

"One golden spoon of ten shekels, full of incense." Numbers 7:26 KJV



The same phrase occurs about ten times. (See vs. 26-32-38-44-50-56-62-68-74-80.) Ten shekels then, is the equivalent of about \$4300.00 in today's U. S. dollars.

A "golden spoon" is a costly vessel. So

are believers. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot."* Gold is not useful until purified and fashioned. *"The trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth."* A spoon receives, holds, and delivers. *"As many as received Him...hold fast the profession of our faith...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you."* A lump of gold cannot receive, hold, or deliver anything until fashioned. *"We are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature."* Even a costly vessel is of little use unless filled. *"Every one of you should know how to possess his vessel. Know the love of Christ...that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God, and...be filled with the Spirit."* The "one golden spoon's" purpose was incomplete without incense. Incense in the Tabernacle continually burned on the Altar of Incense before the Veil, behind which sat the Ark with the Mercy Seat, representing prayer to God. *"Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints. I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting. Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Pray one for another. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."* If our vessels are not filled with the incense of continual prayer, we are of little use to the Master who purchased us at great cost. The essence of prayer is continuous intimate fellowship with God, unbroken by circumstance. Life requires conscious awareness. It is impossible to be unaware you are not intimate with your Creator. *"Pray without ceasing. To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* Our first words to God are often of necessity, but should be, "Lord I confess my neglect of you." *"Meditate therein day and night,"* is for our benefit, not our duty. What's on your mind generally occupies your dreams. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be with God in heaven every night in your dreams? *"And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought. As [man] thinketh in his heart, so is he."* Actions are demonstrated thought.

The soul that's filled with constant prayer,
Will know the Lord and meet Him there,
'Twill rest upon His care with ease,
And naught will stir its bond of peace. -CGP

May we be filled with the incense of divine intimacy. May the perfume of continual prayer be "a sweet savour" as we draw close to the Saviour who deemed us worthy of purchase and purpose!

"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Psalms 1:1-3 KJV