

Dr. Fred Fourie ~Sunday, June 4, 2006



Acts 2: 14 - 21 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

It was tornado time in Texas and a certain farmer was holding on to a tree not to be blown away by a one hundred-mile per hour wind that was shaking everything around him. He looked up, and could not believe his eyes! Floating down to earth, he saw someone coming down in a parachute! "He hollered above the wind: "Are you crazy to parachute jump in this weather? What do you mean? Yelled the man, "I am not coming down like this in a chute," "I went up in my tent." This must be about how the followers of Jesus felt on that first day of Pentecost. They did not come down in a parachute. They went up in a tent!

Their question is not, "do you have the holy spirit?" Rather, "does the Holy Spirit have you?" You see, a bird does not sing because it has an answer! It sings because it has a song! A music instrument does not produce music by itself - it does so only when it has the skill of a talented musician to produce great music! Have you ever listened to a huge pipe organ played by a master organist in a great cathedral or church?

Pipe organs produce sound ONLY when the wind passes through the pipe. The art of the organist is to control the flow of wind in such a way as to produce the magnificent, soul enhancing sounds.

The Bible refers to God's Spirit as a mighty wind! What happened on that first day of Pentecost? It helps to think of the earliest followers of Jesus Christ in terms of such a magnificent pipe organ. Before that day, God spoke to them through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. They understood that God wanted them to do mighty deeds and to speak about God's great deeds, not only to their own but also to all nations and tribes everywhere.

They were like organ pipes able to play to God's glory in messages of faith, hope, and change. However, after the earthly life of Jesus and the horrific crucifixion they were silent and in hiding as they covered in fear of being arrested. They knew that Jesus was

alive – but he was no longer with them in person. **How confusing and terrifying!** It seemed as if the Message and Sacrifice of the Master were only in their memories now.

During the silence and relative safety of the nights, **they tracked each other down** and started meeting behind closed doors to pray and to console one another. **They were hushed, quiet, and afraid.** The early Christian movement was in jeopardy- soon those of who saw and knew Jesus would be dead.

Then it happened! The disciples were together ~ but they were hiding behind closed doors – only whispering to one another **about their faith and hope and the promises of Jesus that they would not be left behind like orphans**, but that he would be with them until the end of time.

The Bible says, **“Suddenly, there was a sound like a violent blast of wind. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages.”** Put it this way: **The Master Organist took over the control over the otherwise useless organ pipes – he touched the keys and the wind began to flow – the silent organ pipes were silent no more**

It was not that SOMETHING came over the disciples, but SOMEONE. God through Christ now dwelt in their hearts. Like the signs, we see in businesses, **they were under new management! That made the difference.**

Motivation that lasts **comes from having someone greater than ourselves instructing us, encouraging us, prodding us, exhorting us.** The disciples changed because God’s mighty wind now flowed in them and produced an orchestrated symphony that would reverberate through the centuries and across the world. **The Spirit had come and now dwelt within them. They were excited. THEY WERE FOREVER CHANGED.**

A certain young man chose a father’s day card for his father. He picked one with a picture of a rowboat and a sailboat on a large lake. He wondered. If his father had to make the choice of which boat he would prefer to cross that body of water, **which would he choose?** So he bought the card, and in a note to his Dad asked this question, **“If you had to get across this mighty lake, with your ability to decide things that make the most sense, which boat would you choose?”**

He received this response from his father, “I noticed that the ROWBOAT HAD NO ENGINE, but that the SAILBOAT HAD A SAIL. My question, before making a decision is, **“Is there any wind?”**”

Today we celebrate the birthday of the church ~ known as the day of Pentecost. The question we need to ask is ~ **IS THERE ANY WIND?** Must we spend the rest of our days rowing--dependent only on our own power alone--or might we put up our sails and catch the wind of God?

My friend, Is there any wind?

**Breathe on me, breath of God! Fill me with life anew
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.**

AMEN