

MONDAY

September 22

Offerings and the Spirit

Read Exodus 35:4–36:7. What important lessons are here for us today?

4 And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying,

5 Take ye from among you an offering unto the Lord: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the Lord; gold, and silver, and brass,

6 And blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair,

7 And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood,

8 And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense,

9 And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate.

10 And every wise hearted among you shall come, and make all that the Lord hath commanded;

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An abundance of various precious materials was needed to build the tabernacle, and it was accomplished by generous

donations from God's people, who gave from the bottom of their hearts, willingly and with joy. They gave gold, silver, bronze, fine linen, precious stones, unique fabrics, acacia wood, olive oil, spices, and many other needed items. People also donated their labor, because many specific objects needed to be crafted through their artistic and diligent work on the tent or its furniture. Also, tailors had to weave garments for the priests, who would be ministering in the tabernacle, and for the High Priest, whose very elaborate garments included a breastplate and turban.

God had abundantly blessed the Israelites through the gifts that the Egyptians had given them on their departure from Egypt. Now it was their opportunity to give offerings of gratitude for God's merciful and mighty leadership, and their hearts were moved to accomplish this work to His glory.

The people were giving with such joy and abundance that Moses was told: " 'The people are bringing more than enough' " (Exod. 36:5, NIV). So, Moses had to stop their donations, "because what they already had was more than enough to do all the work" on the tabernacle (Exod. 36:7, NIV).

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God equipped and empowered the people to accurately build the tabernacle. Bezalel, Aholiab, and others were "filled . . . with the Spirit

of God" (Exod. 35:31, NKJV), which means that they were endowed with skills, wisdom, and artistic knowledge to perfectly do all the work. It was an enormous project and had to be created exactly according to the model God showed Moses.

It is significant that the gift of the Holy Spirit was related to people's different abilities and skills, which needed to be employed in building the tabernacle. To be filled with the Spirit is A SUPERNATURAL EXPERIENCE ALLOWING THE PROMISED INFLUENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD TO TAKE POSSESSION OF OUR MINDS, HEARTS AND SOUL. ~~not a magical process and does not mean that special spiritual forces are within humans.~~ To advance God's cause and fulfill His mission, God empowers His followers to accomplish His objectives and to do it well.

What spiritual gifts have you received when you were filled with the Holy Spirit? Remember that the spiritual gifts can flourish only when you cultivate the fruits of the Spirit in your life (Gal. 5:22, 23).

- ALL THEY HAD CAME FROM EGYPT - 1 Chronicles 29:14
- ALL THAT THEY NEEDED WAS SUPPLIED - MANNA WATER SHELTER ETC
- ALL THAT THEY WERE GOING TO NEED WAS GOING TO BE SUPPLIED - CANA LAND - REV. 21&22
- RIGHTEOUSNESS BY FAITH - 2 COR 9:6, 7

