

I . God is light, and the believers in Christ, as children of God, are children of light :

I 1 John 1:5 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we beheld and our hands handled, concerning the Word of life。 **John 12:36** **While you have the light, believe into the light, so that you may become sons of light. Ephesians5:8** **For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light.**

A. Light is the nature of God in His expression

B. Light is God's shining, God's expression; when God is expressed, the nature of that expression is light

C. As God is light, so we, the children of God, are the children of light; we have believed into the light and have become sons of light

D. To walk in the light as God is in the light is to live, walk, and have our being in the divine light, which is God Himself。 **1 John 1:7** **But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.**

II . In typology lighting the lamps in the sanctuary of God signifies the proper way to meet as Christians :

A. The tabernacle was a place both for God's dwelling and for the meeting of the children of Israel; hence, it was called "the tabernacle of the Tent of Meeting"

Exodus25:8 **nd let them make a sanctuary for Me that I may dwell in their midst.**

1. Whenever we come together to meet as the church, that meeting is God's dwelling place。

Matthew18:20 **For where there are two or three gathered into My name, there am I in their midst.**

2. Our meeting is the sanctuary of God, the Holy Place **1 Corinthians14:25** (全員が集会で預言している所に未信者が入って来ると、) **The secrets of his heart become manifest; and so falling on his face, he will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you.**

B. The proper way to meet is to light the lamps, that is, to give off light; everything that we do in the church meetings should cause the holy light to ascend **Luke11:33** **No one, after lighting a lamp, puts it in the cellar or under the bushel, but on the lampstand, in order that those who enter in may see the light.**

III. The lighting of the lamps is a priestly service, a service of the priests : Exodus27:20 And you shall command the children of Israel to bring to you pure oil of beaten olives for the light, to make the lamps burn continually.21 In the Tent of Meeting, outside the veil which is before the testimony, Aaron and his sons shall set it in order from evening to morning before Jehovah; it shall be a perpetual statute to be observed throughout their generations by the children of Israel.

A. There is the need for holy persons to light the holy lamps in the Holy Place.

B. A priest is a person who is absolutely for God, who is fully possessed by God, and who lives and has his being wholly for God; in every respect and in every way, his unique interest is God 1Peter2:5 You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; Revelation1:6 And made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be the glory and the might forever and ever. Amen.5:9 And they sing a new song, saying: You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, for You were slain and have purchased for God by Your blood men out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,10 And have made them a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign on the earth.

C. The one who lights the lamps is a person who is possessed by God, who is saturated with God, and who lives absolutely for God:

1. Whatever such a person says and does in the sanctuary of God is the lighting of the lamps; all his actions are the lighting of the lamps

2. When the holy priests speak in the church meetings, the light ascends, and the sanctuary is full of light 1 Corinthians14:19 But in the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, that I might instruct others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue. Matthew5:14 You are the light of the world. It is impossible for a city situated upon a mountain to be hidden.15 Nor do men light a lamp and place it under the bushel, but on the lampstand; and it shines to all who are in the house.16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, so that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in the heavens.

IV. The light in the sanctuary of God is neither a natural light nor an artificial light; it is a divine light, a holy light, the real light, which is God Himself : **John 1:4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.9 This was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man.**

Revelation 21:23 And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon that they should shine in it, for the glory of God illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb.24 And the nations will walk by its light; and the kings of the earth bring their glory into it.

A. Today's Christians are divided by many kinds of natural and artificial light

Isaiah 50:10 Who among you fears Jehovah; Who hears the voice of His servant; Who walks in darkness And has no light? Let him trust in the name of Jehovah, And rely on his God.11 Indeed, all of you who kindle a fire, Who surround yourselves with firebrands, Walk into the light of your fire And into the firebrands which you have lit. You will have this from My hand: You will lie down in torment.

2 Corinthians 11:14 And no wonder, for Satan himself transfigures himself into an angel of light.

B. For the building up of the Body of Christ, we need to live and walk under the unique and genuine light, the light of our redeeming and shining God。 **Ephesians 5:8 For you were once darkness but are now light in the Lord; walk as children of light**

V. God's light is in the sanctuary, and in this light we see light and the true nature of things; we see what God sees and know His way :

Psalms 36:9 For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light.

A. "O God, Your way is in the sanctuary" (Psalms 77:13) :

1. God's way is hidden and His paths, with His footsteps, are not known to men。 **Psalms 77:19 Your way was in the sea, And Your paths in the great waters; And Your footsteps were not known.**

2. His way is revealed in the sanctuary, that is, in our spirit and in the church

3. When we exercise our spirit and live in the church, God's way becomes clear to us.

B. Γ "When I considered this in order to understand it, / It was a troublesome task in my sight, / Until I went into the sanctuary of God; / Then I perceived their end"

1. Once we are in the sanctuary—in the spirit and in the church—we will have another view, a particular perception, of the situation.

