

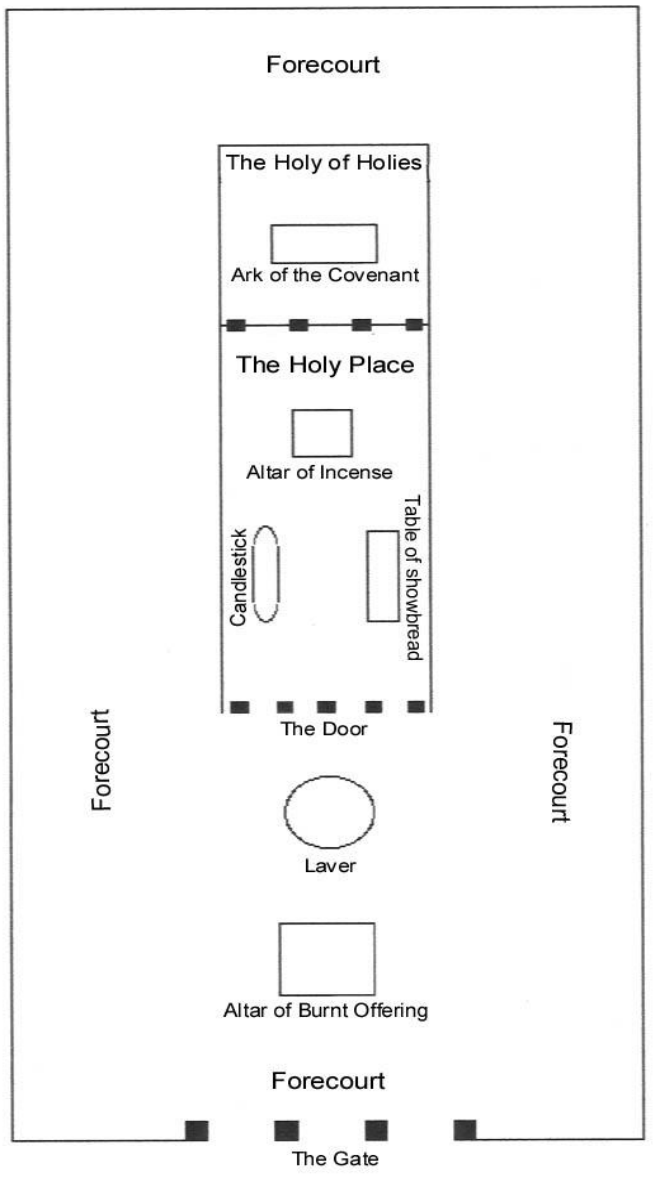
Luke (Chapter 8)

The Book of the NEW MAN in Christ

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"Verse by verse" the deeper meaning of this Bible-book, explained in the light of the Israeli Tabernacle.

Plan of the Israeli Tabernacle



Part II

**The life in the holy place
of the resurrection person**

Chapter 8

Like a sevenfold candlestick for God



In the previous chapters we saw how the priest of God was formed; namely out of sinners, lost in sin and guilt. For Jesus was willing to cleanse us, who were sinners, in His blood, and to renew us in and by His Spirit. In Chapter 7 we saw, that in Christ we may be resurrected into NEW LIFE. In this Chapter we shall have a close look at the different kinds of priestly labor we may perform in and by Him after having been anointed for it by Him. We will discover that we have been saved by Him **in order to save others!** We will also discover that this labor, in its totality, makes God's light to shine as by a sevenfold, gold candlestick which was also to be seen by those who, deliberately coming **out** of the Forecourt, entered that Holy Place. This candlestick consisted of a shaft (one arm with a foot on which the whole candlestick rests) in the middle, and of six branches, which come out of the shaft by twos. That shaft and those branches together give a sevenfold light. The same way the spiritual candlestick of God (namely our testimony in and by the Holy Spirit) today gives its sevenfold light in this dark world for the glorification of the wonderful Name of God. So a child of God, cleansed in the precious blood of Jesus, and renewed in and by the power of the Word and the Holy Spirit, must walk in priestly service in this world; in order to proclaim to that same world the sevenfold light of God's glory, and to reveal it. Let us have a closer look at this sevenfold Light, in sequence.

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1. We must deny ourselves things and be prepared to bring sacrifices in honor of Jesus.

Luke 8 verse 1-3: *"And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and shewing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him. And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance."*

We see here, as the first light of God's candlestick, the willingness to bring a sacrifice for the use of the Gospel of God... We see here women willingly going with Jesus, Who is the Word of God, Who proclaimed His Father's Word, namely the Gospel, the Good News. They took care of all the material and financial things He needed for this. The life of each servant of God should be like this. Everything he possesses materially, should be dedicated to the increase of God's Kingdom.

There is a clear characteristic in the life of a servant of God: he is not stingy for the work of Jesus! His purse is always open for the work of his Lord. He even put **all** his belongings in Jesus' hands. When you see someone who is stingy with regard to Jesus' work (think of the biblical "tithe"), then you know such a person is not yet born again. Which is not to say, that a servant of God is wasteful with his money, but the Lord has full control over it. Jesus knows that His children still need money in this world for all their activities.

2. We must dedicate our life to Jesus, and labor in honor of Him alone.

A servant of God is a revealer of the Word, a proclaimer to the world of the Gospel. God's Word must be heard from his mouth. He must be a sounding board of God, that is always ready (and thus pure); an **open** and not a clogged channel.

