Charles Feinberg:

As to the purpose of the lampstand, we've already indicated it was to shine before the Lord. Secondly, it was in shining before the Lord shining upon the table. Yet there is a third purpose. It shone upon the altar that's the altar of incense the power of prayer will be seen and felt through the life that is lived before God. All our prayers mean very little unless the life backs up the petition. And then we read again that it shines upon itself. That's an interesting statement in Exodus 25 Verse 37. Exodus 25:37 reads in this fashion concerning the light and thou shalt make the lamps thereof seven and they shall light the lamps thereof to give light over against it. Beautiful concept that as the light made other things manifest and shown all round about the holy place. It shone on itself. It made the lampstand itself visible when we shine before God we're manifesting to others the beauty that the Lord has put on us.

That's the meaning of the great passage Matthew 5:16. Specifically it is that we are to let our lights so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our father who is in heaven. The oil was a very important component, part of the Lamp Stand. The value of the lamp stand was in the lamp or the light it bore. Again the value of that lampstand was in the light that it gave that it bore. But the light needed to be fed. New life in the believer needs to be fed sustained and nourished. Oil was provided for the light. What a beautiful symbol of the Holy Spirit. Oil is Zechariah 4:1-6 indicates to us in that symbol of the Holy Spirit the need that is
supplied by the light of the Holy Spirit to power not by might nor by power but by my spirit. No type of physical or moral or other type of power will suffice. Not by might nor by power but by thy spirit. the oil in the Old Testament was used for anointing prophets priests and kings. It is used in Israel to indicate the enablement for the office, which can come only from the Holy Spirit Himself. Man's empowering will never help. It won't accomplish this supernatural business that God has placed before us.

To be filled with the spirit is to be filled with power. Faith love. And wisdom so that our lives will honor God and him alone. Now there were Tongs and snuffers Tongs were what Tongs are today. The snuffers. Are those things, which do not put out the lamp but help to trim the lamp? Now the Tongs and snuffers were small but nevertheless indispensable. The lamps as we've indicated needed trimming. Ashes had to be removed from the wick what that speaks to us of friends is that even the best of men have something in them that it were better they were without. It has to be kept under control of the Spirit of God that were better eliminated counteracted by the Spirit of God. There is that lusting of the flesh against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. Yes there must be something removed from our lives again and again. Notice if you will that the ashes do not come from the holy oil, which represents the Holy Spirit. But from the wick, a reminder to us that the hindrance in our Christian life in any area in any realm is never to be found in the Holy Spirit but in ourselves whether it's pride whether it's unconfessed sin whether it's an unforgiving spirit and blessed be the Lord Jesus our high priest.

He uses the snuffer not the extinguisher please. He uses the snuffer of trial and affliction why to purify Job realized it, that great saint of the Old Testament. What an example he is to us and has been to the Saints through the centuries Job 23:10 he said when thou hast tried me I shall come forth as gold. Yes pure gold too. The snuffers of gold also gold always speaks of glory out
of our trials will come. Glory. James 1:12 tells us that 1Peter 1:6 and 7 our trials are not just to plague us, they're not just to harass us. The scripture tells us God does not willingly grieve or afflict the children of men. No. snuffers are meant to these trials are meant to renown to the glory of God to the praise of the glory of his grace. These trials are yet to be seen as wonderful wonderful aids, avenues whereby God is glorified and the snuffers we need to remember are never used for pain. But that the light may burn brighter. So the lampstand to recapitulate at the moment the lampstand shows. First of all that it's Christ the Light and the light bearer. John 1:9 he's called the light of the world. He's he's God's light and salvation unto the ends of the earth. Isaiah 42:6 Isaiah 49:6 these are very pivotal relevant passages. John 8:12 and John 9:5. He's the light of the world. He says so himself. And first John 5.

We know that God is light and in him is no darkness at all no moral, spiritual, ethical darkness at all. God is light and only light. We must never implicate God with any darkness of sin in any manner whatsoever 2 Corinthians 4:6 tells us that God who caused the light to shine out of darkness in the original physical creation mentioned in the Book of Genesis that same Blessed God has caused the light of the glory of God. The light of the glory of God to shine in our hearts in the face of the Lord Jesus Christ. Now just as the showbread pictured God's provision for the food of his people the Lamp Stand sets forth Christ as the light of his people. Also. We need not only bread but we need light someone has well said that a man can get along a certain number of days without food or drink. Just a very brief time without air about eight minutes without air. But he can get along. Not at all without the light that comes from hope. All life is useless and worthless without it.

The lampstand sets forth Christ as the light of his people. An artist once drew a picture it was of a wintry twilight the trees were heavily laden with snow and dreary dark house lonely and
desolate in the midst of the storm. It was a sad picture. It was depressing and then with a quick stroke of yellow crayon the artist did a remarkable thing. He put a light in one window you say how simple a thing. Ah but the effect was magical. The entire scene was transformed into a vision of comfort and warmth and cheer an invitation welcome the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ hear it friend. The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ into the world was just such a light in a dark world indeed the only light of the world. And the reason the world walks yet in darkness is not because there is not light. The world has shut its eyes to this marvelous light and you will never have light that's needed except it gets it from the only blessed source namely the Lord Jesus Christ. But the lamp stand is also Israel as the light Zechariah four we've mentioned, Isaiah 43:10 and 12 and 21 ye are my witnesses. God says that I'm God and there is none other. They are to be the light in the world. They are called the apple of God's eye.

