

## **Sunday, October 12, 2025-The Wind Blows Where He Wills—Pastor John Henry Raskin**

The Holy Spirit. Just as wind moves, shapes, and transforms the world, so does God's Spirit move in our lives.

### **1. The Power and Purpose of Wind**

- Wind is essential for life, progress, and change.
- Throughout history, wind enabled exploration, powered ships, and drove innovation.
- Without wind, the world would be stagnant and lifeless.

### **2. Wind as a Biblical Symbol**

- In Scripture, wind often represents God's Spirit (Ruach in Hebrew, Pneuma in Greek).
- Examples:
  - God's Spirit moved over the waters in Genesis.
  - God's breath made the floodwaters recede for Noah.
  - The wind parted the Red Sea for the Israelites.
  - At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came as a rushing mighty wind, empowering the disciples.

### **3. The Nature of the Holy Spirit**

- **Invisible yet Perceivable:** Like wind, the Spirit cannot be seen but His effects are evident.
- **Moves as He Wills:** The Spirit cannot be controlled, only discerned and followed.
- **Brings Change and Power:** The Spirit transforms lives, brings supernatural energy, and empowers believers.

### **4. Jesus and the Wind**

- Jesus taught that being born of the Spirit is like the wind—unpredictable but real (John 3:8).
- The Spirit is not a tool for our purposes, but the sovereign presence of God.

### **5. Storms and Faith**

- Obedience to God does not exempt us from life's storms.
- In Matthew 14, the disciples faced contrary winds, but Jesus walked on the storm, showing His authority.
- Sometimes, God uses storms to reveal Himself and build our faith.

### **6. Encouragement for Today**

- The Holy Spirit gives us authority over the storms in our lives.
- One word from God can change everything.
- The power of the wind working against you is under the authority of the Wind working through you.

### **Scripture Highlights**

- **Acts 2:2:** "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind..."
- **John 3:8:** "The wind blows where it wishes... So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."
- **Matthew 14:** Jesus walks on the water, demonstrating power over the storm.
- **Psalms 34:19:** "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all."
- **Psalms 30:5:** "Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning."

### **Reflection**

- Are you facing a storm? Remember, Jesus is with you, and the Spirit gives you power to overcome.
- Seek God not as a means to an end, but as the ultimate end—His will and presence are what we truly need.

### **Prayer**

"Holy Spirit, move in our lives as You will. Empower us to walk in faith, overcome our storms, and seek Your will above all. Amen."

## **THE WIND BLOWS WHERE HE WILLS**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the last couple of weeks, we embarked on an elemental series.

We began with living water, and last week we talked about the fire of God.

Today we're going to talk about another element, air, or more specifically moving air or as we know it wind.

Living in Southern California, and in fire season no less, we are all aware of the potentially destructive power of wind.

But if properly harnessed, wind can also bring tremendous benefits.

Think how much it would impact the world if there were no wind.

The earth would be stagnant, stinking from pollution and from the normal decaying process that is occurring on the planet.

Just think how essential wind has been to the very development of civilization.

For example, if there were no winds, exploration never would have occurred.

Consider the great ships of the past that had no mechanical or nuclear energy to drive them, yet they glided across oceans with ease as their great sails caught the winds.

The world was explored and discovered by men who “set sail” and traveled the globe, fueled by the force of the wind.

In fact, without the wind blowing, there would be no movement at all on the earth.

Windmill blades would never turn — and the production of materials would be slowed and diminished.

Wind is essential for progress to be made.

Without wind, we would be hundreds of years behind where we presently are in history.

Wind is also an ancient biblical image for the presence of God.

The wind of God that we see throughout the Bible is closely associated with His breath which we have discussed recently as being the same word used in the scriptures as Ruach in Hebrew and Pneuma in Greek.

These same words are used throughout the scriptures, Old and New Testaments to indicate the Holy Spirit.

In Genesis, the creative Spirit of God moves over the waters of the deep.

Later it is God's remembrance of Noah that causes His merciful breath to make the waters of the flood recede.

It was the East wind of God's judgment that brought the locust plague to Pharaoh and the West wind that returned the locust swarm back to the sea.

During the Exodus, the liberating breath of God blows back the waters of the Red Sea and gives the Israelites a safe path on which to walk.

It is the Lord's wind of protection that blows the waters back upon the armies of Egypt who are racing to recapture them.

It was God's wind of provision that caused quail to cover the desert so that the people could have meat.

And in the book of Ezekiel, the life-giving breath of God blows across the valley of dry bones and breathes life back into them.

In Chapter 2 of the Book of Acts, on the Day of Pentecost, the empowering wind of God that Jesus promised swept through the house where the apostles were gathered.

