

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: UNITY ~ In a mighty auditorium are four men. They really desire to come together, but neither will come to another's corner. In the center of the room is a beautiful fountain. Finally someone proposes that they all meet at the fountain. They start for the common center. They come on - forty - fifty - one hundred feet. The nearer they come to the fountain, the nearer they come to each other, each making concessions of location and space. At last they reach their destination, and clasp hands around the sparkling waters of the fountain. Jesus Christ, the great fountain of life, liberty and love, is set up in the center of the world. The nearer God's children come to Christ, the nearer they will come to each other. Let us help hasten the day when we can all clasp hands and sing, "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love." Let the Christian world strike hands in the spirit of those of old, who said, "We are brethren." ~Hall. Taken from Leaves of Gold

DO NOT DESPISE SMALL BEGINNINGS

Success comes not with what God gives you, but what you do with it.

Zechariah 4:10 (NLT) says, *Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin, to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel's hand.*

Zerubbabel at this time was the governor of Judah and was responsible for rebuilding the temple, but he is forbidden to trust the resources of man to accomplish the task. An angle appeared in a vision to Zechariah, the prophet, and told him in **verse six**, ... *"This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' Says the Lord of hosts.*

Zechariah 4:6 is the most often quoted Old Testament verse which refers to the work of the Holy Spirit. Zerubbabel is therefore comforted by the Lord in the assurances that the rebuilding of the temple will not be by military might or human power, but by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. He is assured that the Holy Spirit will remove every obstacle that stands against the completion of God's temple. It will be accomplished by the empowering of the Spirit of God. Zerubbabel is not alone in this task asked of him, but is partnered with the Holy Spirit. Therefore, no mountain/obstacle can stand before the power of God.

Verse 7 (NKJV) says, *'Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain! And he shall bring forth the capstone with shouts of "Grace, grace to it!"'*

The footnotes in the Spirit Filled Life Bible (page 1368) explains **verse 7** this way. "When the temple is completed, all will acknowledge its beauty and realize it is not the result of human achievements, but rather, of God's **grace** and more **grace**. **O Great Mountain** could be the opposition of the adversaries of the temple project, the discouraged group of builders, or some type of turmoil among the people. At any rate,

God will see to it that it **shall become a plain**. The NT use of 'mountain' and Zechariah's obvious allusion to **Isaiah. 40:4** make this *a future promise* as well. The Messiah's future NT reign will see the removal of many "mountains" by God's grace." (This truth should bring a chorus of "hallelujah" shouts from the Body of Christ).

Verse 9 continues with, *"The hands of Zerubbabel Have laid the foundation of this temple; His hands shall also finish it. Then you will know That the Lord of hosts has sent Me to you."* After years of discouragement, Zerubbabel is assured that he will see the fulfillment of God's purpose for him (see **Romans 11:29**) thus we end with our **verse 10**, *Do not despise these small beginnings...*

Given the background I shared above, we can see that God's church of today therefore must be built and sustained, not by wealth, by members, by virtue, nor by sheer strength, B U T **by my Spirit**. We must guard against discouragement of "small beginnings." Lay hold of this truth and hide it deep in your heart that God does not give the importance we do to the size of things.

Goliath was toppled by a sling and a rock—little beginnings. The widow's coins may seem puny, but Jesus used these illustrations to inspire us—encourage us—and assure us that what God has begun, He will complete in triumph.

Moses had a staff. David had a sling. Samson had a jawbone. Rahab had a scarlet rope. Jael had a tent peg and a hammer. Mary had some ointment. Dorcas had a needle. The widow had flour and oil. All were used by God.

What do you have? What has God given you? How will you use it?

Depend on the Holy Spirit to help you accomplish the things God has called you to do. Therefore, do not discount the smallness of your deeds. Do not be afraid to embrace what God gives you. Do not compare your gift(s) to others, but use them as the Holy Spirit directs. Do not be afraid to step out in faith and try new things as you serve the Lord, for He steps out with you!

If we keep a clean heart and an upright spirit and avoid insincerity as we cheerfully practice honesty, truth, integrity, and justice in all our dealings, we too, as Zerubbabel, will accomplish what God has given us to do.

Romans 12:4-5 (NKJV) says, *For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.*

Be encouraged today, for each child of God has worth and value, as we are all equal before God and in Christ and remember, *Do not despise (your) small beginnings!*