

ONE FROM THE HEART

Life in the Spirit

We have been talking all year about how we are like a sailing boat, we aren't under our own power but instead just like a sailing boat, we are reliant upon the wind of the Spirit to propel and move us. Our job is to hoist the sail and allow the wind of His Spirit to take us wherever He wants to go.

And it feels to me like there's some wind in our sails. We have sensed the moving of God's Spirit amongst us in recent weeks and have been hearing the testimony of how God is at work in bringing people to salvation, baptisms, healing people, birthing a new hunger and desire to prioritize the things of God. There's a gentle yet powerful move of the Holy Spirit – the wind is blowing.

In both Hebrew and Greek, the word for “wind” and the word for “breath” and the word for “spirit” is the same word. There's something about the mystery of the wind, about what is life giving about breath.

Jesus said: 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.

JOHN 3:8 (NIV)

Jesus uses a simple example from nature to teach a profound spiritual truth.

The Holy Spirit is in the world quietly and unceasingly convicting people of their sin and the need they have for a Saviour. He's leading people to Jesus so they might put their trust in Christ's sacrificial work on the cross, and unbelief is replaced with faith – the invisible, unfathomable work of the Holy Spirit results in the mystery of the new birth.

Our new life in Christ is the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit in the very heart of a believer, by faith. And having begun in the Spirit we are to continue to live our life in spirit and truth.

We walk in the spirit and pray in the spirit as guided by Him. It is as we bow to Holy Spirit's leading and guiding, promptings, and training, His indescribable movement can be observed in those who continually surrender and are open to His leading.

Do you trust Him?

Are you prepared to allow the Spirit to move wherever and however He wants to move, or will you try to "harness" or control His movement?

Not surprisingly the Holy Spirit's presence stretches us. He brings together both the continuity and the discontinuity of God's dealings with us – the God of the past and the Lord who acts in the 'now'. Such majesty and mystery are rarely within our comfort zone.

The only link between us and the throne of grace is the Holy Spirit. If He is quenched or grieved, we have cut off the only link that will let us know how God is moving today. We must therefore maintain the best possible relationship to the Spirit.

"As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him and reflect his glory even more, which comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 (NLT)

Christlikeness is not produced by imitation, but by inhabitation. We allow Jesus, by His Holy Spirit to live through us. "For this is the secret: Christ lives in you the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). And the way to have Christ living through us is to embrace a personal relationship with the Spirit.

Being open to the Spirit is being vulnerable to Him immediately and directly when He manifests Himself in an immediate and direct manner.

How to Live Open to the Holy Spirit

- + Humility - Proverbs 9:10; Matthew 6:3
- + Desire - Matthew 6:6
- + Intimacy - John 15:1-17
- + Trust and Rest - James 1:17; Matthew 19:26; 1 John 4:16; John 10:10; Romans 8:31; Proverbs 3:5-6; 2 Chronicles 16:9

The key to becoming the community of God we desire to be, to meet the needs of our community, to pastor the city of Brisbane and release revivalists to the world, is dependent upon how we embrace the Holy Spirit both personally and corporately. I believe God wants to bring us into a new understanding of His glory. I believe that God wants to allow us to see His glory, to meet with Him face to face, to see His glory manifest amongst us. We are not to be fearful of this - we are in safe hands.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus uses a simple example from nature to teach a profound spiritual truth (John 3:8). How does it make you feel knowing that the Holy Spirit and the way He moves is somewhat of a mystery to us?
2. In what areas do you find it hard to trust God?
3. When the Spirit moves or He manifests His work in our lives in unpredictable ways, how does this make you feel?
4. Reflect on 2 Corinthians 3:18. Do you see the glory of Jesus shining in your life? Is the glory growing brighter?
5. Are you being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Christ?
6. What is holding you back from embracing a personal intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit?
7. Pray for each other that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon you in a new and living way. Pray that your own personal experience of the Holy Spirit would become more real.