The wind of the Holy Spirit given to all followers of Jesus, then and now.

For context, let's go back to the first chapter of the book of Acts.

In this continuation of his Gospel, Luke reports that Jesus, upon His Resurrection, spent 40 days with the 120 Disciples and during that time He spoke to them of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God.

Then Luke writes this...

### **Acts 1:4-5**

**4 And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."**

And then He tells them this immediately before He is taken up from them to reign from the right hand of God...

## **Acts 1:8**

**8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**

Chapter 2 of Acts then begins with this scripture...

## **Acts 2:1-2**

**2 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

And just as wind moves ships, empowers engines, drives windmills, and disperses pollution from the earth — when the Holy Spirit moved on that Day of Pentecost,

He released power strong enough to transform 120 disciples into a world-changing mighty force for God!

When God formed man of the dust of the earth, He formed him perfectly. But man had no breath in his lungs until God breathed His Ruach, the breath of life into him.

Likewise, when the Church was assembled on the Day of Pentecost, it had no power until the Holy Spirit breathed His Life into that assembly.

For a better understanding of the Holy Spirit let's see how Jesus relates being born again of the Holy Spirit to the wind...

## **John 3:6-8**

**6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’**

**8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”**

The Greek word translated wind in verse 8, *pneuma*, is the same word translated Spirit in the same verse.

We can begin to understand the nature of the Holy Spirit by understanding the nature of the wind.

### **THE SPIRIT, LIKE THE WIND MOVES AS HE WILLS,**

- 1. The wind is air that is moving and there is wind moving all the time.**
- 2. The wind has a will of its own, it can be harnessed, but it cannot be controlled. Likewise, we cannot dictate to the Holy Spirit.**
- 3. The wind makes things move. If we can learn to discern where it is blowing, we can let it move us in that direction.**

### **THE SPIRIT LIKE THE WIND IS INVISIBLE YET PERCEIVABLE**

- 1. We hear the sound of the wind but we can’t see it. The wind has a sound. We hear the voice of the Spirit like we hear the sound of the wind but like the wind He’s invisible.**
- 2. Like the wind, we can feel, see, and perceive the effects of His movement, although He is invisible.**

### **3. None of us have seen the wind or the Holy Spirit yet we can perceive and feel His movement if we remain still.**

Just as man cannot restrain the power of the wind, neither can he restrain the power of God. We have no authority over either one.

Although we cannot see the wind, we see its changing effects on the earth.

We cannot see the Holy Spirit, but we see the changing effects He has in the lives of people who yield to Him.

We can't really comprehend it all... there are no words to adequately explain it... but we know the Spirit's effects are life-changing.

The Holy Spirit is like wind, a creative, life-giving and sacred Presence that blows where it wills and that comes upon us unexpectedly and with power.

God's Spirit may enter us like a strong gust of wind, filling the entire house of our being as on the Day of Pentecost, or the Spirit may come as quietly and gently as Jesus' breath.

Before he left them at the end of the Gospel of John the Risen Jesus breathed God's Pneuma on his disciples

#### **John 20:21-22**

**21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit".**

In that very intimate and quiet gesture, the Holy Spirit is given by the risen Lord with enduring Grace to the disciples.

The disciples had received the Spirit in the gospel of John as a private introduction but in the Book of Acts in the scripture we read in Acts 2 we saw a public outpouring of the Spirit's power manifested as a mighty, roaring wind.

Pentecost was a public event, the inauguration of the church which required a dramatic display of God's Presence to those who were witnessing and not yet disciples.

Wind is a good word to describe the power of the Holy Spirit. Change happens when winds blow — and when the Holy Spirit moves, He brings change like the wind.

Energy is produced by wind — and when the Holy Spirit moves in this manner, He supplies supernatural energy. He empowers us to do what we cannot naturally do on our own.

However, there is sometimes a subtle temptation that may come to all of us, the temptation to think of God and His Spirit merely in instrumental terms, as a means to our chosen ends.

We want to fly our kite and need a breeze.

Or we want to heat our house and we need a wind farm.

Or we want to feel better and need a thrill of emotion.

If we succumb to this temptation, God becomes nothing more than a tool we deem usable, His Spirit nothing more than a way to satisfy our self-determined wishes.

Beloved, we must understand very clearly that God is not a means to an end, not a tool that we use to fill our needs.



He is the means and His Will is the ultimate end which we need to seek.

He urgently wants to give us His Spirit, to impart to us the power we need to live in accordance with His ways.

He wants to thrill us with His goodness and His love, merciful, gracious, generous above all things...

He wants to empower us to do the things that He has given us to do.

He wants to give us courage to gain victory over the pressures we face on a daily basis, courage that only He can give.

