

THE HOLY SPIRIT “Wind”

Gen 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. NIV

*The Hebrew word translated “Spirit” is **ruwach**, which means wind. From the start, the Holy Spirit gives us a clew about His nature by calling Himself wind. We see Him here in the beginning brooding over the waters of the earth as a bird over its eggs.*

Rom 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-his eternal power and divine nature-have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. NIV

Again, God has caused us to understand His invisible qualities through the visible creation. He created the wind and it does His bidding. And the wind teaches us about the Holy Spirit.

Ps 135:6-7

6 The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.

7 He makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth; he sends lightning with the rain and **brings out the wind from his storehouses**. NIV

Ps 148:7-8

7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths,

8 lightning and hail, snow and clouds, **stormy winds that do his bidding**, NIV

Ps 104:3-4

3 and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind.

4 **He makes winds his messengers**, flames of fire his servants. NIV

What is wind? Wind is air in motion. The one common feature of all the symbols used of the Holy Spirit in Scripture is MOTION! Air motion is caused by pressure differences in the atmosphere caused by the uneven heating of the globe by the Sun. Horizontal wind moves from high pressure to low pressure. Vertical wind flows from low pressure to high pressure. (Explain heat factors, pressure and friction).

John 3:6-8

6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." NIV

Flesh gives birth to flesh and spirit to spirit. The spirit is like the wind. You can see its affects, but it you cannot see. Even so us if we are following the Spirit. The natural man cannot understand where we are coming from (1 Cor 2:14). But they can feel the affects of our passing.

Luke 12:54-56

54 He said to the crowd: "When you see a cloud rising in the west, immediately you say, 'It's going to rain,' and it does.

55 And when the south wind blows, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is.

56 Hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of the earth and the sky. How is it that you don't know how to interpret this present time? NIV

Again we see the principle of the natural instructing us in the spiritual. Jesus called the crowd hypocrites because they understood what the weather was doing but not what the Spirit of God was doing in their midst. He expects us to know what wind is blowing.

Is it an east wind of judgment?

Jer 18:17

Like a wind from the east, I will scatter them before their enemies; I will show them my back and not my face in the day of their disaster." NIV

Jer 4:11-14

11 At that time this people and Jerusalem will be told, "**A scorching wind from the barren heights in the desert blows toward my people, but not to winnow or cleanse;**

12 a wind too strong for that comes from me. Now I pronounce my judgments against them."

13 Look! He advances like the clouds, his chariots come like a whirlwind, his horses are swifter than eagles. Woe to us! We are ruined!

14 O Jerusalem, wash the evil from your heart and be saved. How long will you harbor wicked thoughts? NIV

One of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to blow the chaff away from our lives. But when a scorching wind is blowing, we need to know that it is time for serious repentance!

[Matt 3:11-12]

11 "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, **and he will clear his threshing floor**, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." NIV

Is it a west wind driving the plague away?

Ex 10:19

And the LORD changed the wind to **a very strong west wind**, which caught up the locusts and carried them into the Red Sea. Not a locust was left anywhere in Egypt. NIV

Is it a south wind bringing storms and heat?

Zech 9:14

Then the LORD will appear over them; his arrow will flash like lightning. The Sovereign LORD will sound the trumpet; he will march in **the storms of the south**, NIV

Luke 12:55

And when **the south wind blows**, you say, 'It's going to be hot,' and it is. NIV

Or is it a north wind bringing the presence of God and the rain of the Holy Spirit?

Ezek 1:4 NIV

I looked, and I saw a **windstorm coming out of the north**-an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal,

Job 37:21-22

21 Now no one can look at the sun, bright as it is in the skies after the wind has swept them clean.

22 **Out of the north he comes in golden splendor**; God comes in awesome majesty. NIV

Prov 25:23 “**As a north wind brings rain**, so a sly tongue brings angry looks. NIV

We need to be sensitive to the flow of the Holy Spirit in order to know what direction He is going in.

How is the wind like the Holy Spirit?

- The wind is everywhere (the Earth is covered by air).
- No wind, no fun (who enjoys the doldrums?)
- We have air within us and air around us.
- It moves into warm places
- Friction with the earth slows it down.
- You cannot control it.
- If you move with it, it can take you far.
- It is refreshing.

Like a sailor, if you want the benefits of the wind, you've got to catch it.

John 20:21-22

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

22 And with that he **breathed on** them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. NIV

*The Greek word translated "receive" is **lambano**. It means to "take with the hand, lay hold of, any person or thing in order to use it." (from Thayer). Catch the wind of the Holy Spirit is exactly what the apostles did.*

Acts 2:2-4

2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them NIV

We can.

Repent:

Acts 3:19

Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, NIV

Do the Word:

Matt 7:24-27

24 "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand.

27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." NIV

In application, our ability to receive the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is stabilized by our doing what the Lord says.

Control Our Tongues:

James 3:2-4

2 We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go. NIV

The Lord desired to have fellowship with man in the breeze of the day.

Gen 3:8

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. NIV

Since we are in the spirit, we need to keep in step with the Spirit.

Gal 5:25 "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit." NIV