



Empowering People to Change the World

Windstorm I: Back to the Future

Steve Holt

Windstorm part I

Back to the Future

Announce:

- Windstorm is happening this week, every night at 6, except Wednesday night
- If you are not yet in a D Group but would like to be, I want to encourage you to email us
- Pit Stop after the service on Saturday night

Tonight we have Victor Marx sharing about his trip to Burma...

Tonight: Part I: Back To The Future

Gabriel Marcel says that “hope is for the soul what breathing is for the living organism.” I do hope that this message tonight will give you great hope...

Why the title Windstorm?

From the New Bible Dictionary: SPIRIT, HOLY SPIRIT. OT, Heb. *rûah* 378 times (plus 11 Aramaic in Daniel); NT, Gk. *pneuma* 379 times. 1. *Wind*, an invisible, mysterious, powerful force, regularly with the notion of strength or violence present. 2. *Breath*, 3. *Divine power*, where *rûah* is used to describe occasions when

men seemed to be carried out of themselves—not just a surge of vitality, but a supernatural force taking possession. It is important to realize that for the first Christians the Spirit was thought of in terms of divine power clearly manifest by its effects on the life of the recipient; the impact of the Spirit did not leave individual or onlooker in much doubt that a significant change had taken place in him by divine agency.

(Paul refers his readers back to their initial experience of the Spirit again and again. For some it had been an overwhelming experience of God’s love (Rom. 5:5); for others of joy (1 Thes. 1:6); for others of illumination (2 Cor. 3:14–17), or of liberation (Rom. 8:2; 2 Cor. 3:17), or of moral transformation (1 Cor. 6:9–11), or of various spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 1:4–7; Gal. 3:5). In Acts the most regularly mentioned manifestation of the Spirit is inspired speech, speaking in tongues, prophecy and praise, and bold utterance of the word of God (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 10:46; 13:9–11; 19:6).)

Jim Cymbala’s most recent book, “Storm,” he writes,

“Our culture is no longer a traditional church-going society. Agnosticism and atheism are increasing. If we want to turn back that tide, the Christian community *has* to return to absolute dependence on the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit who made the early believers such a powerful witness for Christ in the age of the Roman Empire. Are there other options? They (early church) knew nothing of what we now call “doing church”; but they grew, and we’re shrinking. “

“Those who deny our need for the Holy Spirit’s direction and help today because the “canon of Scripture is closed” totally miss the point. It’s not new truth or doctrine He brings. We already have God’s unchangeable truth in Scriptures, but what we need is the Spirit’s life and power!”

Deception on the Earth: Satanic Windstorm

We are seeing an acceleration of evil on the earth. The Bible tells us that in the latter days, evil will increase—evil is maturing

Daniel 8:23
And in the latter time of their kingdom,
When the transgressors have reached their fullness,
A king shall arise,
Having fierce features,
Who understands sinister schemes.

The Culture is dying:

1. No sense of right and wrong
2. No clear understanding of institutions: like marriage, like sexual orientation, like Who we are as a Nation
3. No overarching code of ethics or morals

There will be a falling away from the church in the Latter Days

Paul to Timothy (1 Tim 4), “Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron¹

- Doctrine of demons—demons oppose truth by obscuring truth
- Even using religious language to obscure the church about truth and Jesus—the nature of his salvation
- All roads don’t lead to the same God. Only Christ came and only Christ was righteous and only one died on the cross for our sins

Vs. 3 forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.²

- There is a day coming when they will outlaw marriage

¹ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (1 Ti 4:1–2). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

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

- Making marriage obsolete because it's so controversial
- Satan's power is going to increase across the earth, but so is the church's power. The wheat and the tares will grow together. Evil is maturing and so are those believers who are full of the Spirit

Revelation 12: Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”³

- Satan knows his end is near and he is raging!
- The voice of evil in the culture is going to increase. The voice of God through His people will also increase
- Windstorms are coming—storms of evil and in great measure, windstorms of the Spirit will increase
- Do you understand the crisis we are in? Politically. Economically. Spiritually. Sexual perversion, marriage pollution, doctrinal impurity, doctrines of demons, there is a spirit of deception being released upon the church
- God has raised up a generation of people who are seeking God for a windstorm, crying out to God for a great outpouring of the Spirit
- **Jeremiah writes, “Cursed *is* he who does the work of the LORD deceitfully”⁴**
- This spring we are going to do Joel. We are going to see the context of the End Times, the Latter Days—tremendous darkness, great crisis and an outpouring of the Spirit and power. Windstorms are coming!!

³ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Re 12:12). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

⁴ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Je 48:10). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Changing the World: The Windstorms of God

Jesus at his heart, was a revolutionary. He came to upset the status quo, to the rock the religious boat. He came to change the world one heart at a time. Jesus focused on the heart of the person. Win the heart, win men. Win men, win the family. Win the family, win a nation. The Church was birthed out of a revolutionary movement of the heart. To the extent that the Church through the centuries has focused on transforming the heart, has been the extent of its revolutionary impact.