But the Spirit of God is neither a toy nor a tool.

He is the sovereign Creator, the presence of the living God who unites us with Christ and draws us to the Father that we might know God in His fullness and have the life of God in us.

Sometimes He comes in the midst of a storm.

Sometimes when God is about to do something big in your life, He will separate you from the crowd so He can show you a greater revelation of who He is to build your faith and trust in Him.

The Bible tells it in Matthew 14, after Jesus hears about the beheading of John the Baptist, He is very sad and wants to be alone, but the crowds follow Him and He takes pity on them, teaching them, healing them and miraculously feeding them.

It is after these things that we see this scripture...

**Matthew 14:22** Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go before Him to the other side, while He sent the multitudes away.

Jesus had just finished multiplying the five loaves and two fishes, feeding a crowd of over 20,000 souls.

The multitude was so excited that they wanted to make Jesus their king. But their motives were wrong.

They did not want to make Jesus their king for spiritual reasons but because their needs were met and they're stomachs were filled.

The disciples were starting to get caught up in the excitement, so Jesus had to separate them from the crowd to keep them from stepping out of the will of God.

So now we see this scripture...

**Matthew 14:23**

**23 And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there.**

Think about this. Jesus is God in the flesh, and even he had to get alone and spend time with his Heavenly Father.

The most important decision we can make daily is to set time aside to pray, read the Bible, and seek the face of God.

While Jesus was on the mountain praying, His disciples were obeying His word, Heading to the other side of the lake.

**Matthew 14:24**

**24 But the boat was now in the middle of the sea, tossed by the waves, for the wind was contrary.**

Notice that the Bible says; “the wind was contrary”.

The winds were blowing in the opposite direction of the apostles, against their progress. They were in a storm.

Perhaps today you are caught up in a storm and wondering if you are doing something wrong. Perhaps you are afraid that you can't hear from the Holy Spirit.

Here is a scripture for you...

**Psalm 34:19**

**19 Many are the afflictions of the righteous,  
But the Lord delivers him out of them all.**

Your obedience to the Word of God will not exempt you from the storms of life.

In fact, this verse states that you will encounter all kinds of storms because of your faithfulness to God.

The scripture in Matthew continues...

**Matthew 34:25**

**5 Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.**

The very storm that was threatening the lives of the disciples – Jesus was walking on top of it. Glory to God!

Jesus did not wait for the storm to calm down. He didn't even calm the storm because He wanted His disciples to see His power and authority demonstrated over the storm.

When the disciples had begun crossing the lake, it was evening time, but it was now “the fourth watch of the night” or three in the morning.

The disciples were caught up in a storm so long they did not realize they had entered a new day.

**Psalm 30:5** tells us...

**Weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.**

The Gospel of Matthew continues,

**Matthew 34:26**

**26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, “It is a ghost!” And they cried out for fear.**

Sometimes when you're in the middle of a storm and Jesus shows up it's such a shock that you are almost afraid of the solution more than the problem but then Jesus says never fear.

**Matthew 34:27**

**27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, “Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid.”**

I really love this scripture. I actually find it amusing.

During Jesus ministry God's Spirit was always with Him.

The disciples are still figuring Jesus out.

I guess it was pretty shocking to see Him show up in the middle of the storm like that.

But here they are facing a wind which is contrary. They are afraid of the storm. Now, it seems that they are more afraid of Jesus.

Clearly the contrary wind was sent by God for the purposes of showing the disciples who Jesus really was.

So, while the wind still rages, Jesus, filled with God's Spirit, walks on the disciple's problem.

The problem is under His feet.

The storm is literally UNDER JESUS' FEET.

Of course, Peter, being Peter, wants to test Jesus.

### **Matthew 34:28**

**28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water."**

And Jesus says one word.

### **Matthew 34:29**

**29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus.**

"Come," Jesus answered. Jesus just spoke one word. Just one word, one word from the Holy Spirit can give you authority over your health problems, your financial struggles, or your marital issues.

All you need is one word from God, and your unsaved children or spouse will be set free.

So, Peter took a leap of faith and stepped out of the boat and walked on the water towards Jesus.

The very storm that he was afraid of, the very thing that was threatening his life – he was now walking on top of it.

Not only is the storm under Jesus's feet, but the storm is also under your feet.

When the Spirit of God comes into your life, it gives you power and dominion over the storms of life.

I believe I'm talking to someone. The Holy Spirit is giving you authority over your storm right now.

I invite you to take a step in faith today and say, "The storm is under my feet."

The power of the wind that is working against you is under the authority of the power of the Wind that is working through you.

Be encouraged beloved. The Spirit says "come".

Let's Pray...