2. In our spirit and in the church, under the shining of God's light, we receive divine revelation and obtain the explanation to all our problems.

VI. Certain elements are involved whenever we experience the genuine lighting of the lamps in the church meetings—the embodiment of the Triune God, the divine nature, the uplifted humanity of Jesus, and the Spirit of Christ :

Colossians2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, 2Peter1:4 Through which He has granted to us precious and exceedingly great promises that through these you might become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption which is in the world by lust. Romans1:3 Concerning His Son, who came out of the seed of David according to the flesh,4 Who was designated the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness out of the resurrection of the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord;8:9 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Yet if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not of Him.

A. The light in the sanctuary of God issues from the lampstand, which signifies the embodiment of the Triune God

Exodus37:17 And he made the lampstand of pure gold. He made the lampstand with its base and its shaft of beaten work; its cups, its calyxes, and its blossom buds were of one piece with it.

B. The light comes out of the gold, that is, the divine nature of Christ

John1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.8:12 Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall by no means walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

C. Christ is golden (divine), but it is His humanity, signified by the wick, that burns with oil.

The light of the lampstand comes from the burning of the wick. In ancient times the wick was made of materials from plants. The wick signifies Christ's humanity....Christ is divine, golden. But it is His humanity, signified by the wick, that burns with oil. If the wick had not been saturated with oil, it would give off smoke instead of light

D. The oil signifies the Spirit of God, who has passed through a process to become the Spirit of Christ

1. Oil comes from olive trees, and the olive tree signifies ChristRomans11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,

Psalms104:15 Even wine that cheers man's heart, Oil that makes his face shine, And bread that sustains man's heart.

2. Just as olives pass through a process to produce olive oil, so the Spirit of God has passed through a process involving incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection to become the Spirit of Christ

3. Whatever we utter in the meetings must be with the pure oil of the olive tree **1 Corinthians 2:12** But we have received not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God, that we may know the things which have been graciously given to us by God; **13** Which things also we speak, not in words taught by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things with spiritual words.

a. We need the experience of Christ as the olive tree in His incarnation, human living, crucifixion, and resurrection; this means that the aspects of Christ's process need to become our experience.

Romans 11:17 But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them and became a fellow partaker of the root of fatness of the olive tree,

b. We need the cross to work in us so that we may have the pure olive oil—oil that has passed through incarnation and crucifixion and has entered into resurrection **2 Corinthians 1:8** For we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, of our affliction which befell us in Asia, that we were excessively burdened, beyond our power, so that we despaired even of living. **9** Indeed we ourselves had the response of death in ourselves, that we should not base our confidence on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead; **10** Who has delivered us out of so great a death, and will deliver us; in whom we have hoped that He will also yet deliver us, **4:11** For we who are alive are always being delivered unto death for Jesus' sake that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. **12** So then death operates in us, but life in you.

Philippians 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** If perhaps I may attain to the out-resurrection from the dead.

E. Meeting to light the lamps in the sanctuary involves every aspect of our spiritual experience in the Christian life. **Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live in faith, the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. **1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. 金

VII. The qualification for the priests to light the lamps in the sanctuary of God is the expression of Christ, signified by the priestly garments : **Exodus28:2 And you shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother, for glory and for beauty.**

A. The significance of the priestly garments is the expression of Christ in the priesthood:

1. We have not only Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God, the divine nature of Christ, the uplifted humanity of Christ, and the Spirit of Christ with all the steps of His process, but we have also the expression of Christ.
2. The qualification for a priest to light the lamps in the sanctuary of God is the expression of Christ.

B. The garments signify Christ lived out of the priesthood

Galatians3:27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

C. The priestly garments, being mainly for glory and for beauty, signify the expression of Christ's divine glory and human beauty

1. Glory is related to Christ's divinity, His divine attributes , and beauty, to Christ's humanity, His human virtues. **John1:14 And the Word became flesh and tabernacled among us (and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only Begotten from the Father), full of grace and reality. Hebrews1:3 Who, being the effulgence of His glory and the impress of His substance and upholding and bearing all things by the word of His power, having made purification of sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**
2. Christ's divinity, typified by the gold of the priestly garments, is for glory, and His humanity, typified by the blue, purple, and scarlet strands and the fine linen, is for beauty
3. A life that expresses Christ with the divine glory and human beauty sanctifies us and qualifies us to carry out the priestly service of lighting the lamps in the sanctuary of God

VIII. The purpose of the gathering of the believers is to have the sanctuary of God with the lighting of the lamps by qualified priests so that we may have a vision of the different aspects of Christ and see the way to enter into the depths of Christ within God

Exodus25:23 And you shall make a table of acacia wood: two cubits shall be its length, and a cubit its width, and one and a half cubits its height. 31 And you shall make a lampstand of pure gold. The lampstand with its base and its shaft shall be made of beaten work; its cups, its calyxes, and its blossom buds shall be of one piece with it. 30:1 And you shall make an altar on which to burn incense; you shall make it of acacia wood.

