

Part 4 - The Call for a Free Will Offering – a Willing Heart

[A Review of: The Table of Shewbread, the Candlestick for Light...]

Exodus 35

13 The table, and his staves, and all his vessels, and the shewbread,

We learned of the Table of Shewbread back in Exodus 25, part 4 [for a refresher click here; https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Exodus/173]. The table was, like the Ark of the Covenant, made of shittim (acacia) wood so it was very durable and stable but, it too, was overlaid with gold. It also had a crown like a wreath made around the top and the bottom. It also (like all the furniture in the Tabernacle) was designed to be mobile. God instructed that four golden rings (one on each corner) be built into it so the table could be safely moved with shittim (acacia) wood beams. It wasn't a large table; approximately 3 feet long, 1.5 feet wide and 2.25 feet high but it was large enough to hold all the items needed for its purpose. And just what was its purpose?

Well, it was to hold things like dishes, spoons, covers, bowls – all made of pure gold (Ex 25:29). These items were thing the priests used while performing the blood and meal sacrifices and in mixing spices for use in the ceremonious rituals. We learned back in chapter 25 that, although we no longer use gold dishes, because we no longer make blood sacrifices (Heb 10:10), we certainly have some very wonderful spiritual 'dishes' wherewith to make *spiritual* sacrifices today (Ps 50:7-15, 107:11, 116:17, Jonah 2:9, Amos 4:5, Ps 54:6, Jer 17:26, 33:1, Deut 33:19, Ps 4:5, Heb 13:15). Unlike people back in Moses' day, and even in Jesus' day, we today have the written Word of God *literally at our fingertips*. We also have an excellent study Bible called the *Companion Bible*. This Bible is *not a commentary*, but provides 'companion' text in the margins to help point out figures of speech and other very valuable information regarding measurements, customs (and so forth) of the era the Bible was written. Another 'golden tool' we have today is in the *Strong's Concordance*, which is a dictionary that allows English readers to understand the original Hebrew (Old Testament) and the Greek (the New Testament) languages the Bible was written in. As in English, one word often has many other meanings in the Hebrew and the Greek. So, it's important to look at words in the Strong's Concordance to get a fuller understanding of what's actually being said. It helps to also take the word back to the prim root, to get a better understanding of what's actually being said.

But the dishes were not the only items that were to be on the Shewbread Table. Naturally, there was also to be... *shewbread*. Exodus 25:30 says: *thou shalt set upon the table shewbread before me alway*. We learned that 'shewbread' is made up of two words. The first is #3899, which means: *food* (for man or beast), especially *bread*, or *grain* (for making it). The second word is #6440 and means: *the face* (as the part that turns); used in a great variety of applications (literally and figuratively). So, the word translated as 'shewbread' really could have been rendered as the 'bread of faces'. We also learned that this word 'face[s]' is used as another figure of speech and is thus used 'in leu of' the word *presence*. What this boils down to is that *this shewbread was symbolizing the Divine presence* (of YHWH) from whom all supplies (material and spiritual)

come. And that's what was to be on the Table of Shewbread *at all times* – *God's Divine presence*. This, of course, has great spiritual implications for us yet today. Remember that all the items in the Tabernacle (yea, even the Tabernacle itself) are a lesson in imagery for us. It's God's Way of teaching us how to sincerely come to Him in prayer; it teaches us what He requires of us before He will hear us. So, all these items in the Tabernacle are still very important to us today simply for the fact of what they represent: different parts of cleansing our soul so we can communicate with our Heavenly Father (YHVH).

So then, what is the spiritual lesson that the Table of Shewbread (Bread of Faces) teaches us? Well, as to exactly what the true 'shewbread' really is, we don't have to guess because Jesus bluntly told us...

*And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life**: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.*

John 6:35

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

*48 **I am that bread of life.***

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

*51 **I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever:** and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*

John 6:47-51

But, just *why* is Jesus Christ the Bread of Life? He candidly explains later in John 6...

