

Pastor's Corner

Dear Friends,

“And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting... And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:2-4a

Boy is it windy outside! Our garbage cans are blowing all over the place and their contents are blowing all over the place (sigh). It sounds like something's howling from inside our home. I confess I don't like being outside when it's this windy - it messes up my hair (vanity vanity) and it's just plain c-c-cold (by the time you're reading this it will have warmed up a wee bit). But as I sit and listen to the wind I'm reminded of the instances of the Holy Spirit appearing to people in the Bible. The scripture above says the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples on Pentecost was like *“a rushing mighty wind.”* In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word for “spirit” is *“ruach,”* which can mean “wind” or “breath.” Likewise, in the New Testament, the Greek word for “spirit” is *“pneuma,”* which can also mean “wind” or “breath.” I think that's pretty profound, the connection between spirit and wind/breath. A rushing mighty wind doesn't sound very gentle, does it? It sounds like the kind of wind that howls; that would blow sand in the disciples' faces, grit in their eyes, and chafe their skin. Certainly, the Holy Spirit isn't something to mess around with.

Writer Richard T. Ritenbaugh says of the Spirit: *“Like the wind, spirit is invisible. A person cannot see it move or work. However, one can see the effect of what the Spirit does. One can see how it acts on things—just as the wind going through a tree full of leaves. ... It is the same with the Spirit. The Spirit moves, and we then can see people react.”*

The effect of the Spirit was made visible by the disciples' spreading of the Good News. The Spirit was made known through their actions. I might not like the cold wind, but I do want the Holy Spirit to blow upon me, whether that's a pleasant thing or not, if it means that It will be made known through my actions. I want It to drive me out into the world to do good things for God's Kingdom. And if that means getting my hair messed up, and having sand on my face and grit in my eyes, then that's what I want.

I want to be blown in the direction God would have me go. And, if necessary, I want to be roughed up a little by God's divine numinous presence, so that I can be the person God made me (and each one of us) to be: loving, gracious, forgiving, patient, kind. Because that's our purpose in life: to make our loving God known in all that we do. A blessed Lent season to you—and may God send His mighty Holy wind to show you the way. I'll see you in church!

Pastor Kara

