

Windstorm part III

Spirit Spilled & Mission Magnetism

Worship-one song

Announce:

- If you are not online with us (receiving our weekly blog and event calendar), you can get set up by emailing us at: theroadcs@gmail.com or see Melody, my personal assistant tonight
- God's been doing so very much this week: reports of healings, people coming to know the Lord, visions and dreams, being delivered of demonic spirits
- Testimonies on Friday night

Lets get to work. I have a lot to share tonight...

- Monday night: Windstorms of evil and the empowered church...
- Tuesday night: 1) Burning Desire 2) Divine Disruption

Acts 2:3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.¹

3) Spirit Spilling

- This was the "promise" Jesus spoke of before his ascension, in Acts 1:4 *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard*

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ac 2:3-4). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Continuing on Jesus says, *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*²
- Clearly Jesus is speaking of a baptism to come that would result in mission. The main purpose of the Holy Spirit is to empower the Jesus disciple to be His witness to the world
- The central hallmark in a Windstorm is the coming of the Spirit—all that happens is result of coming of Jesus
 - The coming of the Spirit is the coming of Jesus! Jesus had prophesied such a day...
 - *In My Father’s house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*³
 - *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*⁴
- Thus, I have come to call it not just the Spirit filled life, but the Spirit spilled life.

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ac 1:8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 14:2–3). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 14:16–18). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Not just being filled with the Spirit for personal enjoyment, but a Spirit spilling that results in evidence of the coming of the kingdom of God
 - Spirit induced, Spirit empowered, enthusiasm that spills over into the lives of those around them. Not unlike the life of Christ being lived out by the disciples upon being baptized in power
 - ***On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.***⁵
- When the Windstorm comes, it always brings a return to apostolic zeal, passion, and the Spirit empowered life
 - "There can be no revival apart from the Holy Ghost; He is the author of every Heaven-sent movement." James Alexander Stewart
 - Charles Spurgeon noted, "If you read the story of the Reformation, or the later story of Whitefield and Wesley, you are struck with the singular spirit that went with the preachers. The world said they were mad; the caricaturists drew them as being fanatical beyond all endurance; but there it was, their zeal was their power. Of course the world scoffed at that of which it was afraid. The world fears enthusiasm, the sacred enthusiasm kindled by the thought of the ruin of men and by the desire to pluck firebrands from the flame, the enthusiasm which believes in the Holy Ghost, which believes God is still present with His church to do wonders." *Revival* p. 72

⁵ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Jn 7:37–39). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- The First Great Awakening under Jonathan Edwards brought a renewed emphasis on the Holy Spirit. In the aftermath of the Second Great Awakening, Charles Finney...in his *Revival Lectures*, he taught the importance of prayer and the outpouring of the Spirit, Lovelace, *ibid*, p. 120
- Cane Ridge Kentucky, Presbyterian Barton W. Stone, pastor of the Concord and Cane Ridge churches, traveled to witness one of these revivals for himself. He returned in that spring of 1801 overwhelmed.
- “The scene to me was new and passing strange. ... Many, very many fell down, as men slain in battle, and continued for hours together in an apparently breathless and motionless state—sometimes for a few moments reviving, and exhibiting symptoms of life by a deep groan, or piercing shriek, or by a prayer for mercy most fervently uttered. ... With astonishment did I hear men, women, and children declaring the wonderful works of God.”
- When he described his experiences to the Cane Ridge Church, the congregation was “affected with awful solemnity, and many returned home weeping.” That evening, when he spoke at the Concord church, two little girls fell in a faint. After a brief revival ensued at Concord, Stone scheduled a Communion at Cane Ridge the first weekend in August.
- In 1900 American Bible teacher Charles Parham concluded the study of Acts that the initial evidence for the baptism of the Holy Spirit should be the exercise of speaking in tongues. Shortly after this in Azusa Street California his students experienced an outpouring of the Spirit in 1906, which launched the Pentecostal Movement of the twentieth century

And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language. Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, “Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those

dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes Cretans and Arabs

4) Mission Magnetism

- During a Windstorm, God draws people for the purpose of mission
- There is a magnetism of the Spirit that draws people into the heart of Christ
- “Many times great numbers of persons in a community will be clothed with this power, when the very atmosphere of the whole place seemed to be charged with the life of God. Strangers coming into it and passing through the place will be instantly smitten with conviction of sin and in many instances converted to Christ.” Wallis, p. 71
- God draws people from all over the known world, saves them, and then will send them out to their native lands
- A Windstorm blows upon a desperate people, breathes new life into them, and then calls them out
- There is confusion and amazement simultaneously!
- With the Azusa Street Revival of 1906, came such an outpouring not just of the Spirit but of mission outreach and church planting as the world has not ever seen Dr C Peter Wagner writes, “In all of history no other non-political, non-militaristic, voluntary human movement has grown as rapidly as the Pentecostal-charismatic movement.” Synan, *And the Spirit said Grow*, preface

The Adventure of Being Filled by the Holy Spirit

Over the years, on countless occasions I have heard people say to me, “Since becoming a Christian I have tried to be a good person. I have never intentionally tried to hurt anyone. I have tried to be moral. But I keep failing in so many ways...