*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words** that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*

John 6:63

This explanation came after He had said we must 'eat His flesh' and 'drink His blood'. This offended many, even His disciples, because *they were thinking in the flesh*. But in John 6:63 (above) Jesus clarified what He meant: we must spiritually partake of His Words (mentally digest them) and allow His Holy Spirit to clean our heart *through His Words*. He made this explicitly clear in John 15:3 when He said: *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you*. And also, in John 17:17, when He prayed to the Father: *Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth*. So, the true nourishment we need is not merely physical food. We also must have food for our soul and spirit, which is only found in the Word of God. That's why Jesus told us *that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God* (Luke 4:4). He was quoting from what Moses said in Deut 8:3 [https://t.me/BibleStudyBooks_Deuteronomy/36].

In other words, we cannot be rebellious hearted if we want to live forever. All those who refuse to repent (Isa 1:20) and obey Jesus Christ (*from the heart*) are going into the lake of fire at the

end of the Millennium (Rev 20). But those who partake of the true ‘shewbread’, who is Jesus Christ, will spiritually digest His Words (the Bible) which is our spiritual bread. His Body (the Word of God) and His blood (His Holy Spirit) are what helps us to clean our heart and mind by giving us spiritual nourishment (truth) that cleans out the filth (lies). In Ezek 18:31 God makes His will so perfectly clear for us when He says: *Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and **make you a new heart and a new spirit**: for why will ye die, O house of Israel?* This is truly a call to all of His children, regardless of race, nationality or gender. Shortly before Jesus died for our sins, He explained how we are to approach Him in prayer *instead of* the blood sacrifices. He gave us Communion to observe (Mth 26) because that’s how we symbolically (not literally) partake of our Lord and Savior’s Blood and Body. In other words, communion symbolizes how we are to *spiritually* partake of His blood (which symbolizes His Holy Spirit) and His Body (which symbolizes the Word of God). So, while we are to observe Communion on the Feast days, we are to mentally (spiritually) partake in His Word and allow His Holy Spirit to guide us *every single day* of our lives, not just on Sunday or Feast days. The Holy Spirit, through Paul, explains why...

For the word of God is quick [living], and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Heb 4:12

You see, we can easily fool ourselves into thinking we’re righteous. Self-righteous hypocrisy is very common in religion, even (or especially) Christianity (this is what Jesus warned us of in Lk 12:1). But, when we study God’s Word (*with sincerity*), His Word will convict us (*all thorough our life*) about things we are thinking, desiring and doing that are not right (sinful). He teaches us that *our thought process is what is killing us when we allow our carnal mind to control us.* And the very core of conviction comes *within the heart* (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23). We may think that our thoughts, desires and intentions are righteous, but... when we examine them alongside the Word of God, the Light of the Holy Spirit will shine into our heart (our carnal mind where our desires, feelings and intentions are) and mind (our thought process) and (when we are cooperating with His Holy Spirit) we’ll see how crooked (sinful) we really are. This is why the prophet the prophet Isaiah exclaimed: *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away* (Isa 64:6).

The Word of God teaches us that we must learn to control our emotions, feelings and desires instead of them controlling us. It’s natural to have emotions, feelings and desires but the *object* of our feelings and desires is what makes all the difference. Do we desire to do God’s will or our own? While feelings, emotions and desires are not *always* ‘bad’, the word of God tells us that *they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit* (Gal 5:24-25). Colossians further states: *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth* (Col 3:1-2). This chapter goes on to explain

that we should ‘mortify’ (kill) our carnal inclinations (‘members’) such as *fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry* because, for these things *the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience* (Col 3:5-6). Therefore, we should be on guard, for our feelings, emotions and desires can (and will) easily lead us astray (IF we let them). Do you want to be a disobedient child? Do you want the wrath of God come upon you? Then you must learn to control your flesh body and fleshly mind with the lusts, emotions and other carnal inclinations (Rom 8:7, James 4:4). And don’t feel like your struggle with this is unique. We **all** have to work to control our fleshly inclinations (Lk 13:23-28). So don’t think that the daily struggle you go through is something out of the ordinary. You are not alone in the fight against the carnal side...

