maimed shall not be accepted. *(See Malachi Chapters 1 & 2)*
- (b) Nor shall any offering from a foreigner's hand be accepted on your behalf.

- (c) Also rules for the new born animals and their sacrifice are given.

## Leviticus 23

5. **Feasts of Yahweh:** ‘The feasts of the Lord, which you shall proclaim to be holy convocations, these are My feasts. These are statutes for His people forever! (See the [Feast Resource Center](#) on our Website to learn about all the Feasts of Yahweh.) Notice how the weekly sabbath is a weekly festival unto Yahweh along with seven annual Feasts. Two of the Feasts span multiple days and Tabernacles has an eighth day which is like a Feast within the Feast. For Christians, I have included the prophetic implication of each “Holiday or Holy-Day” in parentheses after the name of each Feast.
6. **The Sabbath (The Practice of Holiness):** Six days shall work be done, but **the seventh day** is a Sabbath of solemn rest, a holy convocation. You shall do no work on it; it is the Sabbath of the Lord in all your dwellings.
7. **The Passover (Death of Y’shua) and Unleavened Bread (Burial of Y’shua):** On the fourteenth day of the first month at twilight is the Lord’s Passover. On the fifteenth day of the same month is the Feast of Unleavened Bread to the Lord; seven days you must eat unleavened bread. The first day and seventh day shall be a

holy convocation; you shall do no customary work on it. They are to be treated as sabbaths.

8. **The Feast of Firstfruits (Resurrection of Y'shua):** The First day following the first sabbath following Passover. (Always the first day of the week.)
9. **The Feast of Weeks or Pentecost (The giving of the Holy Spirit):**  
And you shall count for yourselves from the day after the Sabbath...seven Sabbaths shall be completed. Count fifty days to the day after the seventh Sabbath. (This is from which Christians derive Pentecost and why they were all gathered together in Jerusalem in Acts 2.)
10. **The Feast of Trumpets (The Second Coming of Y'shua):** In the seventh month, on the first day of the month, you shall have a sabbath-rest, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. This is the only Feast that begins on the first day of the month and for which you must be sober and watching for its announcement. (*See 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 "No man knows the day of the hour," and 1 Corinthians 15:50-58, "Y'shua returns with a trumpet blast of the last trumpet" v. 52, and Matthew 24:42-44, "Watch as you do not know the hour your Lord is coming."*)
11. **The Day of Atonement (Judgement of the World):** On the tenth day of this seventh month shall be the Day of Atonement. It



shall be a holy convocation for you; you shall afflict your souls (fast). And you shall do no work (sabbath).

12. **The Feast of Tabernacles (The Millennial Kingdom):** On the fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the Feast of Tabernacles for seven days to the Lord. On the first day there shall be a holy convocation. You shall do no customary work on it (Sabbath). On the eighth day [The Joy of the Torah-a feast within the Feast] you shall have a holy convocation, and you shall do no customary work on it (Sabbath). You shall rejoice before the Lord your God for seven days. You shall keep it as a feast to the Lord for seven days in the year. All who are native Israelites shall dwell in booths, that your generations may know that I made the children of Israel dwell in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt.

### **Leviticus 24**

13. **The the Care of the Tabernacle Lamps and the Bread of the Tabernacle:** Of interest is the regulation that the showbread shall be for Aaron and his sons in Leviticus 24:5-9, and that they shall eat it in a holy place; for it is most holy to him from the offerings of the Lord. (Remember what Y'shua said about this in Matthew 12:1-8, Mark 2:23-28 and Luke 6:1-5, when He referred to David eating this bread in I Samuel 21:1-6.) There is a great controversy, beyond the eating of the bread here, when

you explore Y'shua's reference to this event in the Gospels. See notes on that teaching here: [My Father's Business](#)

**14. The Penalty for Blasphemy and other regulations:** the warning about how Yahweh deals with blasphemy is highlighted in the story of an Israelite boy, who had an Egyptian father and Israelite mother, who had blasphemed and cursed the name of the Lord. "Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin."

