

Bridgeway Community Church
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 Series: Revival
 January 09, 2022

Revival: Fresh Wind

INTRODUCTION

Question: Don't you love the feeling of taking in "Fresh air"?

"Whether it's a house party or a Holy Ghost party, we all need fresh air, regardless of the venue or its purpose!"

"If you are living, if you're breathing, you are in need of fresh air. In fact, you appreciate it when it happens."

"There's a difference between air, a gentle breeze and straight up powerful wind."

- **Air** is something we breathe
- A **breeze** is something we feel
- **Wind** is the powerful force air that moves us

Last week we talked about **Water**.
 Today I want to talk about **Wind**.

Question: Can you think of a passage of scripture where you see the two together, wind and waves?

Mark 4:35-41 NIV84

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his

disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” ⁴¹ **They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”**

John 3:5-8 NIV84

Jesus answered [Nicodemus], “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 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.”

“What Jesus was trying to teach Nicodemus is even though you were born once physically, you will still die spiritually unless you’re born again spiritually. How does that work? It’s a spiritual birthing...the Spirit of God hits your dead spirit - the spirit of man - and together brings life to you spiritually. That’s what it means to be born again.”
But notice what Jesus says about the wind here

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.”

“There is something about wind and sound.”

Acts 2:1-2 NIV84

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² **Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.**

“Now the Holy Spirit going to come down and hit a lot of human spirits...and collectively now they are going to be know as ‘the called out ones’...the church of Jesus Christ.”

What have we learned?

- In Mark 4 - The terrifying nature of the wind
- In John 3 - The unpredictable nature of the wind blowing (likened to the Spirit)
- In Acts 2 - The sudden sound of the Spirit’s movement like a rushing wind

Here's my point: There is something about "wind" and "sound." There is something about "the spirit" and "sound." In John 3 and Acts 2 liken to the Holy Spirit, the wind marks the movement of the sound. The wind is marking something. What is that about?

With regard to Wind...When you hear it, you respect it.

- When you hear it, you fear it.
- You don't hear "air"
- You don't hear a "breeze"

- You hear wind, and when you do, you do NOT just ignore it...You take note! You pause. You begin protecting yourself; maybe even running for cover.

- Wind has a sound!
- The Spirit of God has a sound!
- In John 3, the Spirit blew in whatever way it wanted as it relates to salvation and being born again.
- In Acts 2 the disciples were gathered in prayer and the Spirit suddenly came from heaven filling the whole the House.

"From heaven to the house!"

"If we want God to fill our house, then we must come together in prayer and in praise. God can bring heaven down to fill our house."

Revelation 2:7a NIV84

He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

"Maybe the Holy Spirit is saying that 'if you allow yourself to be my vessel...there is a sound that can be created that can carry your life to another dimension.'"

"Once you HEAR, then you will UNDERSTAND; Once you UNDERSTAND, then you will COMPREHEND. Spiritually speaking, you must hear the Lord at a deeper level, then you will understand Him at a deeper level. Then you will comprehend Him at a deeper level."

"Once you hear at a certain level, then you will see at a different level. I am not talking about human ears or human eyes. You can be physically deaf and still hear spiritually just fine. You can be physically blind and but still see spiritually just fine. There are many people who can see physically, but they are blind spiritually. There are many people who can hear physically, but they are deaf spiritually."

Romans 10:14 NIV84

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Romans 10:17 NIV84

Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

“People get saved because of what they hear and when the power of the Spirit is moving, they will be able to hear the wind of the Spirit and maybe for the first time, after they’ve heard a hundred messages preached, after they’ve heard a hundred songs sang, this day, this moment, they hear the power of the Spirit like a rushing wind like they’ve never heard before because their ears have been turned on.”

Babies hear before they ever see. Babies identify with the sounds around them first, including the father’s voice even while in the womb. Children learn language through hearing first, not through seeing or reading.

God is calling you and me to be his voice-box to share the gospel.