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 Cor 10:11-13

God’s Word is full of examples that show, no matter who it is, we all struggle with the flesh. Even prophets of God had this struggle (1 Kings 13:7-24, Jer 20:7-9, 1 Kings 19). The beautiful reminder in 1 Cor 10 is that, although we all have daily struggles with the flesh, our Heavenly Father will always help us resist the temptation to sin IF we simply stay convicted to His Word and committed to obeying Him. James 1:13 tells us: *Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.* And 1 Pt 1:7, along with 1 Pt 4:12-13 even tell us that learning to overcome temptation to sin is *what makes us spiritually strong* - so we *need* the temptations in our life, so we *can learn to overcome them*. After all, one must have something to overcome in order to be an ‘overcomer’ do they not? And while Jesus is the only one who has ever lived without sin (Eph 2:15-16, Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5), God expects us to work hard to stop sinning *from the heart* (Mth 15:13-20, Mk 7:20-23).

You should take comfort knowing that, because Jesus has overcome sin, His Holy Spirit knows exactly how to help you do it too (Rom 8, He 2:14-18). It’s the struggle to overcome the sinful thoughts, desires, lusts, pride, greed, bitterness (and so forth) that teaches us to overcome them *and* reminds us why we don’t want to go back to them. We must, therefore, also learn to guard our heart (Deut 4:10), to keep our emotions and desires from getting out of hand and leading us astray. Desire can easily turn into lust and emotions/feelings can easily move us to do things that are not right with God. Prov 14:12 warns us that *there is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*. Prov 16:25 echo’s this warning for emphasis. When we’re thinking in the flesh, sin seems logical because we are spiritually malnourished. That’s why we need to keep the true Bread of Life before our face (in our heart and mind) continually,

just as it was to be kept in the Tabernacle before God's face continually. This is how we stay spiritually nourished and cleansed and how we keep 'in touch' with our Heavenly Father.

So, although this physical 'shewbread' was necessary in the days of the Moses when the physical Tabernacle stood, it is *symbolic* of Jesus Christ, who is the Word of God. Further, while the Table of Shewbread, and all the items on it (including the bread itself), teach us several things, they all remind us that our Heavenly Father wants His Words to be 'before our face' ***continually*** (always - all the time). Deut 30:14 says that *the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.* God's Word is not something we should read simply because we think it's pleasing to Him. We must read *with understanding* for it to do us any good. Like our body must actually digest food to get any nutrients out of it, so too we must digest (spiritually) God's Word if we are to get any spiritual nutrients out of it. Only when we digest His Word *and learn to obey it from our heart* are we pleasing to God. His Words are Spirit and therefore the Word of God gives our spirit life... but again, that's *only when we digest it* because the Word of God gives us understanding of truth (John 6:63, Ps 119:150, 144). This is the essence of the spiritual lesson in the Table of Shewbread.

Exodus 35

14 The candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light,

Next, Moses called for the *the candlestick also for the light, and his furniture, and his lamps, with the oil for the light* to be made. The spiritual significance of the candlesticks is clearly expressed in the Word of God...

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

*10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*

*12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw **seven golden candlesticks;***

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

*20 **The mystery** of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and **the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.***

Rev 1:9-20

The word ‘churches’ in verse 20 (above) is #1577 and it means: **a calling out**, i.e. (concretely) a popular meeting, especially a religious congregation. So, the Church is not a physical building [learn more in the studies: **The Church** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/332> and **Church is Not Christianity** <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/212>]. It’s not even all people who call themselves Christians. It is a calling out. Who does the calling and what are we to come out of?

1 And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

*2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, **Babylon** the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.*

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

*4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, **Come out of her, my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.*

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

Rev 18:1-5

We are called to come out of Babylon, which is *confusion in people’s minds*. And that confusion is put there by Satan’s ‘governmental’ system that controls the world today through economics, politics, education and religion [**Evil Devices** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/68>]. Naturally, it is our Heavenly Father who calls us to come out of Babylon (confusion) and serve Him instead of sin (Rom 1:1,6-7, Rom 6, John 15:12-19). So, **the candlestick in the Tabernacle is symbolic of God’s ‘called out ones’** because it is they who are to allow His Light to shine through them...

14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

15 Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matt 5:14-16

The word ‘candle’ in verse 15 is actually *a portable lamp* (#3088). This is why, in Zechariah, we’re given a depiction of *a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof: And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof* (vs 2-3). When Zechariah asked what ‘these’ were, he was told that those ‘seven lamps’ were *those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth* (vs 10) and the *two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves are the two anointed ones, that stand by the LORD of the whole earth* (11-14). Rev 11 confirms these ‘two anointed ones’ are the ‘two witnesses’ God will use to testify against the antichrist (who is Satan, 2 Thess 2) when he is here pretending to be God. God will have Satan kicked out of heaven *before* Jesus Christ returns (Rev 12:7-10) so the Gospel can be published to the entire world (in hopes many will repent, Rev 7:9) before Jesus Christ returns (2 Pt 3:9).