Luke 8 verse 4-15: *"And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundred-fold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be (mean)? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the (explanation of the) parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with (daily) cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth (spiritual) fruit with patience."*

Here we see a sower sowing seed. The Lord explained that the seed is the Word of God that is proclaimed to the world. The Word of God comes forth from the heart of the Father. And it is God's servant, who in prayer must be open to this and having received it must sow this Seed into the hearts of the people.

Elsewhere in Scripture we read again, that the Word is the Sword **of the Holy Spirit**. Therefore it is the Holy Spirit, Who must wield this Sword, and **neither you nor me**... Again: we should not wield the Word; it is the Holy Spirit within us, Who through us must wield the Word. Then it will be a Sword. To what purpose? For the destruction of bonds of sin and powers of sin. The Word must cause the souls of the people to want to die to bonds of sin, and must deliver them from the powers of sin. But if we are not willing to be delivered, then this Sword will be **judgment** to us! But when we are prepared to see the evil within ourselves – by the Word revealed to us; and when we are prepared to lay our (old and sinful) life in the hands of Jesus Christ, our Lord, then this Sword of the Spirit will kill all sin in us and... deliver us from all works of satanic powers in our life (Romans 8:2).

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Seen in this light, who do you think the Sower is? It is God's Holy Spirit, Who works in and by His servants... He builds the Kingdom of God! He alone is the Builder of the Kingdom of God and of the temple of our heart (Matthew 16:18; John 15:5; Psalm 127:1-2). We are merely channels; human channels in His hand, through which the Word may flow which must come directly from the heart of the Father; and for which we pleaded, wrestling in prayer before His throne. It is His bread, the Bread of life, which we must pass on in His Name. And this Word, this Seed, is mighty Seed, which must be sowed by Him Himself working through His servants. In this parable are mentioned four cases of reception of this Seed (namely the Word) in the heart, and only in one case this event has **eternal value!**

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In the first case we see the seed fall by the roadside. In this case the Gospel message is heard – maybe with great attention, whereby the listener saw himself, in God's mirror, as a great sinner whom Jesus in His mercy wants to save – but one does not come to actual surrender to the Savior; the seed is not planted **IN** the heart, even if it lies temporarily "on the table" of that heart.

You might know how powerful the germination strength of natural seed is. I was told that even stones can split apart when such a stone is in the way of the germination. So is the Word of God, but it must be planted in the heart of man. The human heart must embrace and love the salvation of the Lord Jesus; it must gratefully grasp His promises, and praise Him for that; it must familiarize itself with the Word of God as it is given to him in His mercy. Then the Word will work! But in this case one does not surrender to the Savior, and... the evil one rushes in, and takes that Word away from his heart.

In the second case we see the seed fall in stony ground, it landed on a rock! There might have been a thin layer of soil on that rock, otherwise the seed would never have sprouted. But when the seed wants to take root, it is stopped in this activity by that rock of stubbornness, and self-centeredness.

The seed at first was received with great joy... Why? The person who received the seed noticed in his spirit an open gate to God's heaven he also wanted to enter. He saw that God's gifts of grace contain power, namely (the power) to become a son (or daughter) of God, and to receive power in Christ; and he longed to have this, or be it. He only sought glorification of self, for in his heart was a rock of self-centeredness, and he sought to have found this glorification in religion. God's seed cannot take root here; the Person of Christ cannot grow in them, because this heart seeks itself, and only wants to clothe itself in the glory of Christ! This person's own spirit here is the great handicap to grow and to come to maturity in the (LIVING) Word in his life. Such people do not seek to magnify Christ in their life (something which can only happen by crucifying self), but they want to be important themselves amongst their fellow-believers. The Word of God is bound to be doomed in such a heart.

Beloved, if you ever wanted to receive God's Word in your heart in order to gain honor and glory in your life with it, in order to shine like a star in the religious sky, then stop **now!** Then there will be a true turning unto the Lord. Do you know, satan ¹ loves to see this kind of "believers", for he knows that such "Christians" (and the works in their own strength) are doomed. If you find this "rock" in your own heart, then come to Jesus with it, that He completely pulverize it. All self-will and self-centeredness in us must completely disappear, and this is only possible if we surrender to the works (of grace) of the Lord.

This is why Paul is opposed against leadership of novices, of newly converted (people) in the Church: "An overseer (bishop)... not a novice lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." (1 Timothy 3:6) For, in a novice, a newly converted, self is not yet completely crucified, and it will therefore be the honor, which (unfortunately) often is the result of this leadership, which is not killed... but rather fed... with conceit as a consequence. Something, which will bring to the fall himself and many of the Church.

The self-centeredness of the believer and servant of God must be pulverized by the Holy Spirit just like grains of incense are. And when these "grains of incense" are burned, they will only serve for the glorification of the great God, Who transformed a lost sinner into a child of God!

Let us also look at the third case... The seed, the Word of God, here falls amongst thorns; these are: worries, wealth and the lusts of life. Such a Christian heard the wonderful Word of redemption and grace, and loved it. Unfortunately this soul did not surrender **all** worldly desires (1 John 2:16) which are in his heart, to Jesus, for Him to remove these from him such as the worries of (daily) life, bondage to wealth and possessions,

¹ We write the word satan not with a capital, as it is not a name, but a word meaning opponent or adversary, accuser.

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sexual lusts and other (earthly) pleasures of life, etc., etc. He is not willing to lose some of his bonds to Jesus... Deep within his heart there is no cry to God to put to death **all** works of his body, soul and spirit; yet he desires to receive that NEW LIFE from God...