- (a) And whoever blasphemes the name of the Lord shall surely be put to death.
- (b) Whoever kills any man shall surely be put to death.
- (c) Whoever kills an animal shall make it good, animal for animal.
- (d) Eye for eye, tooth for tooth.
- (e) You shall have the same law for the stranger and for one from your own country.
- (f) See a full teaching about Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit here: [The Sin that Leads to Death](#)

**15. You can see last two year's teaching on this Torah Portion here:** [My Father's Business](#) & [Are You Still Walking with a Limp?](#)

## MAKEUP OF THE LAMPSTAND

### 1. Prophetic Connections

#### A. Lampstands and Humans

(1) Base, Step & Cups / Body, Soul & Spirit

- (a) “***You shall make a lampstand*** of pure gold. The lampstand shall be made of hammered work: ***its base, its stem, its cups***, its calyxes, and its flowers shall be of one piece with it. And there shall be six branches going out of its sides, three branches of the lampstand out of one side of it and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side of it; three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on one branch, and three cups made like almond blossoms, each with calyx and flower, on the other branch—so for the six branches going out of the lampstand. And on the lampstand itself there shall be four cups made like almond blossoms, with their calyxes and flowers, and a calyx of one piece with it under each pair of the six branches going out from the lampstand. And you shall set the table outside the veil, and the lampstand on the south side of the tabernacle opposite the table, and you shall put the table on the north side. Exodus 25:31-35  
ESV

1. Moses was given specific instructions on how the Lampstand was to be made.
2. The three foundational components to the lampstand are– **Base, Stem and Cups.**
3. In the same way, each and every believer has three foundational attributes in their make up– **Body, Soul and Spirit.**
4. In the likeness of the Lampstand, in order for the structure to be used for that which it was designed for, its **Base** needs to be properly manufactured and properly set up on a level surface, otherwise it will topple over. Furthermore, without the existence of the **Body** in which to house the other two, we would not exist. And so it is also so with the lampstand; with no Base, there is no lampstand.
5. Provided that your Body did not inherit a genetic defect of some sort, and all things are operating well, you have to make sure it can function at its best. You can only do that by giving it highly nutritional foods, by staying away from alcohol, drugs, sugar, excessive salt etc. and by getting a proper amount of exercise and rest.

6. In the same fashion, as the lampstand in which the **stem** connects the **base** to the **branches**, it is our **soul** that connects our **body** to our **spirit, and this only happens after the born again experience of the believer** . Otherwise, there is no connection between the soul and the spirit in the unbeliever. I am hoping you can see the imagery the same way I do!
7. Your **spirit**, empowered by the **Holy Spirit**, will branch out of your soul in ways you never dreamed of. Having the Spirit of God as your source of strength will enable you to fight off your old life that was under the curse of an embittered soul. Your spirit is the one that discerns daily circumstances and it is how you assess the way to respond to the pressures of everyday living. However, if you are not yet born again, this is not the case. You are still making decisions based on emotions and past experiences.
8. Your soul, directed by your spirit (having already established as being ministered to by the Holy Spirit) has the capacity of taming past wills and emotional behaviors, which is how your decision-making was handled, prior to your born again experience.

## PURPOSE OF THE LAMPSTAND

### 2. Structure and Light

#### A. Purpose Empowers Function

(1) All Eyes on Yahweh!

(a) It goes without saying that the purpose of a lampstand is fairly obvious. Be that as it may, it serves the believer well to expand on its precise purpose.

#### 1. ***It provides a structure from where light can emanate...***

- a) Having already established the three main parts of the lampstand, there is no need to be repetitive, suffice it to say that the makeup of the lampstand is perfect for the task for which it was designed.
- b) More overtly, the fact that Y'Shua uses the similitude to an actual lamp has its meaning. Given the totality of that, it would serve us well to seek out if our lamps are brightly lit, and not just because we tell ourselves they are.
- c) This is an area in which we should get feedback from the outside.

