

15 05 16 Sermon notes PENTECOST

*"Who has seen the wind? Neither I nor you? But when the leaves hang trembling, the Wind is passing through.*

*Who has seen the wind? Neither you nor I. But when the leaves bow down their heads, the Wind is passing by."* Christina Rossetti,

Jesus in John's chapter 3 when talking with Nicodemus *"The wind blows wherever it wishes; you hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. It is like that with everyone who is born of the Spirit"*

One word: Spirit. one word which can be translated wind, spirit or breath. In Hebrew, it is the word, "ruach." In Greek, it is the word, "pneumatōs." In English, it is the word "wind" which can be also translated "spirit" or "breath."

Your body is filled with air. -Some people say that folks are filled with "hot air," To blow out warm air is a sign that you are alive. .

Our atmosphere is filled with air. There is nothing on this earth more powerful than the winds of the atmosphere.

The meteorologist will tell you that wind is air; that air is simply composed of nitrogen, oxygen and other gases; and wind is simply the movement of air. "Wind is air on the move,"

What causes the air to move? Changes in heat. When you have changes of heat, you have changes in the flow of molecules that results in movement. The earth is constantly rotating towards and away from the sun, therefore there are constant temperature changes on the face of the earth and therefore there are wind currents, streams of wind circling the face of the earth.

Scientists tell us that air is composed of 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 1% argon, and .03 of a percent of carbon dioxide. And this smallest fraction of carbon dioxide is growing due to people burning sulphurs by which the human race may destroy our atmosphere of air that gives life.

The Jews, when they thought of God, they thought of ...the wind. it was invisible, mysterious and powerful. You can't control the wind. You can't have life without wind. Wind gives life. And so was God: invisible, mysterious, powerful, whom you can't control and gives life.

The Jews didn't know that wind was composed of oxygen and nitrogen. They didn't know that it was the result of changes in temperature. To them, the wind was sheer mystery. The Old Testament name for God is ruach, which means wind. In Genesis 1, "In the beginning, there was the earth, and the earth was without form and void, and the Spirit of God, [the Wind of, the Breath]breathed across the face of the waters."

In Genesis 2, we hear the story about God creating man out of the dust of the earth. "And then the Spirit of God breathed into man into man, the breath, the wind, the ruach of life."

The Jews called God, the Wind for the wind was mysterious, powerful and invisible. They couldn't see God, but they could see the effects of God, just as we see the effects of the wind.

Moses who was filled with the Spirit of God, and then the prophet Samuel. And then King David. after he was anointed as king by Samuel *"Immediately the spirit of the LORD took control of David and was with him from that day on."*

Psalm 139, "Where could I go to escape from your Spirit? Where could I go to get away from your Presence. If I went up to heaven, you would be there." Where can you go to escape the wind? No where. God is forever with you, no matter when you go. Such it is with the atmosphere of air. Then towards the end of the Old Testament, Joel 2:20, where God says, "*I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy. Your young men will see visions and your old men will see dreams. Your men and women servants will all be filled with the Spirit and they shall prophesy.*" Everyone will be filled with that invisible Spirit, not just the prophetic giants of the earth and a few of the kings.

There was silence for about four hundred years.

And then we come to Acts 2, and we hear the story of Pentecost for today. "*Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind and it filled the house where they were sitting. And they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Wind, and they ALL began to prophesy, to speak boldly about Jesus Christ in numerous languages*".

What does all this have to do with you and me, with your life and mine? We all know, you cannot have life without air, without wind. The first purpose of the Spirit is to make God alive in you and me. You and I come to believe and know that there is a God here in this universe. Invisible, mysterious, powerful, whom you can't control any more than you can control the wind. This God, this Wind, gives life. Physical life. Spiritual life. God is like the wind, invisible, mysterious and powerful and give life.

This God is all around you, in you, above you, below you, beside you, invisibly present.

God is present with us, whether we feel him or not. When we are good or bad, rich or poor, indifferent or concerned. When we are working, golfing, singing, sailing, hiking, dying or living, God is here...which is a statement of grace. For God is mysteriously near you, not because you are good, not because you are kind, and not because you are religious..But God is graciously present in your life because...God is God.

The purpose of the Spirit is to make God's Spirit alive in us. Remember what the Holy Spirit does: to make Jesus Christ ALIVE in us. His love alive in us. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control, all these virtues alive in us.

The most powerful force in the world is powerful like the presence of our atmosphere of air. The most powerful force in the world is the love of Christ. The purpose of the Spirit is to energize the love of Christ within us.

Why are the winds of God blowing around your life, filling you and making you strong? For in Pentecost, the Church was given the power, the power that is greater than tornadoes, the power of the ruach, the power to proclaim with authority the message of Jesus Christ. YOU ... not just the person next to you, You have been given that power, for YOU are a Spirit-filled person, and so am I. Wind. One word. Wind.

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