Such an attitude of the soul is revealed in every-day life in wanting to **remain** in the lusts (especially the sexual lusts) of this life; in wanting to **continue** to enjoy worldly wealth and possessions; in wanting to **continue** to struggle with the worries of daily (cost of) living, in wanting to remain – in any form – in the pride of life.

Sincere children of God **do not want to remain** in the enjoyment of all this, but ask and plead with the Lord to put His purifying fire into it, while they, if necessary – by the power of God – hold loosely onto their possessions, and put these into the service of God's work, there where the Holy Spirit requires it of them (see the explanation of the first light of the candlestick).

5

Christians, who have not surrendered their bonds to Jesus, are bound to, sooner or later, meet with (spiritual) failure: for the thorns, namely the problems, desires and sins, suffocate the Word. You know, that the Lord commanded the Israelites, at the conquest of the land Palestine, to kill **all** Canaanites..., because even a remnant of these people would otherwise induce the people Israel to worship idols, and to abandon God: for "a little leaven (type for sin) leaveneth the whole lump" the New Testament teaches. However, Israel did not obey God. The consequence was that the spirit of Baal was to dominate Israel later on... Baal was the god of the Canaanites, the god of the natural passions, namely the carnal and sexual lusts. Likewise all natural passions, when these have not been altogether put at the foot of Jesus' cross, in Jesus' hands (pierced for us), will gradually dominate the Christian again, and reduce him to a mere name-Christian! So King Solomon, bound (by sexual lusts) to 1,000 women, was gradually driven to the worship of their idols (see 1 Kings 11:1-8)... These women (of different background and race) had become many kinds of sex idols for him.

The Word of God warns us, that He (through His purifying Word) can only work in us, when we surrender all these things to the Lord Jesus! We should never do this in our own strength, but by the works of the Spirit of God. However, we must be willing, and plead with Him to come in all this as our Savior, and Redeemer, and Soul saver. "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye **through the Spirit** do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." (Romans 8:13) Revelation 12:11 also speaks of this.

In the last case the seed fell **in good soil**. It was **good soil** that the seed fell into; this is: a human heart that does not seek self, and does not want to live its carnal life, but (a heart) that wants to be rid of it all to Jesus, the LIVING Word of God, Which has now come into his life. The corresponding verses in the other Gospels not only tell us of a hundredfold fruit-bearing, like here, but also of a thirty fold and a sixty fold fruit-bearing. When 100 is the highest feasible thing, we can speak of a 30%, 60% and 100% fruit-bearing. In the first case 30% of all labor is done by the Spirit, and 70% still by man; because God's sanctification in man could not yet fully work. In the second case 60%, the greater part of all work of that servant of God, by and in the power of the Spirit, and 40% in own strength. In the last case 100%, which is all the work, is done in the power of the Holy Spirit!

God wants to give us 100% fruit-bearing. But it all depends on our yielding and devotion to Him. Many run ahead of Him (consciously or not), and in doing so leave Him behind! But when we follow the Lord... He will do it for us, and give us a 100% crop (Ephesians 2:10). We see this "running ahead" of the Lord so often in the young. They love to take action! But I ask you seriously: "Who, in these situations, is to come into action? Is it not the Holy Spirit? How can the Word work mightily in the Church and in this world, if not through the Holy Spirit?" It is God's Spirit, Who must work through His laborers (Ephesians 6:17)! What must we do before it comes to pass? We should actively pray in our spiritual waiting period; we must pray for His revival and make ourselves available to Him.

John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth. See how he waits there in the desert, friends; see how he waits patiently for the hour of God's glory. In that hour the Holy Spirit empowered Him... so it is written; and then he truly became "the Word (sent by God), calling in the desert"! Wait for the moment the Spirit of God will clothe you with servanthood; fight for it with fasting and prayer; wait for the great day of God! This is God's will and this is God's calling for every servant of His! Wait for His moment. And when He calls, then follow Him! Surrender to the service of Jesus! But, remain **humble** in heart in all labor for Jesus (Luke 17:10). We shall discuss it in the following.

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3.

We must deny ourselves and "burn (up)" to the honor of Jesus.

In the above we saw that a task of a priest of God can be: the proclamation of the hidden things of God's Kingdom; the proclamation of the will and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ; but also God's judgment if this grace is rejected. We saw, that this grace bringing task cannot always be equally fruitful, because the hearts are not always equally open to the Word of Jesus. We will now see the conditions as to how this Word is to be brought. The way a servant of God spreads this Word, namely the way he lives his life each day to the honor of Jesus, forms the third light of God's sevenfold candlestick in this world.

Luke 8 verse 16-18: *"No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."*

We discover in these verses, that the task of spreading light of a priest of God must take place in a life, that is completely devoted to the Lord Jesus Christ... and the motivation of which is simply and solely the love of Jesus.

This servant here is compared to a lit candle. He spreads light to the honor of Jesus alone, and not to one's own honor. This light comes directly from God the Holy Spirit, unto the salvation of those who re-joyce in it... God placed this candle on a candlestick, and this typifies the uplifting power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's get this straight: the preaching of the Word is **not** talking **about** Jesus or **about** the Word of God, but it is the uttering, in the Name of the Lord Jesus, of a revelation directly received from God. This is why Scripture also speaks of light, that is spread abroad, but which in fact is darkness (It **seems to be** light. Matthew 6:23; 25:7-8). In this case, as far as the proclamation is concerned, there is nothing divine, but all happens from man!

The wonderful light of God's Gospel therefore must be: the Word of the living God, the LIVING Word of God, which is spoken through His servant. Such a Word is alive, and powerful, and penetrates into the life and the inner being of the audience. However, such a life of devotion to God and His Kingdom demands a price: it costs God's servant the sacrifice of all of his "I"-life, and inner state; for he must decrease...