- They have received Christ into their heart; they have believed in the work of Christ on the cross. They know Christ lives within them.
- But, the struggle revolves around the daily power to live out their newfound faith.
- The natural impulse is to believe that the power comes from us. Yet, as we try harder and harder to be a good Christian, we soon come to realize that trying harder just doesn't work very well.
- I quickly learned about the importance of reading my Bible and praying daily. So, everyday I would awaken early and study the Bible and pray...but something was missing

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- When we first come to know Christ in a personal way, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us. In John 3, Jesus says, “...unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.” (John 3:5)
- Paul elaborates on this fact when he explains that the Spirit of God enters into us when we believe in Christ. When we trust in Christ, the Spirit of God comes and seals us for salvation. He writes,

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise. (Ephesians 1:13)

- The Holy Spirit enters our lives and empowers us to live the Christian life. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ living within every believer. He empowers us to live the Christian life.

We are Commanded to be Filled with the Holy Spirit

- The filling of the Holy Spirit connects us to all the spiritual power of the universe. To be filled with the Spirit is to be “plugged into” God’s supernatural power.
- It is clear throughout the New Testament that our Lord wants all believers in Christ to be filled with the fullness of Himself. Paul writes to the Ephesians, “For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:14~19).
- The Spirit filled life is about being controlled, directed, and empowered by Jesus Christ. Ultimately, that is what the Spirit filled life is; it is being filled with all the fullness of Jesus, moment by moment.
- A.W. Tozer once wrote, “Though every believer has the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit does not have every believer.”

Ephesians 5:18 But believers are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:18)

- Hence there is individual responsibility; there are conditions to be met if we are to experience the Spirit's control in our lives.
- Paul begins with making a point of contrast, “do not be drunk with wine...” A person intoxicated by alcohol is under the control of alcohol. A drunk does unnatural things when under the power of the drink.

- In comparison, Paul goes on to say, “but be filled with the Holy Spirit.” Paul’s point here is that the filling with the Spirit is a control issue.

A Daily Experience

- Paul writes that we are “to be” filled with the Holy Spirit. The grammar for this phrase “to be” means continuous action.
- It implies that this condition of being filled with the Spirit does not stop with an initial experience, but is maintained daily through “be being filled.”
- The Wycliffe Commentary defines it well, “Keep on being filled; be continuously filled with the Spirit. A believer can never obtain more of the Holy Spirit, for he indwells the Christian's life in all his fullness. But the Holy Spirit can get more of the believer; that is, he can exercise complete control of the life that is yielded to him.”
- It is a condition of the heart not a title. It is not an experience we have had, but a life we are now living! We can be Spirit filled today, but not tomorrow. It is our choice. Whether we are Spirit filled is a question of “Who is on the throne of your heart right now?” (FYI, the answer has only two choices: “Jesus” or “me.”)

Ex. From time to time, people ask me, “Is your church Spirit-filled?” I often answer with, “Well, let’s see, today we are...but you should have been here last week!” I am being a bit humorous, but what I am implying is what the Apostle Paul is implying also. Being “Spirit filled” is a daily challenge, not a one time experience. Being “Spirit filled” is a daily condition of our heart. It is not a title to throw around, but a condition of our heart everyday! Being “Spirit filled” can be seen by everyone!

- If you are overflowing with the Spirit, believe me, everyone will notice! The Bible clearly articulates the qualities of a Spirit filled Christian,

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)

Three Promises

I see three promises between the Holy Spirit and the believer that are represented by three Greek prepositions-*para, en, and epi*. In John 14, Jesus told the disciples,

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of Truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it see’s him not, neither knows him: but you know him; for he dwells with you and shall be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

1) Holy Spirit that is “with you,”

- a. *para* relationship in which, there is this “coming alongside” a person. I believe that the Holy Spirit is dwelling with, alongside, or around a person prior to salvation.
- b. He is the One who is calling, wooing, and leading the person to desire Christ. He is the One convicting the person of sin. This is the initial Spirit’s work of convincing the person that Jesus is God and saves us from sin, condemnation, and judgment.

2) The Holy Spirit is “in you”

- a. This is the English equivalent of “coming into the believer.” This is the preposition used again in 1 Cor. 6:19-20, “...know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you...”
- b. This is the relationship of the Holy Spirit with the believer at the point of faith in Christ as Savior. When a person, by faith, as an act of the will, invites Christ into his/her life,

the Holy Spirit comes into the heart and life of the new Christian.

I also believe that the Holy Spirit wants to give us power to live the Christian life in victory and joy. This power and victory is more than just the *para* (coming alongside) relationship. It is more than the *en* (within) relationship. This third relationship is distinct from these two. This is best described by Jesus when He said,

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
(Acts 1:8)

3) The Holy Spirit that is “coming upon” or “over”

- a. The Greek preposition, *epi* is used here. *Epi* has the meaning of “coming upon” or “over.” It is the overflow, the spilling out of the Spirit of God.
- b. We are not just vessels for containing the Spirit, but we become channels by which the Holy Spirit overflows to the world through us.
- c. This is the outer evidence of our witness that Jesus is the Lord of our lives. Acts 1:8 goes on to show us the result of this life of overflow, “...and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the remotest parts of the earth.”
- d. God’s ideal plan is that we would be overflowing with His grace and love to the world. This is what I call the filling of the Holy Spirit. (Some call this the baptism of the Holy Spirit.) Whatever you call it, I little care, just get it! Daily, be filled up with the overflow of God’s Spirit.

**Jesus describes the purpose of the Holy Spirit in filling believers
In John 7. On the great day of the Feast of Tabernacles, Jesus
stood and cried out,**

**"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who
believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will
flow rivers of living water." And John, giving commentary, goes
on to write, "But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom
those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not
yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." This a beautiful
description of the Spirit filled life. The Spirit filled life is not
about just getting the vessel full, but getting the vessel so full
that it overflows! We are to overflow with the Spirit of God. We
are to overflow with the "living waters" of Jesus and give away
what we have received.**