#### 2. ***It provides much needed light in the face of darkness...***

- a) Living with the advent of electricity takes away the importance of keeping the light burning, which is readily available to provide guidance in dark environments.
- b) There were no light switches available at that time. So, it emphasizes the importance about why Yahweh instructed the Priests to make sure the lamps would not run out of oil, the source of fuel.
- c) This is to be a constant reminder of the existence of Yahweh, and that there is never a moment in which He is not alive, or not able to provide His light.
- d) The one important difference is that man is instructed, by Yahweh, to be involved in keeping the lamp burning, something man need not do for God, as it relates to His existence. Yahweh is eternal!
- e) Picture the tabernacle in the days of Moses, always having the lampstand burning. It persistently pointed to the location of the Holy Place.
- f) Even with the curtains closed, the glow of the lamp in the middle of the dark wilderness would draw all eyes in that direction.

## KEEPING YOUR LAMPS LIT!

### 3. Point to the Light

#### A. You are not the source of light, but a conduit of light...

##### (1) Dressed for Action...

- (a) There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

He came as a witness, to bear witness about the *light*, that all might believe through him. ***He was not the light***, but came to bear witness about ***the light***. ***The true light, which gives light to everyone***, was coming into the world. John 1:6-9 ESV

- (b) “Stay dressed for action and ***keep your lamps burning***, Luke 12:35 ESV

1. It is imperative for the Believer to stay laser-focused on the task at hand. Undoubtedly, any Believer fit for the Kingdom of God will keep his hands on the plow and not look back.
2. It would seem that the Sermon on the Mount would be the clearest instructions provided by Y’Shua, regarding how a Believer can keep his lamp burning.
3. If, at any moment, a Believer confuses the task at hand as a personal one, that is a quick way to snuff out the lamp!



4. In today's Torah portion, the Priests are commanded to provide oil for lamps to keep them lit. For how long? Continually!
5. And each time we see a reference to oil in Scriptures, we are immediately reminded of what? The HOLY SPIRIT of course!
6. Now, there is a connection between our text in Leviticus today and the Sermon on the Mount in which Y'Shua tells His disciples they are the ***light of the world.***
7. You see, in the Levitical reference the Priest is the one that keeps the light lit because they were devoid of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. So, unlike the Priest, we through a vivacious relationship with God's Spirit can rely on Him to be the constant fuel for the lamp we are called to be.
8. So, the question then becomes, why are so many Christians living as if they are no different than their heathen counterparts? Why is it that congregations are in such disarray over repetitive egregious sin?
9. Answer: there has never been true repentance! Period, end of story! There is absolutely positively no way around that.

10. How can we tell the two apart?

- a) The “true” Christian life: a life of righteousness.
- b) The “proclaiming” Christian life: a life of unrighteousness.

MAKING AND LETTING ARE NOT THE SAME

#### 4. What is emanating from you?

##### A. Not all light is the same!

(1) Light vs. Light

- (a) “You are ***the light of the world***. A ***city set on a hill cannot be hidden***. Nor do people ***light a lamp and put it under a basket***, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, ***let your light shine before others***, so that they may see ***your good works*** and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:15-16 ESV

- 1. Our existence in Christ has an unbelievable purpose. We are “the light of the world”. However, we as a whole, seem nothing like who Y’Shua says we ought to be. As matter of fact, at times, we can down right seem no different than the unbeliever. And this is not simply based on conjecture. This is factual.

- a) When we peel back the onion that is our lives within the four walls of our Churches, our finances, our marriages, our relationships, our child-rearing, our work ethics, etc. we are not shining at all! As a matter of fact, we are barely glimmering.
- b) Therein lies the problem!
- c) Since the life we live is not that different from the rest of society, we then find ourselves using lip service to do our bidding for Yahweh's Kingdom, instead of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. One cannot be a conduit of the light that is God, while is devoid of a vivid, Holy Spirit indwelled life.
- d) The Result: We end up sounding like a bunch of babbling, bumbling fools to the world because they can clearly see the contradictions. Many unbelievers are aware of the life Y'Shua lived, even though they do not believe. We end up looking like buffoons when we attempt "**good works**" by going through the proper motions, all so we can pat ourselves on our backs.

e) Y'Shua teaches us that the lampstand ***“gives light to all in the house.”*** This means that those closest to us should be the very first to witness this light to which Christ is referring. How are you doing in this area? Can the people closest to you testify that you are letting this light “so” shine, or will they testify to the contrary, that you are merely ***“making” that light “appear as if its’ shining”***

2. The preceding verses in the same chapter provide a backdrop for the how and where of true ***“good works.”***

(2) Blessed are the poor-in-spirit...