Because God's servant opened himself up for the spreading of God's wonderful Gospel, this light of God, he as far as his own life is concerned, burns (up) like a candle. For this Word is like a fire, and makes God's servant equal to that fire. Everything in his being, that is still "flesh", slowly but surely burns up! The more sanctified such a servant is by God's fire, the more wonderful this fire of God's glory will be seen by others, and tasted in his life and ministry. Therefore, beloved, fellow servants of God, let us stand before Jesus in **self-denying** devotion, that His light will be seen in our life and in our ministry, brightly and in ever increasing measure. It is written that this light should not be covered by a vessel; neither should it be put under a bushel, as a corresponding text tells us in a different gospel; nor should it be put under a bed. These are symbols for the "flesh". A vessel speaks to us of wine and of drinking; a bushel of food; and a bed speaks of carnal lusts, and of laziness. In other words: the powers of the flesh should not hinder the light-spreading task of God's servant, nor should they make it impossible. Therefore we must hand over this "flesh" (voluntarily) to Jesus in order to have it crucified, that we die to it (completely). The Lord Himself must consume all this with the fire of His Being.

Let us realize that we serve a God of fire. And we surrendered to Him. He must burn our old and sinful life to ashes! O wonderful wisdom of God, Who burns our carnal nature to ashes, and Who gives us NEW LIFE in the glory of His holy and glorious divine Glow! We cannot be a servant of God without a walk of the cross, without a process of the cross. We cannot be a servant of God without having our life crucified by the mighty fire of God's glory and holiness, for servanthood means contact with this fire. We **must** yield to that purifying flame. If we don't, we will be consumed by His **judgment fire!**

This fire of God makes us equal to His Image; it reminds us of that event, far back in history, when He created Adam in His Image, whereby Adam became a son of God...

Beloved, let us hand over **everything** to the Lord to have it crucified, that there remain nothing within us that constantly hampers Him, and causes Him grief; and this is necessary that He make us "without spot and

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without wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27); that we be a useful instrument in the almighty, pierced hands of our Lord Jesus Christ! Then the glorious Word of God can flow through us in the majesty of His creative power. Let us strive for this 100% ministry of the Word!

O, the Word of God is creative, it is almighty and divine! And this condition of the LIVING Word of God we **must** be able to reveal. Not in our own strength, but by allowing Jesus, Who is this LIVING Word, to reveal Himself through us without Him being hampered by the "flesh". If the Word is able to reveal Itself in this condition... then, as verse 17 says, it will reveal all the hidden things of God's will to the people; but also all the hidden things deep within the sinner's heart of man! This last for the purpose that man, who by God's Spirit realizes his own sins, will remorsefully repent; and the first, that we in worship and gratitude enter into all of God's promises our ear at first never heard of, and our eye never saw!

7 Verse 18 tells us that, when God – by our sincere surrender and dedication and faithfulness – has been able to put something of Himself within us, He will increase that something. We go from glory to glory. It will develop into a 100% servanthood in God! But if God was **not** able to do this, by our own unrepentance, and we **think** we have something from Him, while God did **not** put anything of Himself within us, than even this **idea** will be taken away from us: this dead faith will be taken away from us by the storms which will ravage our spiritual life...

We have now looked at three lights of God's candlestick, and will now look at the light the shaft of the candlestick gives.

4. We must fully obey God in word and deed; that the anointing of God reveal itself freely in and through us.

Luke 8 verse 19-21: *"Then came to him his mother and his brethren, and could not come at him for the press. And it was told him by certain which said, Thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to see thee. And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which **hear the word of God, and do it.**"*

We have seen that the Word of the living God must consume our old life. And this must be of body, soul and spirit!

When we look at the outline below we notice that the shaft of the candlestick "traverses" three pairs of branches. These three pairs symbolize the life in the body, soul and spirit. The outermost branches symbolize the life in the body; the middle branches typify the life in the soul, and the innermost branches the life in the spirit.

