

Windstorm part II

Burning Desire and Devine Disruption

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
- 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 at theroadcs@gmail.com
- Our new website is theroadcs.org and you can go there to find out about all aspects of the church and our new C Groups getting started
- Pit Stop after the service on Saturday night

Opening:

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.

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

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.

Acts 1:14

These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

1) Burning Desire

- One Accord: “Being unanimous, having mutual consent, agreement, one purpose”
 - One accord prayer—meaning one mind—one mind that lead to action
 - Three essentials in a Windstorm, in every great move of God, and that is: 1) a burning desire that leads to 2) unity and 3) prayer—one accord in one place!
- Burning desire to experience Christ

The inevitable and constant preliminary to revival has always been a thirst for God, a thirst, a living thirst for a knowledge of the living God and longing and burning desire to see Him acting, manifesting himself and his power, rising and scattering his enemies... Martin-Lloyd Jones Revival p. 90

- Martyn Lloyd-Jones, in speaking of the difference between us today and the men and women God mightily used in revival, wrote, “Meditation played such a big part in their lives. They would spend hours thinking, meditating, ruminating, if you like, upon the word. But this is something that has almost disappeared. And our excuse, of course, is that we are all too busy. And we are too busy. Our whole lives are cluttered up with things that finally will not matter at all...You can be so busy in the work even of the Christian Church that you are doing great harm to your soul. You can become superficial and dry, and eventually useless. No, meditation is absolutely essential.” Ibid, p. 81

- When you look at the people God has used in revival we see men and women who have looked at themselves, at God, and become alarmed at their human state, at their own impotence, at their own proclivity to sin, at their own loss of vitality and vision, and instead of becoming depressed, angry, or isolated, have turned instead to God, to Jesus Christ, to the power of the Holy Spirit to His Word, for their answers
 - Martin Luther, John Calvin, Jonathan Edwards, John Wesley, George Whitefield, Evan Roberts, even men like Billy Graham, Oral Roberts, Dennis Bennet, Chuck Smith, and John Wimber
 - These were not men who became depressed about their spiritual state, but rather were filled with a burning desire to seek God, seek His love, seek his Holy Spirit fire
 - They preached to themselves first and then they preached to others. They experienced the Windstorm first in their own lives and then they had something to give away

- **Martin Luther**
 - Martin Luther was a man who sought God repeatedly for a visitation upon his life. He was so deeply burdened by

his sin that he once went to Rome in 1510 and crawled on his bare knees up the hundreds of steps of Santa Scala stone for forgiveness of his sins. Even at the top of Santa Scala, he murmured, "Who knows if its true"

- He said of himself, "If ever a monk got into heaven by monkery, I should have gotten there...if it had lasted longer I should have tortured myself to death..."
- Trying to earn indulgences that would save his dead relatives and himself from purgatory
- It was during his lecture in the Psalms (1513-1515) that Luther became a new man, believing that salvation was not by any merit done by man but rather the acceptance by faith of the merits of Christ in one's life.
- Luther's belief that we could not earn our salvation by our good works, that Jesus paid it all at Calvary, that we could enter into a personal vital dynamic relationship with Christ by faith, literally set off a spiritual Atomic Bomb in an age of religious legalism! The explosion changed Europe and all western nations forever
- Contributions of Luther:
 1. A man is justified by faith alone and not by our works
 2. Each believer has access to God directly apart from any human intermediaries
 3. The Bible is the supreme source of authority for both faith and life and anyone, anywhere can hear from God and be led by God
 4. All people are priests, endowed by God with gifts and callings to be used for God's glory

Burning Desire leading to Prayer

- This burning desire for God and for His presence always turns into prayer. Usually starting with a one or a few, these men and

women begin to gather and seek God together, resulting in prayer gatherings

- The gathering of prayer that most impacted the revivals of Wesley and Whitefield in London in the mid-1700's could arguably be the work of Count Zinzendorf and the Moravians
- The village of Herrnhut, "The Lord's Watch," (in present day Germany) came about on June 17, 1722, when a little band of religious fugitives from Moravia (in the modern Czech Republic) asked Count Ludwig von Zinzendorf if they might settle on his land. The Count agreed. One Moravian leader was Christian David, a potter who burned with zeal for the things of the Lord.
- Zinzendorf, too, was a man of deep religious conviction and piety. At six he had written love letters to Christ. He and his wife had dedicated their lives completely to Christ.
- Herrnhut had become a gathering place for many religious exiles. These spoke different languages and had differing customs. Creeds varied. Lutherans, Schwenkfelders, Separatists, Reformed and Brethren lived side by side. Squabbles developed.
- But On August 13, 1727, at a baptism and communion service, the Holy Spirit moved through the room. Differences dissolved. All embraced one another in forgiveness and a spirit of love. Christ became central to their thinking. A Pentecost occurred as the Holy Spirit came down.
 - **Of 13 August, Christian David wrote: "It is truly a miracle of God that out of so many kinds and sects as Catholics, Lutheran, Reformed, Separatist, Gichtelian and the like, we could have been melted together into one." "From that time on," said David Nitschmann, "Herrnhut became a living Congregation of Christ." "Then were we baptized by the Holy Spirit Himself to one love," said Spangenberg. 13 August, Zinzendorf concluded, "was a day of the outpouring of the Holy**

Spirit upon the Congregation”; it was “its Pentecost.”