(a) Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, ***his disciples*** came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the ***poor in spirit***, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are those ***who mourn***, for they shall be comforted. “Blessed are the ***meek***, for they shall inherit the earth. “Blessed are those who ***hunger and thirst for righteousness***, for they shall be satisfied. “Blessed are the ***merciful***, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the ***pure in heart***, for they shall see God. “Blessed are the ***peacemakers***, for they shall be called

sons of God. “Blessed are those who are ***persecuted for righteousness’ sake***, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you. Matthew 5:1-12 ESV

1. When Y’Shua preached His Sermon on the mount. He gave His disciples a series of what is known as the “Beatitudes”. The series begins with the “poor in spirit.” What does this mean? It certainly cannot mean that His disciples were to be less spiritual than other people. Why? Because none of the subsequent “be-attitudes” are accomplishable in the human flesh.
2. What Y’Shua intimated is that the “blessed ones” are those who have taken inventory, and have recognized that apart from Yahweh, they are totally devoid of any spiritual assets.
3. These “blessings” are from none other than Yahweh Himself (once they are born again, of course). It is then, ***and only then***, that a person can begin their journey as a disciple.

4. It is important to note that the good works Y'Shua is referring to are nothing more than the natural byproduct of first recognizing your spiritual void, and then having that void filled by the life of God. In other words, there becomes a conscious awareness of the chasm between your new life filled with the Spirit of God and your old, *"self-willed, dead-end, selfish life prior to salvation."*
5. And then, having now surrendered to that awareness, God indwells the "poor-in-spirit" in order to light the lamp of the born again believer .
6. This is not to be confused with the smoldering-wick of those who made an "emotional decision" for Christ, and by virtue of such have none of the life of God truly dwelling within. The Lord knows there are plenty who call Him "Lord, Lord", while Christ has zero relationship with them.

## INTIMACY, DEPTH AND POWER

### 5. Power (through His Spirit!)

#### A. Rooted and Grounded in Love

(1) More than you can ask of imagine...

- (a) This mystery is that the Gentiles are ***fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.*** Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which ***was given me by the working of his power.*** To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, ***so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.*** So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory. Prayer for Spiritual Strength. For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in

heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory ***he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth,*** and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, ***that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*** Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 3:6-21 ESV

1. The very first thing to notice in this section of Scripture is the Intimacy which the TRUE believer has with Christ. ***“fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.”***
  - a) It would appear outwardly that the majority of the evangelical Church in America believes in this, at least by verbal profession (lip service). Yet, too often, if we are not of the same congregation or



denomination, we begin to find reasons to disagree with one another.

- b) Seemingly, many encounters amongst believers become theological debates, throwing off more sparks than light.
- c) The Apostle Paul has the ingredients necessary, so believers can faithfully and powerfully live out this spiritual life we are called to live.
- d) “...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts **through faith**—that you, being **rooted and grounded in love**, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth...”
- e) This is the exemplification of “depth”. When we get out of the way, and find ourselves rooted in love because of the faith in our hearts where Christ dwells.
- f) I want you to recognize the size and volume of that which God wishes to entrust us. The more faith we exercise, the bigger the “bucket” we carry for God’s Kingdom.

(2) Far more than you realize...

(a) ***that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,*** to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever.

1. It should be evident who is the one doing the work in the life of the believer. In case you did not notice, the verse says “*according to the power at work within us.*”
2. Note to self: God will not waste Himself on anyone. It would be foolish for God to pour Himself into anyone who is not capable of bringing to fruition what He has already seen from eternity past. In other words, God will not call someone whom He knows is neither willing nor able to complete such a task.
3. That’s why we can see so many “so-called believers” in our Churches, even ones who have been “walking with God” for years and even decades, seemingly who have no authority over their lives, no self-mastery.
4. How so? Look at the verse once again, “***according to the power at work within us***” . Did you see it now?