- I believe that someone today is going to be able to hear God at a deeper level.
- I believe that as you tune your ear to God, you will be able to hear even in the silence.
- You will not only read God’s word, you will hear God’s word.
- It will not only be a LOGOS word from God, you will hear a RHEMA word from God.
- Most of all, when we think of powerful winds, I want you to think about the powerful force of nature that sweeps away any control that you have.

Such power leaves us vulnerable and out of control...the exact thing that none of us want to be.

Q: Who wants to be out of control? No one!

We all love to have control of our situations and scenarios. That is natural and normal.

“When powerful winds of God’s Spirit blow in our lives and through our lives and begins to sweep away all the things that we thought we could control, it becomes haunting, it becomes vulnerable, it becomes scary, it becomes unpredictable. But you know what else? It becomes absolutely spiritually exhilarating!”

“Some of you have not had absolute exhilaration in your faith spiritually for a long time and the reason why is because you don’t want to fly at high levels and high dimensions cause you can’t see your way through, so you’d rather hold on to the wheel of a car and drive from point A to point B because at least you have control.”

SERMON IN A SENTENCE: **YOU CAN’T CONTROL THE WIND, BUT YOU CAN ADJUST YOUR SAILS!**

Mark 4:35-41 NIV84

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” ³⁶ Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. ³⁷ A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. ³⁸ Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” ³⁹ He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. ⁴⁰ He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?” ⁴¹ **They were terrified and asked each other, “Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!”**

All nature is ultimately under God’s authority.

While it is true that wind has a sound, wind recognizes the sound of God’s voice.

When Jesus says, “peace be still” the wind and the waves obey.

3 Ways to Adjust your Sails to be carried by the Fresh Winds of God’s Spirit

1. Positioning Yourself for Obedience

- Verse 41: “Even the wind and the waves obey him.”

- Allow me reorganize verse 41 a bit to say like this: “If even the winds and waves obey him, shouldn’t we be wise enough to trust and obey him too?”
- Prepare your heart everyday to say YES to God and obey. Prepare and position your heart to obey God before He speaks so you are ready to respond positively.
- **Morning Prayer** – *“God, whatever you say today, I am ready to obey today.”*

2. Positioning Yourself for Trust

- Trust is believing that God has a plan and knows better than you and me.
- Trust is believing that whatever is happening is happening for a purpose and that God will turn it around for something good or useful
- Trust is believing that there is nothing that can happen to us or our loved ones that God is not aware of.
- Trust is believing that God can fix anything and can turn any situation around
- Trust is believing that God will comfort you in your mourning and turn ashes into beauty in some way, shape or form.
- Trust is not easy, because often it means we are going through something traumatic that is out of our control.

Morning Prayer: *“God, I don’t know what is around the corner but I know who is around the corner. You are there and I will trust you to take care of me today and tomorrow regardless of what I am experiencing.”*

3. Positioning Yourself to Hear

Acts 2:1-4 NIV84

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 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.

“In Act chapter two the believers, they were isolated praying together as a group. Maybe what you need in order to hear God’s Spirit is a time of isolation. Maybe God gave that to you or has given that to you through COVID. Isolation is not always bad. Solitude is not always bad. Silence is not always bad. In fact, sometimes we can hear God so much greater when we are in silence.”

“You can’t get ready when he comes, you have to be ready when He comes.”

Acts 2:2 - The wind will blow “suddenly.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV84

For the Lord Himself will come from heaven, with a loud command with the **voice** of the archangel and with the **trumpet call** of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 NIV84

Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵²in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet**. For **the trumpet will sound**, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

John 10:4 NIV84

[Jesus teaching] When he [shepherd] has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because **they know his voice**.

- Adjust your sails so you can hear the voice of the Lord more clearly
- Adjust your sails so that you can hear the Spirit of the Lord at a deeper level
- Adjust your sails so that you can say, “God, I actually SEE what you’re saying!”