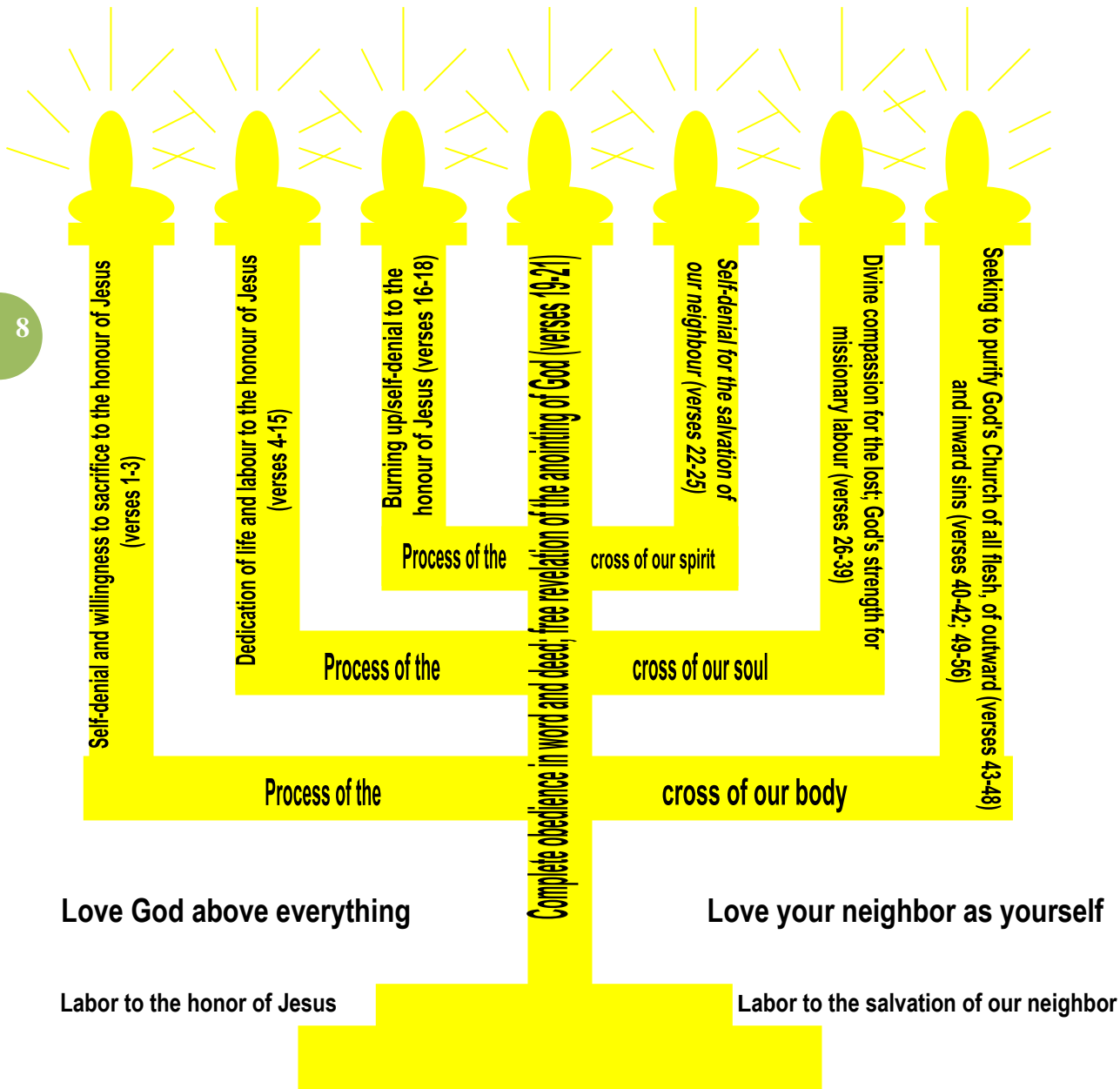
The shaft symbolizes the Lord Jesus Christ Himself – in the Holy Spirit – Who crosses our soul and our spirit that we be truly subservient to Him alone, to the Word of the living God! Because of this the Word of God becomes, as it were, "flesh and blood" in us. Thus we are made a "branch" of the LIVING Word of God (Romans 11:16-24), of the tree of life! Thus we will be as one with Him. In this way we become branches of the wonderful Vine (John 15:1-8). This is why the Lord Jesus calls those, who hear the Word of God, and also **do** it, His mother and His brothers, members of the holy Family of God!

We saw that the body, the soul, and the spirit of the servant of God are brought to servanthood **to the honor of Jesus** – by the fire of God's holiness and glory, crossing our flesh – unto the revelation of His love and glory, and that the motivation to this servanthood is the love towards Jesus, the love towards God. Thus the great requirement, which also was expressed in the law of the Old Testament is met, namely: **"Love God above everything else!"**

We shall see after this, that this revelation of the love and the glory of God must serve unto the salvation of the neighbor, but also to spiritual growth of the entire Church; for the revelation of God's glorious being in this dark world brings the salvation, the redemption and deliverance, the cleansing and sanctification, yes, the fulfillment, to the sinful people of this world. For all this is of God, Who gives us grace for grace!

In this way also the second requirement of God is met, which also was expressed in the Old Testament: **Love your neighbor as yourself!**

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5. **We must deny ourselves that the Lord may use us to the salvation of our neighbor.**

Luke 8 verse 22-25: "Now it came to pass on a certain day, that he went into a ship with his disciples: and he said unto them, Let us go over unto the other side of the lake. And they launched forth. But as they sailed he fell asleep: and here came down a storm of wind on the lake; and they were filled with water and were in jeopardy. And they came to him, and awoke him, saying, Master, master, we perish. Then he arose, and rebuked the wind and the raging of the water: and they ceased, and there was a calm. And he said unto them, Where is our faith? And they being afraid wondered, saying one to another, What manner of man is this! for he commandeth even the winds and water, and they obey Him."

A prophetic image is given here. Jesus stepped on board the ship on the Galilean side (of the lake), and got off on the heathen side, close to the town of Gadara. Gadara namely was a town of the Greek settlement "Decapolis", which means "Ten cities".

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This event symbolizes His going out of the heavenly palaces, and His coming on earth. We read that He slept before the storm rose; here symbolically His death is pictured. The storm which rose when He was asleep, pictures the storm that rose in the hearts of the disciples during those fearful three days and nights "the Son of man was in the heart of the earth". But God's Son rose from the dead, typified here by His being woken from sleep by His disciples. At that moment He gave them new courage with the gentle reproach which sounded in His words: "Where is your faith?" The fear of the Jews, and the feeling of being abandoned by their Master was so great, that His disciples at first did not even believe He had risen from the dead, when they were told by the women (Mark 16:9-11)! Later on the Master appeared to them Himself, and they were full of joy and new courage (John 20:19-20)!

