

Introduction:

- Merriam Webster defines the phrase, *Winds of Change*, as: "forces that have the power to change things – and is used generally to mean change is going to happen."
- We are living in a time where the winds of change are blowing in a big way in our world and in our nation.
 - There are forces that have the power to change our world in a day.
 - There are forces which simply means "change is going to happen."
 - As we have been learning on Wednesday nights, these forces are unseen but very real.
- But in Acts 2, we see a Wind that brought change to 120, and brought change to a city and to the whole world. It was a wind that we saw last Sunday that brought such change, it was said of those Spirit filled believers, "Those who turned the world upside down have come here too." Acts 17:6
- Lets read Acts 2:1-ff.

I. What Brought Pentecost?**A. God brought Pentecost!**

1. Pentecost was a feast that God had established. It was a feast celebrated 50 days after passover. Thus the term (Pente/5-cost) It was also known as the Feast of Weeks, Feast of Harvest, and Shavuot.
2. It was a feast celebrating the giving of the law (Word). The law actually brought freedom to the people who had forgotten God in Egypt/bondage. The law was a huge 'wind of change' for the people of God.
3. It must also be noted that when Moses first came off of the mountain the people were worshipping a golden calf. That day 3,000 people died by the sword of the Levites. But in Acts two 3,000 are born again!

B. The Holy Spirit brought Pentecost.

1. The Holy Spirit is given by the Father.
 - a) *"He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee." (2 Corinthians 5:5, ESV)*
 - b) *"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13, ESV)*
2. Jesus sent Him.
 - a) *"Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you." (John 16:7, ESV)*
 - b) *"I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'" (John 1:33, ESV)*
 - c) *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." (John 14:16-17,*

ESV)

3. He, the Holy Spirit gladly came! *"Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."* (Acts 2:33, ESV)
- C. The 120 brought Pentecost.
1. The 120 followed Jesus instruction and for 10 days they prayed together. Acts 1:14 *"All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer together..."*
 2. One accord – **homothymadón** denotes the unity of a group and may be translated "with one mind." The word denotes a common interest. It is a response to God's action for the community and world. Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, Abridged in One Volume (p. 684). W.B. Eerdmans.
 3. What would happen today if more of the church were in one accord?!
 - a) Thinking the same thing - Kingdom!
 - b) Gathered in a common interest - Revival and Awakening!
 - c) Moving in step with God in the earth! The Winds of change would shape this world in righteousness.
 - (1) Ie. The Pastors praying together in 1993-94.
 - (2) Ie. Welch revival – 1899-1903 extraordinary prayer; 1903 a prayer movement among the young adults.
 - (3) When it came to the states... *"It spread to the US. On Jan. 20, 1905 the Denver Post head line read, "Entire City Pauses for Prayer Even at the High Tide of Business". In Portland Oregon, 240 department stores signed a covenant agreement to close their doors from 11:00 am – 2:00pm each day while their customers and employees attended prayer meetings. In Atlantic City, ministers reported that out of a population of 50,000, only 50 adults were left unconverted."*
 - (4) Every move of God seems to have been birthed by extraordinary prayer. Praying Nash was Charles Finney's (second great awakening) Intercessor. When he died Finney's ministry ended three months later.

II. Preparing For Winds of Change

- A. America needs a Holy Spirit Wind of Change!
 1. When the times seem darkest that is when we need to see a Holy Spirit driven wind of change!
 2. Revival praying is always done by the few. And when revival truly comes the prayer meeting is the first meeting to grow! They were praying right up to Pentecost.
 3. George Whitefield (1st Great Awakening) said, *"Sometimes whole nights were spent in prayer. Often we have been filled as with new wine. And often have we been overwhelmed with the Divine Presence..."* Revival; Brian Edward pp125.
 4. Duncan Cambel, 1949 Scotland, Describes a meeting: *"The lad rose to his feet and in his prayer made reference to the 4th chapter of Revelation, which he had read that morning. 'O God, there is power there, let it loose!' With the face of a hurricane the Spirit of God*

swept into the building and the flood gates of heaven opened. The church resembled a battlefield. On one side many were prostrate over the seats weeping and sighing; on the other side some were affected by throwing their arms in the air in a rigid posture. God had come!" Ibid. pp13.