In Mth 24, Mk 13 and Lk 21 Jesus has also warned that other faithful followers of Jesus Christ (aside from the two witnesses) will be delivered up to the ‘abomination of desolation’ (who is Satan in his role of the antichrist, sitting in the Temple of God, 2 Thess 2). Again, the purpose is the ‘let the light shine’ so the Gospel of Jesus Christ can be published in all the earth. The two witness’ testimony will fuel spiritual truth to the other faithful servants of Jesus Christ and that will allow their soul’s to be a spiritual lamp through which the Light (the truth) will shine through. The Light of the Gospel of Jesus Christ *will be taught to the entire world before* the true Jesus Christ returns, *so that all people have a chance to repent*. They must be warned that Satan really is not the Messiah – he will be, in fact, the Devil himself! Sadly, the corrupt Churches are setting Christians up for a massive ‘falling away’ which, 2 Thess 2, Dan 11, Mth 24, Mk 13 and Lk 21 all warn us about. This falling away is actually apostasy (2 Thess 2:3, #646) because Christians will ‘defect’ from the truth (the true Jesus Christ) for a lie (the false Jesus Christ) when Satan is on earth pretending to be the Savior of all mankind. Satan will be very convincing and those not mentally, emotionally and physically prepared for it will be caught up in the lies Satan and his fallen angels (as well as many others on earth) will tell. The lies are likened to a flood in Rev 12 and to locusts in Rev 9 because of the way they will rush in with lies and consume any truth that’s in the mind of those who are not prepared and guarding their heart and mind against deception. Further, Rev 13 and 2 Thess 2 warn us that Satan will be able to perform ‘miracles’ which will seduce most of the world into believing that he’s the ‘Messiah’ (Savior of the world) and therefore they will worship him and his evil governmental (law) system.

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:19-21

Those who don't want to stop doing evil (get rid of their sin) are afraid to come to the Light, which IS Jesus Christ, the Word of God (Eph 6:17, Rev 19:13). Why? Because they don't want their sins to be exposed; they want to keep doing them undetected (and unpunished). This is what makes people susceptible to Satan's deception, because *Satan's 'gospel' is that people don't have to change from their sins*. Under Satan's system sin is ok because he has 'redefined' God's law to mean whatever people want it to be. In other words, Satan teaches (as many corrupt Churches do as well) that God's Law has been done away with, and people are free to sin as they please. Simply believing is all that you need to be saved? Believe in WHAT? Believing in *yourself* won't save you. Believing in moral relativism won't save you. Only believing in Jesus Christ, the Word of God, will save you and that requires action (James 2) – you must actually obey God if you truly believe Him and, yes, this does require us to stop sinning because sinning is bad for us!!! As Deut 10:13 tells us, God's Law is given for our good. 2 Tim 3:16-17 further explains that *all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works*. **But Satan and his crooked system deny the cleansing power of God's Word and of the precious blood of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:7), which is symbolic of how Jesus' Holy Spirit cleanses our soul.** Therefore, *many* are deceived by Satan's lies and they don't let the true light to shine through them. The true light is, of course, Jesus Christ – His Holy Spirit and His Word.

6 *There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

7 *The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.*

8 *He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.*

9 ***That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.***

10 *He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.*

11 *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:*

13 *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

14 ***And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***

John 1:6-14

5 *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*

6 ***And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.***
Ps 37:5-6

3 *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:*

4 ***In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.***

5 *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.*

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 Cor 4:3-6

14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

*15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, **among whom ye shine as lights in the world**;*

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Phil 2:14-16

Like John, we should let the light of Jesus Christ shine through us so we too can testify to the holiness and righteousness of the Word of God. If we don't allow the Holy Spirit to shine and flow through us, we will end up quenching His Holy Spirit (1 Thess 5:19) ...