9 What else does this picture tell us? It tells us of the **self-denial** of the Son of God Himself (Philippians 2:5-8). He left heaven's palaces in order to save lost sinners; pictured in the following texts by the deliverance of the demon possessed, and thus lost, Gadarene! He left the heavenly glories and riches to save the Gadarenes, us, which are fooled by satan and sin; to deliver you and me from the hellish powers! You see, the self-denial of the Son of God was for the Church which still was to be formed! Let us follow His example; let us – in the same self-denial – be willing to leave comfort, wealth, self-will and ideals to be renewed by Him, and used to save lost souls in His Name; let us learn to give **everything** to tell those, who are still in the world, how graciously Jesus Christ calls them to come to that Realm of His glory. Let us also shine this sevenfold light of God in this world, namely the light of the complete sacrifice of the "self-will" of our spirit, that we may take sinners to Him, driven by His love – by the divine mercy and compassion He alone is able to put in our heart, by the inner workings of the Spirit of God.

How few among us know this divine compassion for lost souls! We love Jesus and want to serve Him, but the divine compassion for sinners in this world, which must be the motivation of our service, is known only by few among us! Come beloved, let us desire from Him that the light of His love for sinners will also be kindled in our heart, which is God's miracle of a "crossed spirit", of a spirit that was willing to experience the process of the cross.

We shall see hereafter how also our **soul** and our **body** must be crossed through by God's Spirit and God's wonderful Word to be able to stand in this dark world as God's sevenfold candlestick of gold, to the glory of God and to the salvation of many; to the increase of His Kingdom on this earth! In this previous we have automatically arrived at the next point of light of the divine candlestick:

6.

We must receive divine compassion for lost souls.

Luke 8 verse 26-27: *"And they arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is over against Galilee. And when he went forth to land, there met him out of the city a certain man, which had devils long time, and ware not clothes, neither abode in any house, but in the tombs."*

We now know the motivation of the Jesus' crossing over to Gadara: divine compassion, divine love for the Gadarene. We now also know that this forms a prophetic picture of His coming on this earth to free us, who are possessed by the power of the evil one, and sin; to deliver us from this power. And He was moved here-to by His love for sinners. This Gadarene man was naked; and so were we too, in the spirit, because of our sins, when we did not know the Lord yet. The Gadarene lived "in the tombs", near the power of death! So was our life before also in spiritual death; we rejoiced in things and circumstances which belong to the realm of the dead! When these things of "the flesh" are now still found in our life, then this is a bad sign; a sign that we are not yet dead to these things. Therefore we need to bring all this most urgently before His throne, at the foot of the cross, that He give the death blow to these things; so that we be delivered from the "abode in the tombs", namely this spiritual death.

Luke 8 verse 28: *"When he saw Jesus, he cried out (loudly), and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not."*

One tastes here the satanic aversion of an unrepentant soul for Jesus and the things of the bible. Often a (very obvious) resistance is perceivable in him against Jesus and the Gospel, and this is caused by the power of the evil one which is working in him For carnal man forms a spiritual unity with the power of darkness; they have the heartbeat of "hell"! They will avoid you, as a child of God, because you are different from

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them. But the Lord Jesus overcame the powers of hell, and that is why they cannot harm you, unless God allows it.

Luke 8 verse 29: *"(For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the [demon possessed] man. For oftentimes it had caught him [by force]: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.)"*

This man was chained, because he was demon possessed, and therefore he was dangerous for his surroundings (and probably for himself as well). Nowadays most people would call him "crazy" or "mentally disturbed". But, he was truly possessed, namely by satan. True, they had chained him, but these fetters he had broken in the power of satan. With these fetters are meant, spiritually, God's commandments. God, as it were, had placed humanity "in the chains of the law", as He had grafted this law into the hearts and consciences of every person. But man broke these chains, these commandments of God's law by doing what he wanted to do himself. Forbidden things form a temptation for a sinful person! Driven by this tempting power of satan the sinful person breaks God's law; consequently one mocks God and His commandments (Psalm 2:1-3)!

The demon possessed man of Gadara was driven into the desert by the devil, to the wilderness, to the places of death and destruction!

Luke 8 verse 30-33: *"And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion (thousands): because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep. And there was there an herd of many swine feeding on the mountain: and they besought him that he would suffer them to enter into them. And he suffered them. Then went the devils out of the man, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the lake, and were choked (drowned)."*

Here we learn that "many devils" can indwell one human body. We also see clearly, that the Lord solely deals with the person He wants to grant His grace to. "...I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy." (Exodus 33:19b) The Lord had nothing to do with the swine, which symbolize the unrepentant in the world (dog and swine are the biblical symbols for them). The satanic power in a way could do with them whatever it wanted. That is why the demons were allowed to enter into the swine, who, driven mad by them, plunged into the abyss. So it is with people who love this world, and all that is in it: they do not want to know the Lord. Therefore "God sends them a spirit of uncleanness", says God's Word (Romans 1:24, 26, 28). In other words: He allows the satanic power works on them and misleads them. And driven by this "spirit of uncleanness" they plunge into the abyss of hell! God does not bother with those who, knowingly, do not seek Him; God only deals with those who consciously (or unconsciously) seek Him.

