

May 23, 2020

I came across a quote the other day that stuck out to me...

**The Pessimist complains about the wind.
The Optimist expects it to change.
The Realist simply adjusts the sails.**

Take a moment, and consider which you identify most with right now? ...the pessimist, the optimist, or the realist.

If we're honest and think about it long enough, as this pandemic continues we find ourselves, at some point, in all three categories. I can certainly say that I have called all of these categories *home* in the course of current events. This is not about having the right answer, rather it's about taking a picture of what's going on inside of us.

The common denominator for each category is not their perspective, but their *environment*.

Each category happens IN THE WIND.

Right now, the global church stands at the face of welcoming the wind again, just like the early church did on that Pentecost day in Acts when God's Spirit fell on the church like *tongues of fire*.¹ Pentecost Sunday is May 31st.

The Old Testament and New Testament alike share in their description of the Holy Spirit. In both, God's Spirit is described as the **GREAT WIND**. Israel used the Hebrew word, *ruach*, while the early church used the Greek word, *pneuma*.² Different languages; but the words essentially mean the same thing—**GREAT WIND**. And when you're in the wind, it's moving all around you and through you. At least, this is how it was for the women and men waiting on The Counselor to show up, just as Jesus promised he would.³ Listen in on how Dr. Luke described it that day:

¹ Acts 2:4

² Technically, Jesus and his Nazarene contemporaries used the word *ruach* as well, since this is the word for Spirit in both Hebrew and Aramaic. Aramaic would've been the primary language for Jesus; but Jesus, like his contemporary listeners, would have been fluent in speaking both Aramaic and Greek (amongst other Semitic languages).

³ John 14:18

ACTS 2:1-2^{NIV}

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Jesus' promise to his disciples at the last supper was that he will not leave us comfortless.⁴ So that even in the discomfort of this season, we can be assured and filled by the Comforter who comes suddenly and swiftly.

While we may waiver in perspective of our circumstances, the coming of God's Spirit in Acts 2 intends to fill our *whole house*.

- Can your house use the filling from God's promised Spirit?
- Are you in need of the comfort that comes when filled from God's Spirit?

Today, may you adjust your sails to the wind of the Spirit and move ahead as best you can. For us hope is not stagnant; it strains ahead seeking a way forward even through difficult and uncharted waters.

Without Ceasing,

Pastor Brandon

⁴ John 14:18