“The world of mankind has not advanced by evolution but revolution, by violent upheavals in society. Eden, the Flood, Exodus, the Captivity Era are OT examples, Pentecost the conspicuous NT example. The Renaissance and Protestant Reformation in the 16th century changed the whole thought and life of Europe. Modern history dates from them.” Author Wallis *In the Day of Power*, p. 45

All of the Word has Moved Forward because of Spiritual Windstorms

- Jesus—400's The earliest advances of Christianity in the Middle East that spread all over north Africa, Asia Minor, and Europe were from the revolution of the First Century Church after Pentecost
- 1400's—1600's The advance of the Gospel across Europe and into the America's is directly linked to the Protestant Reformation of Wycliffe, Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin
- The Renaissance in the humanities, theology, and art and rise of modern nation states that developed across Europe came directly from the Protestant Reformation
- 1700's—1800's England and America were revived and brought forth the first missionary advances through the windstorms created by Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, and George Whitefield and 1st and 2nd Great Awakenings

- 1906—1940's The Azusa Street Revival in LA at the turn of the 20th century has led to the most powerful, most miraculous, most mission minded work of the Spirit that the church has ever known
- 1940's—1960's The great evangelistic and healing movements after World War II came out of leaders like Billy Graham, Bill Bright, Oral Roberts, and Dennis Bennet, who were touched by the Holy Spirit and were ignited with fresh vision
- 1967—1980's During the greatest upheaval of our nation God showed up and began saving a generation of young people with a windstorm called The Jesus Movement that led to a new kind of church and a new kind of music
- 1980's—1990's inaugurated the 3rd Wave of the Holy Spirit as the power and practice of Pentecostal power touched mainline churches

“Revival is the divine military strategy; first to counteract spiritual decline, and then to create spiritual momentum.” Wallis *ibid*, p. 45

One of the axioms of the Protestant Reformation was *ecclesia reformata semper reformanda*, “a reformed church, always reforming”

- The Puritans and Pietests rediscovered the truth which is clear in the Augustinian tradition: the precondition of perpetual reformation is the spiritual revitalization of the church. Luther understood this, with his rediscovery of justification by faith, but it was further developed through the Lutheran Pietists, who focused not so much on creeds, statements, and custom, but rather zeal of the heart.
- AW Boehm, one of the architects of the Halle Pietism in London said, “True Christianity...is an active, lively, strong, vigorous Principle, seated in the inmost Center of the Soul.” Richard Lovelace, *Dynamics of Spiritual Life*, p. 14

- Dr. Richard Lovelace writes, “The attunement of the heart is essential to the outflow of grace. This is not to emphasize faith and experience over works, thought, and social action. We must aim at building the structures of God’s kingdom but recognize that we will only create those through the transformation of our [heart] experience.” Ibid, p. 16

Back to the Future

Back to the Bible of God’s original windstorm. We always return to the book of Acts as our blueprint of how God moves upon men. These are indeed the last days and in the last days Joel tells us how God will move

Acts 2:17

***‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.
And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy.
I will show wonders in heaven above
And signs in the earth beneath:
Blood and fire and vapor of smoke.
The sun shall be turned into darkness,
And the moon into blood,
Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the
LORD.
And it shall come to pass
That whoever calls on the name of the LORD
Shall be saved.’⁵***

So in a sense we go “back to the future”

⁵ *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ac 2:17–21). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- Looking back at Pentecost as our basis for movements of the Spirit
- Looking back at some of the great revivals and awakenings of the past
- Realizing that as we near the coming of the Lord, we will be open to the increasing power of the Spirit even as the power of Satan also rises
- Preparation for a coming world order and an increasingly apostate church
- And though the coming of the Spirit or Windstorm as I'm terming it, cannot happen through human effort, it can be hindered by quenching the Spirit and lack of faith. We cry out to God for such a visitation because it is in His nature to so visit His church. Nothing else can help us. Nothing less can bring a Jesus revolution to our city.

Charles Finney: "The antecedents, accompaniments and results of revivals are always substantially the same as in the case of Pentecost."

Ecclesiastes 7:13 tells us, "Consider what God has done..." In the midst of the daily barrage of disturbing and depressing developments in our culture, we desperately need something like this to stir up memories of a time when God's fire fell upon our nation.

J.B. Phillips Preface to *Letters to Young Churches*:

The great difference between present-day Christianity and that of which we read in these letters is that to us it is primarily a performance; to them it was a real experience. We are apt to reduce the Christian religion to a code, or at least a rule of heart and life. To these men it is quite plainly the invasion of their lives by a new quality of life altogether. They do not hesitate to describe this as Christ living in them. Mere moral reformation will hardly explain the transformation and the exuberant vitality of these men's lives—even if we could prove a motive for such reformation, and certainly the world around offered little encouragement to the early Christians! We are

practically driven to accept their own explanation, which is that their little human lives had, through Jesus Christ, been linked up with the very life of God... These early Christians were on fire with the conviction that they had become, through Christ, literally sons of God; they were pioneers of a new humanity, founders of a new Kingdom. They still speak to us across the centuries. Perhaps if we believed what they believed, we might achieve what they achieved.