Luke 8 verse 34-37: *"When they that fed them saw what was done, they fled, and went and told it in the city and in the country. Then they went out to see what was done; and came to Jesus, and found the man, out of whom the devils were departed, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed, and in his right mind: and they were afraid. They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed. Then the whole multitude of the country of the Gadarenes round about besought him to depart from them; for they were taken with great fear: and he went up into the ship, and returned back again."*

The Gadarenes were afraid. What of? Well, to lose **more**. They lost their swine. They wanted to keep what was theirs; spiritually seen they wanted to keep their old life; they did not want His "process of the cross". And that is why they begged Him to leave them before they lost more because of Him. Carnal people are that way, they do not want Jesus, the Word of the living God, for they do not want to lose any of their worldly lusts, desires, and pleasures to Jesus; they want to keep their old life. "But whoever wants to keep his life, shall lose it." Thus there are a lot of "Christians", who shrink from the process of the cross. They are willing to receive grace from Jesus. They want to be healed by Him, find a job by Him, or a new home, or find help in other needs, but His cross – a change in life by His divine intervention, by His divine fire, so that room is made for a pure and holy life in His love – that they do not want! Such people will **never** be able to inherit ETERNAL LIFE, for the way to ETERNAL LIFE goes only through His cross!

Luke 8 verse 38-39: *"Now the man out of whom the devils were departed besought him that he might be with him: but Jesus sent him away, saying, Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath*

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done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him."

We must continue to see this story as a prophetic symbol, wherein Jesus typifies the "Joyful (Gospel) news", carried by the power of the Holy Spirit and cleansing the sinner of all powers of evil; and by doing so giving NEW LIFE to that saved and purified sinner.

Now, this redeemed sinner asks Jesus to be allowed to go with Him; spiritually seen: to be taken away from earth to be with Him in heaven. But the Lord did not allow him this, but commanded Him to testify to the Gadarenes of God's grace to him. He had to continue Jesus' work there...

In this world let us all be prepared to shine forth this light of God's grace in our every-day life; with the same compassion Jesus had in His love for sinners, and in the same power of the Spirit. Then we can say with Paul: "the love of Christ presses me..."

11

Beloved, we may love Jesus, but the true motivation of our spiritual labor in Christ is this compassion for the (eternal) fate of our neighbor; compassion which must be poured into us, and which must work in us, by the Holy Spirit. A sinner, to whom the Gospel is brought, senses this compassion, senses this divine love which goes out in order to save the lost! A soul feels whether the Gospel preacher (or another child of God) loves him with the love of God! There are many teachers, but few fathers in Christ... This love, which comes from above, (all being well) is felt by the Church in the ministry of her pastor... This love is felt in the ministry of the evangelist which expresses itself before God, also in his pleas: "O God, give me those souls, otherwise I'll die!" This, because that evangelist, in his divine compassion, is moved with the lost state of those souls... Driven by this same compassion let us pray to the Lord of the harvest: "Lord, send more and faithful laborers into Your vineyard!" And now: Who should be so moved for your and my lot, if not Jesus of Nazareth! And yet He said: "I can do nothing, unless I see the Father do it!" He had to **wait** despite His compassion. He knew He must be led by God's Spirit. "I can do nothing (for the Kingdom of God), unless I see the Father do it." Beloved, you see how **everything** is dependent on that great God; how **He alone** builds the New Jerusalem (according to Revelation 21:2; 9-27)!

I pray God that He will give His laborers this divine compassion, but also His guidance in all the work **IN** the Church, and for the salvation of those who are still outside!

The purification of all "flesh", and the perfecting of the Church, solely under the mighty guidance of the Holy Spirit.

We will now look at the last light of the candlestick of God's testimony.

Luke 8 verse 40-56: *"And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him. And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanch'd. And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceived that virtue is gone out of me. And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately. And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace. While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master. But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole. And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead. And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat. And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done."*

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Two stories are intertwined here, and they together form a mystery, the key of which lies in the symbolic value of the biblical number 12. In His bible God often has His own code, which the Spirit of God must reveal to us in order for us to understand the mystery. The number 12 speaks of God's NEW CREATION in this world; of His Church, which He – by the power of His Spirit and Word – created in this world. In the Old Covenant this Church consisted of the 12 tribes of Israel. In the New Covenant the Church was under the leadership of 12 apostles. In the end-time 12 x 12 x 1000 (= 144,000) perfect anointed ones will precede the Church (Zion) in Jesus' Name (Revelation 14:1-5).

In this double story we first meet a little twelve-year-old girl. Until that time she was cheerful and lively, and in her twelfth year she broke down, and died after a severe illness. Then we see a different life! They were twelve sad years, twelve years wherein the woman with the blood issue, in everybody's sight became increasingly weaker because of this sickness. Two lives, yet one story... so wonderfully woven together by the Holy Spirit as if they formed just one story. In fact it **is** only one story, of one life! For both lives symbolize the life of the Church (Congregation) of Christ, the Church of the living God, which must (and can be) be led to healing, i.e. to fulfillment, solely through the work and guidance of the Spirit of Christ, namely the Holy Spirit.

12

The woman with the issue of blood typifies **the conscious life** of the Church **in the flesh**, namely our deliberate sins, our sickly, spiritual state, whereby we are continuously accused by our conscience before God; the twelve-year-old girl, on the other hand, that at first knew that happy childhood to only die suddenly, typifies **the hidden, unintentional sins** of the Church, which are brought into the open by the revelation of the Word and the works of the Holy Spirit. The Word of Truth, in the power of the Holy Spirit, reveals our sins which at first were hidden from us (John 16:8). When they were still hidden from us we were happy, and praised and glorified the Lord. But when the Word of Truth turned us inside-out, and we discovered through God's grace that that which we thought was the Spirit, turned out to be "flesh" after-all, the awareness of sin, and sadness came into our heart. We got to know ourselves to be great sinners.

