

THE WIND AND THE SPIRIT

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The Spirit of God has intrigued mankind for around six thousand years and yet most people are still none the wiser to 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 creates 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. First there is formlessness and chaos, then the breath of the Spirit speaks a new creation into being. This familiar pattern appears all through the Bible.

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 Spirit has the same evidence. 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 the 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.