19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

*20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; **the candle of the wicked shall be put out.***

Prov 24:19-20

*And **the light of a candle shall shine no more at all in thee**; and the voice of the bridegroom and of the bride shall be heard no more at all in thee: for thy merchants were the great men of the earth; for by thy sorceries were all nations deceived.*

Rev 18:23

Let us never forget that light is symbolic of truth (Ps 4:6, 18:28, 27:1, 36:9, 27:6, 119:105, 130, Prov 6:23, Isa 8:20, Dan 2:23, Hosea 6:5, Micah 7:8-9, Mth 5:14-16, Eph 5:8-14, 1 Thess 5:5, 1 Pt 2:9) and darkness is likened to lies (Prov 2:13, 4:19, 20:20, Ecc 2:14).

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Ps 119:105

So, the purpose of the candlestick and the seven lamps is *to shed light (truth) in the Tabernacle*, which is symbolic of our soul, which is what the true Temple really is (1 Cor 3:16, 6:19, 2 Cor 6:16). Additionally, seven in Biblical numerics [<https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/960>] means: *completeness and spiritual perfection*. Further, thousand in Biblical numerics means: *Divine completeness and the glory of God*. Those who are a 'lamp' (candle, Mth 5) for our Heavenly Father will allow His Light (truth) to shine through them (to the world) because they have studied His Word (and continue to do so), understand it, believe it and act on it in their daily lives. They stick with it. They persevere. They remain loyal to Jesus Christ (the Word of God). The 'lamps' of God are not those who simply feel emotional about the thought of Jesus Christ. Those people are not looking for truth but *they simply want a feel-good emotion to cover up their guilty conscience*. Peace of mind is different than emotionalism. We should be careful not to seek an emotional trip because, in reality, you are seeking 'familiar spirits'. So, if you are seeking a

‘spiritual experience’ without studying the Word of God *you are indeed seeking ‘familiar’ spirits*, which are actually evil spirits. Most demon possessions happen, not from force, but because the person *willingly* accepts them as something good [<https://t.me/BibleStudyAudios/5>]. Why? Because they are deceived into thinking the evil spirits are ‘light’. So, without knowledge of God’s Word, we can easily be deceived into believing a lie, which is why the Word of God warns us to ‘take heed’ in so many places (Deut 4:9, Mth 24, Mk 13, Lk 21, etc.). [**Take Heed and Keep It** <https://t.me/BibleStudyTruth/943>].

*19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto **ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place**, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:
20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.
21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
2 Peter 1:19-21*

So, the only way we can be a light bearer (a lamp, candlestick) for our Heavenly Father is **to know His Word** and let the truth contained within it to shine through us... from our thoughts to our desires, to our words and to our actions.

*8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but **now are ye light in the Lord**: walk as children of light:
9(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth:)
10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
11 **And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them**.
12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.
13 But **all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light**.
14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, **and Christ shall give thee light**.
Eph 5:8-14*

Also, remember that the dishes used in the Temple were to be made of pure gold. And how to do you get pure gold?

*And I will bring the third part **through the fire**, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.
Zech 13:9*

*Behold, **I have refined thee**, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the **furnace of affliction**.
Isa 48:10*

And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Mal 3:3

2 *My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

3 *Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience.***

4 *But let patience have her perfect work, **that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.***

James 1:1-4

6 *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

7 *That **the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire,** might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:*

8 *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*

9 ***Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.***

1 Peter 1:6-9

While we all need chastisement at times (Deut 8:5, Prov 13:24, Heb 12:5-11) there are going to be plenty of times in life where hard times come that we are not ‘deserving’ of. Yet, we should deal with these hard times with faith and patience, remembering that *there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it* (1 Cor 10:13).

If we want to be a lamp (candle) for our Heavenly Father... and if we want our heart to be ‘pure gold’... then we must learn to ‘take the heat’ and allow it to burn the slag (sin) out of our heart and *grow stronger in faith and more spiritually mature* with each passing day, no matter how difficult the trial or temptation is. That’s what this life is for, after all – refining. God gives us all a flesh body to learn from and what we do with each day of our lives is totally up to us – it’s our responsibility to take God’s Word and keep growing in knowledge and understanding from it. IF we persevere in our walk with our Heavenly Father (striving to know and obey Him better each day) then He will continue to bless us. *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him* (Heb 11:6). So, let’s not forget to do our ‘due diligence’ and ‘diligently seek’ our Heavenly Father through His Word...

We’ll pick this up in part 5...

AMEN.