Because of this revelation of the Holy Ghost Paul had to confess that he was the greatest sinner of all! When all was revealed by the Word and the Holy Spirit, all self-righteousness in his heart disappeared like snow before the sun. So it is with our life: when the light of the Holy Spirit comes into your and my life, and we are turned inside-out by it; when our own deep inner being (whereof we at first were not aware) is unveiled for ourselves, then we discover how we, ourselves, in the depth of our heart, are still entangled in the spiritual death, and this will fill our heart with sadness towards God. We then know that we are lost, unless the grace of Jesus purifies us anew each day.

Often a soul can behave so proudly. But, through the Word and the Spirit of God we must come to sincere meekness, and complete subjection to God. And when, from the depth of our heart, these hidden sins are revealed by the Spirit, we can no longer behave so proudly, and we must confess before Him: "O Lord, have mercy on me a sinner." "For from within, **out of the heart of men**, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness (vice), an evil eye (looking at someone with a murderous look), blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (Mark 7:21-23). You see, you and me, yes the whole Church, must be cleansed from **all** flesh, from all intentional, but also from all unintentional, sins in order to be healed; that spiritual health, this is: **NEW LIFE, perfectness**, be her share. The entire Church of God must come to that measure of purification and sanctification, that she, in the end-time, may (and can) function as the Bride(church) of the Lamb of God which knows no more sin; being "without spot or wrinkle" (Ephesians 5:27)! And this (divine) work must and can solely be done under the guidance and anointing of the Holy Spirit! All initiative and leadership in this purification and sanctification of the Church must come from Him. "And he (Christ) gave some apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;... For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: **Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" (Ephesians 4:11-16).

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So the laborer of Christ should also have no faith at all in his own strength and planning, nor in the strength and help of other people, but should put his trust completely in the powerful leadership, anointing(s), and provisions of Christ alone, in his ministry of Christ in the Church, as well as in his mission in the world outside. To God be **all** glory!

Conclusion.

Summarizing, let us look once again at the candlestick of God's testimony in the world.

We see the similarity between the first branch of the candlestick, and the last one; both refer to the "**flesh**". The first branch reveals Christ by the working of the cross in the body of believers, so that they give up personal comfort in order to support the work of Christ financially, to the honor and glorification of Jesus' Name alone; the last branch reveals Christ by the full working of the cross in all "flesh" of the entire Church, whereby deliverance is achieved from all intentional and unintentional sins. And so we receive the fullness of our NEW LIFE, by the infilling with – and by the inner working of – all the fullness of God (Ephesians 3:19). When we look at the next pair of branches of the candlestick of God's testimony, which here also, as it were, sprout out of one knot of the shaft, then we see that both refer to the **soul**.

On the one hand we see Christ take shape in the believer by a working of the cross in the soul, whereby a willingness is found to dedicate one's life to the honor and glorification of Christ; on the other hand we see by the same working of the cross the old life make way for the NEW LIFE, which knows divine compassion for the sinner, for all lost souls, and a divine desire to save all those lost souls, and, wholeheartedly, bring them to obedience unto God and His Word. This compassion is not human, but divine, and is only brought forth because He poured out His loving nature within us. We can bring the Gospel without a semblance of compassion for the lost; without our heart crying out because of their lost state. This compassion is a fruit of God's Spirit, which can only come into us by His influence. This compassion alone should form the great urge whereby God's servants would give up their social jobs in order to be led to His vineyard by His Spirit. Then the "sheep" will feel the love of the Good Shepherd in the behavior and speech of their minister (pastor), because this divine love will be seen and felt through everything. This "love is long-suffering (patient; being able to endure a lot before getting angry); it is charitable (merciful, gracious, gentle); this love is not envious; love does not act rashly (impulsively); it is not puffed up (having a too high opinion of self); it does not act unseemly; does not seek self; is not bitter; thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; it covers all things, believes all things; endures all things; it never fails!" (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Let us now pay attention to the last (and innermost) pair of branches of the candlestick. Both refer to the human **spirit**. If, by the crucifixion our spirit, on the one hand Christ is revealed in our willingness to diminish, and finally be dumb at the undergoing of all His decrees; on the other hand He is revealed by the powerful anointing of His presence unto the salvation of our neighbor. This way it is only the LIVING Word of God we make our most precious property, having as the only goal the salvation of humanity which is lost in sin! Humiliation and persecution are willingly suffered as long as the purpose in Christ is served in this world. And this whole process of the cross of body, soul and spirit can only be worked by the shaft of this candlestick of God's testimony: namely by Jesus Christ, the Lord, Who must fulfill this in our life by the purifying fire of His being, and by the powerful anointings of His Spirit. Only then His Church can be a true candlestick, and shine as His witness (by spreading its light), and labor in this dark world... It is Jesus Christ and none other than He, Who must fill us; it is Jesus Christ and none other than He, Who must shape us; it is Jesus Christ and none other than He, Who is the Builder of the New Jerusalem, and Who can draw His Church out of this sinful world; it is again and again the LIVING Word of God **alone**, Which must work through us and enable us to stand in this world as bearers of light.

Beloved, all this we must yearningly expect in this world, that we be taken by Him from glory to glory; in order that He work through us and He stretch out His pierced hands through us for the salvation of this world. In my opinion I do not need to stress the fact that such a life demands a continual state of prayer in order to watch with Him; in order to serve Him in this world the way He wishes, and to understand His gentle signs. How seldom most of us actually seek Jesus, that He, Who is the Shaft, the Center of the Candlestick of God's testimony, truly cross through our body, our soul and our spirit that the Word of God come to a true disclosure in our life. Supplications to Him and for Him are the only way to reveal this mighty candlestick of

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God's testimony in this world, and this is necessary in order that this light develop into the promised mighty Holy-Spirit revival of these last days. Amen.

The end of Chapter 8

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