Experience (The model of marriage Life and the family life including BH, SH)

① **Psa. 73:16-17** When I considered this in order to understand it, It was a troublesome task in my sight, Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I perceived their end.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from every sin.

Once we are in the holy place (in the spirit and in the church), we will have a different understanding and another way of looking at the situation. When we are in the spirit and in the church, under the light of God's light, sacred revelation we will receive, explanation of problem we will gain.

When you are in your natural life, losing the light and in darkness, you are met with complaints about your spouse, your home environment, your working environment, or the feelings of injustice to your teachers and classmates in school. The more you think the more you will be dragged into the darkness, which will only prompt the complaints to increase. God's light is the only solution for such time. God's light is in our spirit and in the church life, utilize your spirit, pray-read the word, praise with hymns, and enjoy the Lord with brothers and sisters. While enjoying the Lord, you will confess your sin, weakness, shortcoming, and any living habit not based on faith that are exposed by the light, and apply Jesus' blood to them. After God's light had shone upon you, it will shine on the environment around you and brings out the truth for you to see. By doing it, even if there is hardship, you can powerfully move forward in peace with the Lord. Amen!

② **Gal. 3:27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

The qualification for a priest to light the lamps in the Holy Place is the expression of Christ through the priestly garments. If in our daily living we do not have the expression of Christ, then whatever we do in the church meetings will be hypocrisy. Our speaking and activities in the meetings will be hypocritical. If we do not have the priestly garments, we are not qualified or equipped to light the lamps. The qualification for a priest to light the lamps in the Holy Place is the expression of Christ.

In order to unleash the light from the lighted lamps to the brothers and sisters in the church meeting, first, in your daily life (marriage life, family life, working life, student life) you need to, be revived every morning, call upon the name of the Lord in order to live with Him everyday, fellowship with the Lord, enjoy Christ, and maintain a life that expresses Christ. The qualification for a priest to light the lamps in the Holy Place is in the priestly garments, that is, for the priest to significantly express Christ in the daily life. To fulfill the duty of a priest, you need to pay attention to your own living.

573 祈り—香をたく (英791)

- 1 さい司のつとめはしんせいで高しよ;
つねにかみをあおぎ, かみに香たく!
(復)かみに香たく! つねに香たく!
ともし火あかるくし, かみにうたう!
- 2 せい所のひかりは, ともし火のひかり,
さい司はこうをたき, しょく台ともす!
- 5 みことば読むとき, わがうちを照らし,
ともし火はともって, ひかり満ちる。
- 6 しい歌で主をほめ, さい司のよううたう;
あいとめぐみの主をまんきつする。
- 7 いのりで香をたき, せい書でひかり得,
しい歌でさん美して, その霊ながす。

791. Prayer - Burning the Incense

- 1 The priest's position holy is;
He sacrifices e'er to God,
Beholds His beauty, incense burns
Of prayer before the Lord.
(c) Let us the incense burn
Of prayer before the Lord;
The lamp we'd light, through day and night
Our praise to Him outpoured.
- 2 No natural light, but just the lamp
Within the holy place gives sight;
Whene'er the priest the incense burns,
The lamp he too must light.

573 禱告—焼香

- 1 祭司職分神聖高尚! 常將祭物向神獻上,
常在聖所向神仰望, 常在神前燒香!
(副) 常在神前燒香! 常在神前燒香!
常在神前將燈點亮, 也常向神歌唱!
- 2 聖所並無天然之光, 需要燈臺發光照亮;
祭司每逢進內燒香, 都要將燈點亮!
- 5 我要讀經接受亮光, 如同神前將燈點亮;
神聖之光照耀輝煌, 在我心中射放。
- 6 我要唱詩向主頌揚, 猶如祭司向神歌唱,
頌揚主恩、主愛無疆, 我就將主飽嘗。
- 7 禱告獻上主的馨香, 讀經接受主的亮光,
唱詩頌揚主的恩賞, 主靈就得通暢!

- 5 I'll read His Word, His light receive,
E'en as the lamp before Him lit,
His holy light illum'ning me
To others I'll transmit.
- 6 Unto the Lord His praise I'll sing
As holy priests their songs did raise;
O may my heart be filled with Him
His love and grace to praise.
- 7 I'll offer Christ to God in prayer,
I'll read the Word, His light to know,
For all His grace I'll sing His praise,
The Spirit then may flow.