- They established a twenty-four hour around-the-clock prayer vigil which lasted one hundred years. The fervent prayers resulted in the sending out of missionaries to many lands--the first Protestant missions outside Europe and North America. Thus Herrnhut reached out and touched other lands.
- Moravian missionaries to America and England influenced John and Charles Wesley. Moravian missionary zeal prompted William Carey's efforts to reach India for Christ. "See what these Moravians have done," he said in his appeal to have missionaries commissioned.

During a Windstorm, God makes himself manifest in a living way—a real life experience of intimacy and power

1. Intimacy. A deep longing for intimacy with Christ develops in the heart of true seekers leading to prayer.
 2. Faith. Faith becomes an experience, life experience, not just beliefs, a set of beliefs
 3. Bible. This Bible is a Bible of Experience, not just intellectual ascent
- These early believers were desperate for this “promise” that Jesus had spoken of. They are scared, uncertain of the future, all alone, yet expectant of the promise coming.
 - Are you frightened? Feeling alone? Uncertain of your future? But are you expectant that God has you here tonight because He wants to do something new, vital, dynamic in your life? He does and He will. This is what God did, this is what God does, this is what God will do in the future! Yes, even on our watch.
 - P, B, and J—Prayer, Bible, and Journal daily is the beginning point...

Acts 2

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.¹

2) Divine Disruption

- The wind begins to blow “suddenly”
- Ex. Once while flying in Alaska in a small twin engine plane, we suddenly encountered a storm. The blue sky disappeared, the plane began to pitch, you could hear the wind howling over the drum of the engines...
- They were waiting on something but were unsure of what it was. They were simply obeying Jesus. He had told them to wait until they were filled with power...

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 from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” 7 And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 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

- It was the timing of the Lord, not the timing of men—God seems to relish in disrupting our lives!

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

² *The New King James Version*. 1982 (Ac 1:4–8). Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

- A Windstorm comes and goes. It never lasts. It always has a coming (sometimes you can actually know the date, other times it just kind of builds and fades) but it comes and goes. Yet the impact is felt for years
- Jonathan Edwards son-in-law David Brainerd, who prayed in the snow until all the snow around him had melted, stained by his blood as he coughed away his life with T.B., prevailed in prayer for the American Indians, and the Spirit came in 1745, he writes, “The power of God seemed to descend on the assembly like a rushing mighty wind and with an astonishing energy bore all down before it. I stood amazed at the influence that seized the audience almost universally and could compare it to nothing more aptly than the irresistible force of a mighty torrent...Almost all persons of all ages were bowed down with concern together and scarce one was able to withstand the shock of the astonishing operation.” (Jonathan Edwards, *The Life and Diary of David Brainerd*, p. 142-3)
- When God comes in a Windstorm, he disrupts the usual and disturbs the comfortable. J. Edwin Orr, an eminent authority of scholarship on revival, writes, “a spiritual awakening is a movement of the Holy Spirit bringing about a revival of New Testament Christianity in the Church of Christ and its related community.” (Pratney, *ibid*, p. 16)
- Welsh Revival of 1904: “With less than a score of intercessors when it burst, the churches of Wales were crowded for more than two years; one hundred thousand outsiders were converted, drunkenness cut in half, and many taverns driven into bankruptcy. Crimes were so diminished that judges were presented with white gloves signifying there were no cases of murder, assault, rape, robbery, or the like to consider. The police became unemployed in many districts.” J. Edwin Orr, *Evangelical Awakenings*, p. 114
- India 1905-1906: in a matter of 2 years the Christian population jumped by 70%, 16X faster than the Hindu population. Amy Carmichael recorded of, what one of her little girls recorded,

“Jesus came to Dohnavur”: “it was so startling and dreadful—I can use no other word—that details escape me. Soon the whole upper half of the church was on its face on the floor, crying to God, each boy and girl, man and woman, oblivious of all others. The sound was like the sound of waves or strong wind in the trees...the hurricane of prayer continued for over four hours. They passed like minutes. For the next two weeks, they gave themselves to the Word and prayer; counseling around the clock. Almost the whole compound got saved; it deeply affected the village.” Orr, *ibid*, p. 135