The pupil that is the entrance place of light into the body and Isaiah 2:5 again bears out this marvelous truth of Israel's relationship to light. Now the secondary reference is to or rather we would even call it a third reference. The third reference in the light is to the church as light bearers of the world. In more than one place the scripture and the New Testament tells us we are living in this evil present age. This rebellious age the world that would have none of our Lord Jesus doesn't want any more of him now than it did in the past. So here we must be in a rebellious world. We must be light bearers of God's truth of God's love of God's saving grace to a world that would not have him. If we give not forth our light the world will be in abysmal darkness darker than the darkest midnight the world has ever known. We're to walk in his light, Ephesians 5:8 we're to partake of His light. If we walk in the light 1 John 1:7 as he is in the light Oh we do have something we have fellowship one with another walk in the light. We're not to be the light the initial light ourselves.
No no he is that light but if we walk in the light as he is in the light we have fellowship one with another and the blood of Jesus Christ God's son cleanses us from all sin we bear that light to the world as we've said. Revelation 1:4. And verse 13 of the first chapter revelation verse 20 and 3:1 and 4:5 oh. No wonder the church is seen in the Revelation under the picture of lampstands. That is our primary that is our basic reason for existence that men may see our good works and glorify our father who is in heaven. That we may be children of light not walking in darkness but the light streaming from the presence of God illuminating all our ways all our days. Luke 12:35. Philippine's 2:15 bring forth this precious truth. The church never forget it is in this world not to give natural light. There's plenty of that not to give natural light. The wisdom of nature to erect institutions of academic learning or to put forth man's views. Many people think that the church is in the world to give that type of light. Education they call it. my dear friends. We are not in the business of giving natural light as an ultimate but light from God.

The wisdom of the word of God there is what man needs. That is what we have to offer and we offer it only as God empowers us, only as God sees to it that we are cleansed vessels a lamp can give light. Only when it's not clouded itself. Not when it's encrusted with all kinds of cobwebs all kinds of dust all kinds of debris the light of a lamp must be clear. So friends let's take heed let's make it very personal. Let's take heed to abide in the vine for his strength for his power to witness for power to shine for him. It's not easy gets more and more difficult these oppressive forces are upon us and they harass the spirit they depress the spirit and the mind of the believer. Oh friends. Let's abide in the vine to shine for him. To a lost humanity in a dark world we must shine for him there comes to mind. A beautiful illustration of a little girl who went to a church service probably her first one and as she was coming out she said Mr. Preacher did I understand you to say that you are a light in the world. He said yes believers are supposed
to be that she said I sure wish you'd come down and spread some of your light in the dark alley where I live. All the world is a dark alley. It's a dark alley and a dark valley. We must shine for the Lord Jesus Christ and he'll give the empowering, He'll give the light, he will give the beautiful illumination.

The account is told of the keeper of a lighthouse at Calais France. He was boasting of the brightness of his lantern. He said it could be seen ten leagues at sea quite a distance. A visitor said to him one day. What if one of those lights should happen to go out. The man horrified. At the thought this lighthouse keeper was horrified he said never impossible. He pointed to the ocean he said Sir yonder where nothing can be seen. There are ships going by to all the world. If tonight one of my burners went out within six months would come a letter perhaps from India perhaps from America perhaps from other parts of the world from some place even that I've never heard of or known it would say on such and such a night at such an hour. The light of Kaleigh burned dim the watchman neglected his post and vessels were in danger. Sir he said some times in the dark nights said this keeper sometimes in the dark nights in stormy weather. I look out to sea and I feel as if the eyes of the whole world were looking at my light go out. Burn dim? Never.

You remember that old hymn? I haven't heard it in a long time myself. Keep the lower lights burning. All were to shed that light across the way. Somebody may be sinking some soul whom Christ came to save. friend let's not just look at this golden lamp stand as a curious a beautiful a costly piece of furniture totally irrelevant to us. No it has precious truth in its old testament setting. It has precious truth in our living today in our light for the world. Friends we dare not we dare not leave this wonderful ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ untouched, unavailed of, unheeded. May God grant that as he is the light and never quit shining we too may be lights
in this dark darkening increasingly dark world and the world needs this light so badly. Our father in heaven. Thou thyself art light. Thy spirit is the spirit of light. our Lord Jesus is the light of the world, the Son of Righteousness who is yet in a coming day to arise with healing in his wings. O God to be light. The world is in such darkness. We remember the Plague of Darkness in Egypt where no one would dare to leave his place for fear of harm to life and limb and all the world is going on heedlessly in the dark. They're about to go over the precipice into eternal perdition into eternal darkness into eternal separation from thyself how could we dare stand by. How can we as the old missionary hymn had it. How can we whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high. How dare we. How can we how dare we.

The lamp of life denied to these needy ones so blesses in our walk today in the days ahead may we will not only shed light in the little corner where we may be perhaps unsung by men unnoticed unheard of. But may we shine throughout the household may we shine in the community where we are and oh what a wonderful thing to shine in the household of faith in the church. May We Be a light there. There may be some new believers coming in and they're struggling so hard with the powers of darkness. May we be used of thee lighten some page of scripture to lighten some promise to lighten some load. Bless then our Father. As we look on to the day when all should be light and all glory then never be a need for a lamp or even for the sun but the lamb. The Lord God thyself. So be the light thereof our lives shall know then as never before endless joy endless blessing endless glory grant it our God we pray with Thanksgiving in Jesus' precious glorious name amen. [End]