

## The Wind Beneath Our Wings – Part 2

Sunday Morning, May 15, 2016

Before Mother's Day we discussed how the Holy Spirit was like the thermals that Eagles use to help them soar. The Holy Spirit unites us as one body and empowers us to do God's work. We have all been given the gift of the same Spirit and that allows us to work unified and bear the fruits of the Spirit.

When a Church is filled with the Holy Spirit, God can turn the world upside down. The key is never our abilities, but the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us to accomplish God's Will.

This was seen many times in the lives of the Apostles and early Church.

**(Act 17:6)**

But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, "These who have turned the world upside down have come here too."

The Spirit of God is resident to perform everything the Lord wants to do.

**(Ephesians 3: 20 – 21)** reminds us that God Himself is the power working in us.

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Paul acknowledged his own weakness and fear, but did God's work by demonstration of the Spirit's power.

**(I Corinthians 2: 1 – 5)**

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, did not come with excellence of speech or of wisdom declaring to you the testimony of God.

2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

3 I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling.

4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,

5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Henry Blackaby lists Six Principles of Power that will help us to evaluate our Church. Ask yourself these questions about our Church:

1. Is any activity or attitude in our church contrary to the Father's will? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If there is, then the Holy Spirit is not being allowed to work, because He will never work contrary to the Father's will.)*

2. Are sin and unbelief present in our church? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If there is, the Holy Spirit is not free to work here.)*

3. Is God's name honored in our church? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If not, the Holy Spirit cannot work here.)*

4. Does our church want the Holy Spirit to work through us? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If not, the Holy Spirit will not work through this local church as designed.)*

5. Does our church attempt to accomplish only what is reasonable according to budget and personnel, or do we attempt God-sized tasks? \_\_\_\_\_

*(If we are doing it according to budget and personnel, then we are not allowing the Holy Spirit to do above and beyond all we can ask or think. The Holy Spirit's work in the church is always God-sized.)*

6. Does our church give glory and honor to God for all that happens within the body? \_\_\_\_\_

*(When the Holy Spirit works in the church, it always brings honor and glory to God.)*

The Holy Spirit empowers and enables a church to function as a living body of Christ. He brings the body to a caring heart and the ability to work together for a common purpose.

Revival would come quickly if each church and each member in the churches lived his or her life as God designed and purposed.

Jesus knew God's will and purpose for Him.

**(John 6: 37 – 39)**

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

38 For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

39 This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day.

He took seriously the watch care of those God the Father gave Him.

In the same way God is the One who sends people to us, and we must receive all He brings our way.

As each person joins together in this body by the Holy Spirit's unification process. The Holy Spirit's presence becomes the life of the church.

As each body part functions where God put it, the whole body responds to Christ and the Father's will is accomplished in the world through His people.

**(I Corinthians 3: 5 – 8)**

5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one?

6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase.

7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.

8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

Henry Blackaby states, “Another way to think of the parts working together is one built a loving relationship, another spoke a witness, yet others welcomed and ushered when they came to worship, the Pastor preached, the music inspired, many prayed faithfully, then God gave the increase, and all rejoiced together. God works through the entire body, all members functioning where God has placed them. The Holy Spirit enables each by working in them to bring a lost person to faith in Christ.”

The Holy Spirit equips every member to edify and build up the body.

As we help each member grow into maturity, Christ will then have a healthy body whom He can accomplish the Father’s will.

Burden bearing, caring, restoring, rejoicing and weeping with our fellow members in the body is critical to our church functioning as a healthy body.

**(Galatians 6:1)**

Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

**(I Corinthians 12: 26 – 27)**

26 And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

**(II Corinthians 5: 18 – 19)**

18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,

19 that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

**(Philippians 2: 3 – 4)**

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

We must put others first in our body.

Our goal should be to help others in our church to grow in Holiness.

**(Hebrews 12:14)**

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

**(I Peter 1: 14 – 16)**

14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;

15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,

16 because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”

We should always be willing to let others in this body help us when we need help. Pride and self-sufficiency are the devil's tools for hindering us.

**So How Do We Allow the Holy Spirit to Work in Our Church Body and Through It?**

1. Evaluate your walk with the Lord. Are you free from unrepented sin and able to let the Holy Spirit work?
2. Are you serving in this body?
3. Are you helping others in this body?
4. Use the “Requests for Prayer or Help OR Volunteer to Help” Card.

May God bless His Word and the work of His Holy Spirit to accomplish His assignments in our church body!