Yahweh does what He wills in the life of the believer according to the “power at work within us.”

5. To summarize: If your intimacy with God is lackluster, so then is the depth of your faith. And according to that depth of faith is His power at work within us.
6. It is incumbent for every believer to practice “letting go,” living more by faith than by sight. Most claim they do, but do they really?
7. This is non-negotiable, and requires practice, if you really want to see miraculous events all around you. Remember, you are the conduit for Yahweh’s light and power, not the source!

## CLOSING

### **6. Let’s not continue to get this wrong!**

#### **A. The Source of Good Works**

(1) Let your life “So” shine!

(a) How is your intimacy with Yahweh?

1. The lampstand in the book of Leviticus, in my assessment, is a picture of what Y’shua is referring to in the Sermon on the Mount.

2. It is interesting that this Sermon follows what Matthew writes regarding the Gospel of the Kingdom, and though that was not our focal point in today's study, it is worthy of mentioning, simply because this Gospel will only come to pass when His Church begins to put things together and allows Yahweh to do His work through His Bride.
3. Too many believers are walking around with the concept that if they are doing "good works," they are then doing what Yahweh has called them to do. Nothing could be further from the truth.
4. There are plenty of philanthropic men and women who are not believers doing so-called "good works," only for self-glorification and to receive personal accolades. It is obvious that we fall into the same category, if that is all we are good for.
5. The "let your light SO shine" aspect of that verse spoken by Y'Shua is only relevant to the believer whenever we do whatever it is we do, for an audience of one and by His orchestration, not our own.
6. And we should not assume these good works are or should be only material in nature. If Spirit-driven, just

being available for prayer for a brother or a sister in need is a good work. Or being the one who is not falling into temptation, while surrounded by others doing things you know are contradictory to who Yahweh says you are to be, is a good work. Instead, many believers are afraid of how someone in their immediate circle will view them, so they succumb to peer pressure. You can speaking into other people's lives without having to preach an entire sermon.

7. As a wrap, pay attention to your actions and your motives; don't over-analyze things (paralysis by analysis), which is what happens sometimes when believer face decisions.
8. If your intimacy with Yahweh is where it should be, then your depth should be sufficient to handle the power with which He has entrusted you. Otherwise, He would not have enlisted you to do work for His kingdom,
9. NOW, to what depth? That is entirely up to you!

## QUESTIONS & DISCUSSION

### **1. Moses was given specific instructions on how the Lampstand was to be made in Exodus 25:31-35:**

- A. How might the various parts of the Lampstand relate how we, as humans were created as “triune” beings (we have a body, soul and spirit)?

### **2. Lamps provide light when there is darkness:**

- A. In Leviticus 24:1-4, it tells us of the supply of oil that must be provided for the Lampstand in the tabernacle; describe what you see and why you think they were commanded to do so.
- B. How might this relate to the life of a Christian? (See: John 1:6-9; Luke 12:35)

### **3. Y’shua is known as “the light of the world”:**

- A. But, something extraordinary happened with that light. Use Matthew 5:15-16 to decried this almost incomprehensible commission.
- B. Where does the light come from?
- C. What are you supposed to do with it? Not do with it?
- D. What is the intended outcome?

### **4. Prior to that extraordinary commission, Y’shua taught us about true blessings in Matthew 5:1-12:**

- A. Why is the first and foundational blessing to be “poor in spirit?”
- B. How might this relate to the commission which follows in Matthew 5:15-16? (Hint: think **“let”** and think **“conduit vs. source”**)

**5. Read Ephesians 3:6-21:**

- A. What does it mean to be “fellow heirs?”
- B. What is the gift of God’s grace and how does it relate to power?
- C. What does it mean that the manifold wisdom of God is to be made known through the Church?
- D. What does it mean to have hearts filled with faith and to “be rooted and grounded in love?”
- E. What does it mean that He is able to “do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us?”

**6. How does Ephesians 3:6-21 support the following statement:**

- A. We are to, “let our lights SO shine” not “make our lights SO shine.”