

THE WIND AND THE SPIRIT

The Spirit of God has intrigued mankind for around six thousand years and yet most people are still none the wiser to any of the fundamental principles involved. In Genesis 1:2 God sets the principle in action... And the Spirit (wind) of God moved upon the face of the waters. Suddenly this breath of God is no longer just an inarticulate, blowing... it forms words. The same breath that produces wind, now makes language, just as our breath gets formed into words by our throat and tongue. "And God said"... is the Spirit's breath that articulates God's purpose. God speaks eight times and these eight sentences speak a world into being, the heavens and the earth, all the creatures and finally the first man and woman into which God breathes the breath of life... his own Spirit. There's a pattern here. First the formlessness, chaos, nothingness, upon which the wind/Spirit of God blows. Then the breath of the Spirit becomes God's word that speaks a new creation into being. This familiar pattern appears all through the Bible. The New Testament also details these principles.

Jesus likens being born again by the Spirit ...to the wind.

JOH 3:7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The **wind** (*pneuma ...spirit*) bloweth where it **listeth** (*chooses*), and thou hearest the **sound (voice)** thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born of the Spirit.** *Jesus likens the Holy Spirit to the wind. You can't see it coming or going but you can observe its power. Trees sway, leaves and dust blow, clouds move and distinctive sounds are created. These natural observations are used to identify different aspects of the Spirit ...an aid to understanding. Verse 8 makes it clear that everyone that receives the Holy Ghost has the same evidence of the Spirit. Of the many aspects of the wind, Jesus chose specifically the sound of the wind (5456 gr phone ...voice or language, 'phone' is translated as voice on 130 of its 131 uses ...this is the only occasion where 'sound' is used). On the day of Pentecost (the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit) the sound that drew everyone to the scene was the supernatural manifestation of speaking in tongues. In Acts 10:45-46 Peter knew they had received the Holy Spirit ...'for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God'. Jesus told them in V7 to marvel not at these things. Acts 2:2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. & 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. The voice of the wind referred to by John is nothing less than the voice of the Spirit... tongues.*

Jesus defines the attitude and manner of true worshippers

JOH 4:23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the **true** worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. *The Spirit searches for those who will comprehend the voice of the Spirit and relate to the truth of God.*

24 God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him **must** worship [him] in spirit and in truth. *God is a spirit, therefore spiritual communication is required ...we are equipped to do this with the new God given tongue (language) that we receive when we are born again by the Spirit.*

Paul also qualifies what happens when we use the 'voice of the wind' ...tongues.

1COR 14:14 For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. *Paul reveals this aspect, 'For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth'. Thus the things that Jesus said would happen, were confirmed. Just as natural distinctive sounds identified the wind, also distinctive sounds identify the unseen spirit. Tongues is the voice of the Spirit identified in St John 3.*

Jesus made it clear that the words he used were the revelation of the Holy Spirit.

JOH 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, [they] are spirit, and [they] are life. *It is the spirit that quickens (gives life) not the flesh (natural thoughts or reasonings). The words of Jesus are spirit orientated and the understanding of his words brings life. Hence, you must be born again ...a spiritual birth. Jesus said, 'the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit (4151 gr pneuma ...current of air, wind) and they are life'.*

Jesus also revealed that others would enjoy the same moving of the Spirit.

JOH 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you. *When the Spirit comes (this spirit that is like the unseen wind, that generates its own language or sound), it will teach you truth. The Spirit will only teach what God commands it to. Anything else is therefore not of God. The Holy Spirit was going to confirm the TRUTH of the prophecies of Jesus. Just like the sound of the unseen wind that confirms or witnesses the fact that a force is present. These great Spiritual gifts were to be taught and revealed by the Holy Spirit. If these things are not taught or seen then God is not the Author.*

When a strong wind blows you experience its power ...so it is with the Holy Spirit.

ACT 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. *This is the description of the New Testament promises which began on the day of Pentecost. There is no testimony if the Spirit has not moved.*

Those who identify the 'wind' will also learn to discern the real details relating to the plan of God.

1COR 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **10** But God hath revealed [them] unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. *V10 tells us that these points can only be revealed by his Spirit. The Holy Spirit needs to be believed and obeyed or it is impossible to discern anything about God or life ...how do you know which direction the wind is blowing if you cannot determine its presence?*

Paul is very direct in his detailing of the moving of the Spirit.

ROM 8:9 If any man hath not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His. *Many people are under the delusion that they are already Christians. If you claim there is wind but there is no sound, you are wrong. If you claim you are a Christian (born again, saved, etc.) but have not produced the "sound thereof" you are in error.*

In conclusion.

MAR 16:17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. **19** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen. *These signs will follow them that believe. Just as the wind has many signs of its unseen force, so also has the Spirit of God. In verse 17 Jesus identifies other signs that would indicate that the unseen force of the Holy Spirit were present. Tongues, healing and miracles were these indications and are still showing the presence of God, even now. Verse 20 ...God confirmed the word with signs following. These signs were not our request but rather the Spiritual manifestation of his presence. If they are missing then so is God.*

Some critics have said over the years that tongues were of Satan. God has declared the exact opposite. He stated that demons would be cast out ...then they would speak in tongues. Do we follow the Voice of God or the silence of a spiritless life.