



IS THERE ANY WIND?

Dr. Fred Fourie ~Sunday, May 27, 2007

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven, **there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind**, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:14 - 18 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.

~~~~~

Have you ever heard a pipe organ played by a **master organist** in a great cathedral or church? There are few things in this world compared to such an experience. My fondest memories of a huge Church that I served as Minister in the seventies **are connected** with the magnificent sound of its organ, one of the largest I have ever seen or heard! That organ transferred our hearts and souls and minds to higher spheres and gave worship a special significance.

Sound on a pipe organ is produced when the wind passes through the pipe. **The process of getting the wind to that pipe follows the following path. First, a motor blows air into a reservoir. From the reservoir, the air moves into the wind chest, which is a box with rows of holes on the top. The pipes stand on top of the wind chest, one pipe to a hole.** To make the pipe speak, the wind must move from the wind chest to the pipe. If the holes connecting the pipes to the wind chest remained open all the time, all the pipes would speak at once whenever the organ was turned on. 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 that were taught how to play to God's glory in messages of faith, hope, and change. **But after the earthly life of Jesus and the horrific crucifixion they were silent and in hiding as they cowered in fear of being arrested.** 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 sound of their voices, singing God's praises were muffled and heard by no one.** The early Christian movement was in jeopardy- soon those of who knew Jesus would also be dead. **Then it happened!** The disciples were together

but still 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. Then, over the head of each of them, there appeared what looked like tongues of fire. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different languages.” We can see 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**

The church of Jesus Christ was born. Lives were changed. The useless organ pipes remembered the promises of Jesus and understood what he meant! The wind flowed through the pipes and the mighty symphony of God began to play. Each one of them started to speak and added their own sound – in words, in language, in enthusiasm! 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, and exhorting us. The disciples changed because God’s mighty wind now flowed in them and produced an orchestrated symphony that was soon heard 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 birthday card for his father. He picked one with a picture of a rowboat and a sailboat on a large lake. Inside he wrote a birthday wish and asked, “Dad, I know that you have the ability to decide things that make the most sense. Which one, the rowboat or the sailboat, would you choose to get across this huge lake? His Dad wrote back, “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? 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. Breathe on me, breath of God, until with you I will one will, to do and to endure!”*

