

Week 10: Catching the Wind of the Holy Spirit

*Listening to the Sound of the
Spirit from Genesis to
Revelation*

Old Testament

- Creation
- Patriarchs
 - Joseph
- Theocracy
 - Moses
 - Bezalel
 - 70 elders
 - Joshua
 - Judges
- Kings
 - Saul
 - David
 - Solomon
- Prophets

New Testament

- Gospels (Messiah)
 - John the Baptist
 - Jesus
- Pentecost
 - Peter
 - John
 - Disciples
 - Paul
- Epistles
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - James
 - John
 - Jude
- Revelation

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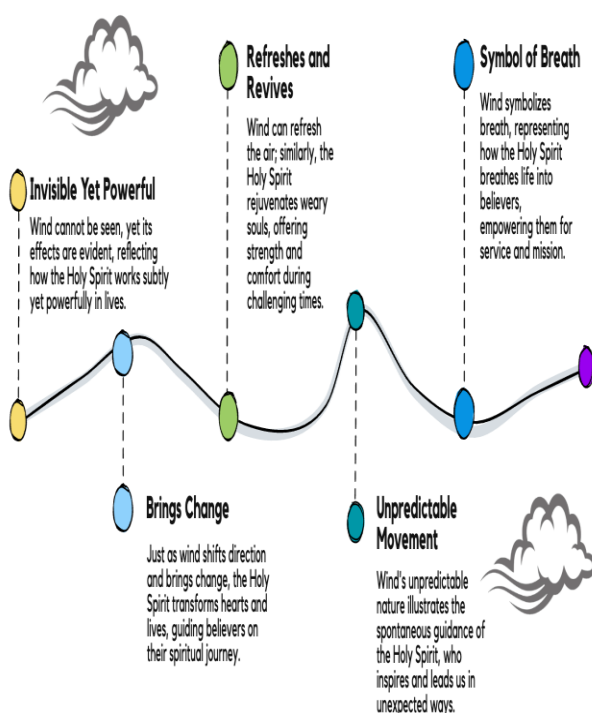
Catching the Wind of the Holy Spirit

Tim Morris

“The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

John 3:8

The master of metaphor: The Spirit as wind



Why wind is the perfect metaphor for the Spirit (John 3:8)

- Invisible yet real
- Powerful (effects are undeniable)
- Brings change
- Life-giving (breath and the scattering of seeds)
- Refreshes and revives
- Guidance and direction
- Uncontrollable / sovereign (“blows where it wishes”)

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- Unpredictable from our limited perspective
- Knowable by effects (you “hear the sound”; you see what it does)

We often can’t map how the Spirit works, but we can recognize the fruit, guidance, empowerment, conviction and witness that follow.

From Analysis to Application | The Spirit’s Ministry

- **In Our New Birth:**
 - **Regenerates:** Implanting the seed of new life.

Titus 3:5

He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit

- **Confirms adoption:**
Enabling us to cry "Abba! Father!"

Romans 8:15

For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

- **Seals:** Guaranteeing our future inheritance

Ephesians 1:13-14

¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, ¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance

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until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

- **Indwells:** The Spirit comes to live in us and remain with us, thus providing the resources we need to live righteously.

Romans 8:9

You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

- **Baptizes:** The Spirit incorporates us into the body of Christ, providing us with a “support group” for living.

1 Corinthians 12:13

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

- **Bestows gifts:** The Spirit distributes the spiritual gifts that enable the body of Christ to function properly.

1 Corinthians 12:4

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit

- **In Our New Life:**
 - **Assuring:**

Romans 8:15-17

¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you

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have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

○ **Interceding:**

Romans 8:26-27

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

○ **Teaching:**

1 Corinthians 2:6-16

⁶ Yet among the mature we do impart wisdom, although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to pass away. ⁷ But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. ⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”—

¹⁰ these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person’s

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thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. ¹⁶ “For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.

○ Transforming:

2 Corinthians 3:1-18

¹ Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

⁴ Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. ⁵ Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our

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sufficiency is from God, ⁶ who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

⁷ Now if the ministry of death, carved in letters on stone, came with such glory that the Israelites could not gaze at Moses' face because of its glory, which was being brought to an end, ⁸ will not the ministry of the Spirit have even more glory? ⁹ For if there was glory in the ministry of condemnation, the ministry of righteousness must far exceed it in glory. ¹⁰ Indeed, in this case, what once had glory has come to have no glory at all, because of the glory that surpasses it. ¹¹ For if what was being brought to an end came with glory, much more will what is permanent have glory.

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to

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another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

○ **Filling:**

Ephesians 5:15-21

¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

- **Guiding:** Providential (closed doors), Extraordinary (visions), and Ordinary (reasoned application of Scripture).

Acts 16:6-8

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas.

Acts 15:28-29

²⁸ For it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us to lay on you no greater burden than these requirements: ²⁹ that you abstain from what has been

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sacrificed to idols, and from blood, and from what has been strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.”

- **Bearing Fruit:** Character transformation (Galatians 5:22-23) through active dependence (abiding).

Galatians 5:22-23

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Raising Your Sail | **Seven Suggestions for Empowerment**

1. **Wholly Devoted Heart:** Like David (a man after God's heart) vs. Saul.
2. **No Compromise:** Like Joseph, choosing righteousness even when no one is watching.
3. **Sensitivity and Repentance:** Keeping "short accounts" with God (David's restoration after Bathsheba).
4. **Faithfulness in Small Tasks:** Empowerment often follows a process of development (as with Joshua and Barnabas).
5. **Deflecting the Glory:** Like John the Baptist ("He must increase, but I must decrease").
6. **Devotion to Prayer:** Expressing our total dependence on the Steersman.
7. **Eyes on Jesus:** Keeping our gaze on the perfect model of Spirit-dependent living.

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Just as each person studied in this book had his or her own personality, background, strengths, and weaknesses, so there are different kinds of sailing vessels. It matters little, however, whether the vessel is a single-masted runabout, a double-masted racing schooner, or a towering clipper ship carrying thousands of yards of sail. Without the wind, none of them goes anywhere. So it is with those of us who follow Jesus Christ. We must raise our sails of faith and obedience and look to the wind of the Spirit to carry us where he wants us to go. As a traditional sailors' blessing says:

“May the wind always fill your sails and may the sea stay calm under your bow!”

John D. Harvey, *Anointed with the Spirit and Power: The Holy Spirit's Empowering Presence*

- Why do you think some evangelical Christians neglect Scripture's teaching on the Holy Spirit? Where does your own understanding need work?
- What role does the Holy Spirit play in understanding and applying Scripture? In living the Christian life? In ministering for Christ and his kingdom?

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- Why do you think Pentecostalism is growing so rapidly around the world? To what degree do you think that movement's doctrine of the Holy Spirit contributes to its growth?
- How do you describe the differences between being led and being filled by the Spirit? What about the baptism of the Spirit?
- In addition to the wind, what are some of the other images Scripture uses to describe the Holy Spirit? What truths about the Spirit do those images suggest?

Next: *Introduction to The Acts of the Holy Spirit*