

# A Chanukah Exhortation

Chanukah *Recounts* the Story of how the Jews →

*Resisted* Unrighteousness

*Renewed* themselves to Holiness

*Rededicated* the Temple and its Service

*Rekindled* “miraculously” the Lights of the Menorah

## The Chanukah Story Why is it *important* to us?

1. Like the Maccabees, *we too* are exhorted to *resist* the “powers” of unrighteousness

Put on the full armor of **God**, so that you will be able to *stand firm* against the **schemes** of the **devil**.

For our struggle is *not* against **flesh** and **blood**,  
but against the *rulers*, against the *powers*,  
against the *world forces* of this **darkness**,  
against the **spiritual forces of wickedness** in the **heavenly places**.  
(Ephesians 6:11-12)

...for the **weapons** of our warfare are *not* of the **flesh**,  
but *divinely* powerful for the destruction of **fortresses**.

We are destroying **speculations** and every **lofty thing** raised up  
**against** the **knowledge of God**, and *we are* taking  
every thought captive to the **obedience of Messiah**,..  
(II Corinthians 10:4-5)

2. Like the Maccabees, *we too* are **not** to be **conformed** to the culture of this **world**, but be *renewed* to a **life characterized** by godliness and holiness

And do **not** be **conformed** to this **world**, but be *transformed* by the renewing of your **mind**, so that you may **prove** what the **will of God** is, that which is **good** and **acceptable** and **perfect**.  
(Romans 12:2)

As obedient **children**, do **not** be **conformed** to the **former lusts**...

But like the **Holy One** who **called you**,  
**be holy** yourselves also in all your **behavior**;  
Because it is written,  
“**YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.**”  
(I Peter 1:13-16)

3. As the **Temple** was **rededicated**, **we too** are exhorted to **rededicate** the “**temple**” of our **bodies** to that which **serves** and **glorifies Him**

Or do you not know that your **body** is a **temple** of the **Holy Spirit** who is **in you**, whom you have from **God**, and that you are **not your own**?  
(I Corinthians 6:19)

Therefore I urge you brethren, by the **mercies of God**, to **present your bodies** a **living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to **God**, *which* is your **spiritual service of worship**.

For this is the **will of God**, your **sanctification**; *that is*, that you abstain from **sexual immorality**; that each of you know how to **possess his own vessel** in **sanctification** and **honor**,  
(I Thessalonians 4:3-4)

4. Just as the **Temple menorah** was **rekindled** to give **light** to the **Temple** on **Chanukah**, **we too** are **exhorted** to be “**living**” **menorahs**, and be “**lights**” in the midst of a **dark world**.

**You** are the **light** of the **world**.  
A **city** set on a **hill** cannot be **hidden**;  
let **your light** shine before **men** in such a way that they may see **your good works**, and **glorify your Father** who is in **heaven**.  
(Matthew 5:14, 16)

Do all things without **grumbling** or **disputing**;  
so that you will prove yourselves to be **blameless** and **innocent**, **children of God** above reproach in the midst of a **crooked and perverse generation**, among whom **you** appear as **lights** in the **world**, **holding fast the word of life**,..  
(Philippians 2:14-16a)

...for **you** were **formerly darkness**, but now **you** are **light in the Lord**;  
**walk** as **children of light**...  
(Ephesians 5:8)

## Closing Comments