5. For the early church prayer was a necessity! It was not an option for them. They were devoted to prayer (Acts 2:42). The definite article used in Acts 1:14, 2:42, and 6:4 implies corporate prayer! You cannot read about revival and prayer not be mentioned. America needs a Holy Spirit Wind of Change. I am talking about preparing for winds of change!
- B. Pentecost arrived! They were together of one heart and mind waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Their expectation was for the Gift of the Holy Spirit. They were waiting according to Jesus instruction.
 2. SUDDENLY!
 - a) Suddenly, abruptly, unanticipatedly, it happened! How can it be so suddenly when they've been praying, waiting and anticipating something for 50 days?
 - b) It's suddenly, because when the wind of the Spirit began to blow, it happened quickly and powerfully; and it swept across the place like a storm!
 - c) The Wind brought a fire and the voices of praise and worship and tongues filled the house!
 - d) John's words came to pass: Mt 3:11 "...*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire!*" Well, Holy Spirit and fire fell!
 - e) The Wind of Change had arrived! And it arrived with Fire! And the Church was born that day. No gate of hell has been safe since!
 3. 120 Jews became Pentecostals that day as they were filled with the Holy Spirit!
 - a) That quiet little prayer meeting become a Holy Ghost revival!
 - b) Those pentecostal Jews got so loud that what they got spilled out into the streets.
 - c) People heard them declaring the wonderful works of God. Acts 2:11
 - d) When the Fire moves, you cannot sit quietly unless there's no real fire of the Spirit in you.
 4. America needs the Holy Spirit 'Wind of the Change' to hit her hard once again.
- C. The people were powerless before Pentecost arrived. And they had the wrong understanding of the mission/the purpose of Christ's coming.
 1. "*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*" (Acts 1:8, ESV)
 - a) Receive power – dunamis,...power! KaBoom! Down with the gates of hell!
 - b) To be witnesses – marturion – "means to bear in mind, be concerned. The *mártys* would thus be one who remembers and can tell about something, i.e., a witness." Kittel, G., Friedrich, G., & Bromiley, G. W. (1985). In *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, Abridged in One Volume* (pp. 564-565). W.B. Eerdmans.
 - c) The purpose of Pentecost was to prepare us to be witnesses, people who tell others

- about Jesus, who He is and what He does!
2. When the Holy Spirit came in
 - a) Fear went out and boldness came upon them! IE Peter, All apostles were persecute and died martyrs, except John.
 - b) When the Holy Spirit came in racism went out. All those divisions that existed before could not keep them apart.
 - c) When the Holy Spirit came in all of Christ's missions to believers became possible! Ie. Bruce and Darla, Terrie Clark...you are too old, you should be with family, etc.
 3. When the Holy Spirit came in The Wind of Change drove powerlessness out! We need a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit to blow upon us again and upon our nation.
 4. You want to see America change? Ie. Transformation videos:
 - a) Almalonga, Guatemala jails became places of Bible study.
 - b) Manchester ,KY. Ie. Transformation in Manchester KY. 200 years of bondage, poorest county in the nation (65% of people on welfare) prescription drug capital of nation, average pastoral stay less than 5 years, everyone knew someone who had died of overdose in their family. When the Holy Spirit Wind of Change came, everything changed! Drug supply dried up, dealers went to jail, corruption in government came to a stand still, warring families made peace with each other.
 - c) America needs a move of God!

Conclusion:

- To see the Winds of Change blow in our midst:
 - We have to prepare ourselves in prayer and purity.
 - We must believe that the promise of the Holy Ghost is for us!
 - And then pray and wait for He comes!"

"he makes his messengers winds, his ministers a flaming fire." (Psalm 104:4, ESV) "

"Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live". (Ezekiel 37:9, ESV)

"Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea". (Daniel 7:2, ESV)

"Then a wind from the Lord sprang up, and it brought quail from the sea and let them fall beside the camp, about a day's journey on this side and a day's journey on the other side, around the camp, and about two cubits above the ground". (Numbers 11:31, ESV)