

WIND OF CHANGE (1) 2025

Introduction: change – world, our nation, our lives

- Holy Spirit in the business of bringing life
- Holy Spirit more than a force
 - cannot grieve a ‘force’
- God the Holy Spirit
 - comes from Father and Son
 - Baptise in the Name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- OT – Holy Spirit came upon special people (prophets; kings)
- NT – He comes upon and inside us.
- **The Holy Spirit is in us for our benefit and upon us for others.**
- Asbury Outpouring in 2024

Zach Meerkreebs was the chapel speaker at Asbury University, He was raised as an orthodox Jew but had found Christ Jesus as his messiah. He was not an enthusiastic speaker but spoke like a lecturer.

At this chapel service he thought he had missed it. In fact he texted his wife to say he had delivered a stinker and would be home for a nap.

20 minutes later he texted his wife and said a group of students wouldn't leave.

One hour later he realised that God was doing something.

4 hours later he texted his wife to come with his daughters. He was weeping and says “It feels like Jesus is sitting on the stage.”



For 16 days the Asbury Outpouring continued 24/7.

80,000 people came to a two stop light town and over 300 universities were represented.

30,000 people were born again over that time.

Started with 19 students.

One student got up and shared how she has tried to commit suicide numerous times and showing her scars said “Nobody sees me”

At once the congregation spontaneously replied “We see you” and surrounded her in prayer. She now travels to tell her story.

One young man who was a handful and was only at the university because of his sporting abilities came to the meeting because his girlfriend was there. After a week he received Christ.

On the way out of the meeting he met someone in a wheelchair.

On hearing his story said I have seen answers to prayer everywhere here so I'm going to try it. He and others prayed for the gentleman who had multiple tumours for three hours and saw him receive complete healing.

1. Embracing the Change

- You can be in a 'season' but feeling restless
 - feel that way because we are dwelling on our present season

"God transitions your heart before he transitions your circumstance" — Luc Niebergall

- John the Baptist spearheaded one move of God
 - Baptising with repentance was not enough.

Luke 3:16 *'John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'*

- Baptise = to dip / immerse in Holy Spirit
 - related to power
 - fire

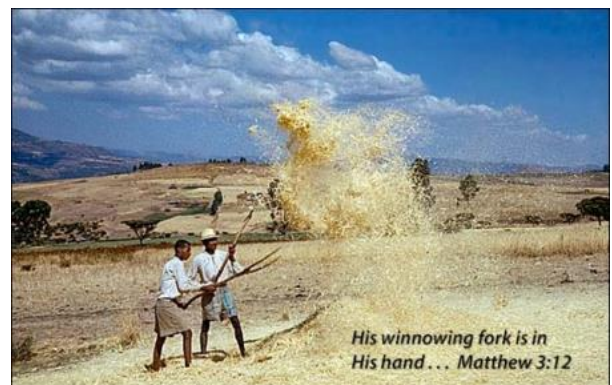
Malachi 3:2b-3 *'...For He is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap. "He will sit as a smelter and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, so that they may present to the LORD offerings in righteousness.'*

'Refiner's fire comes upon the hearts of God's people to burn away the chaff of orphanship' — Luc Niebergall

- Winnowing fork illustration –

Luke 3:17 *His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

- wheat from chaff (separation)
 - chaff represents weeds / non-productive part



- Holy spirit strips away the unfruitful part
- Holy Spirit reveals your full potential

Romans 8:15-16 *For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,*

- works best with the wind

2. Building Character

- character is to do with spirit and soul
- **Can gifting outweigh character?**
 - the power of God can give shape to a movement, but wisdom and godly character establishes what was birthed so that it can be sustained.
 - example from life of Jesus:

Luke 3:21-22 *'Now when all the people were baptized, Jesus was also baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased."*

- Baptism in water
 - receives Holy Spirit
 - receives a witness/word of pleasure from his Father

Luke 4:1 *'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,'*

- Full of the Spirit
 - led by the Spirit into the desert
 - some desert experiences are of our own making
 - Israel was fasting and praying but got no answers

Isaiah 58:9b-11 *'....If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing of the finger and malicious talk, and if you give yourself to the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in darkness and your gloom will become like midday. and the LORD will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.'*

- These people were complaining that God was not listening even though they were fasting.
- Focus on others:
 - break yoke of oppression
 - stop pointing the finger
 - feed the hungry

- lift people up
- THEN you will be like a well-watered garden
- some desert experiences are spirit led
 - check no bad attitude / unconfessed sin
 - Jesus was led into the desert to be tested
 - Every challenge helps us to use our faith muscles

Luke 4:14 *'Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.'*

James 1:2-4 *'Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing'.*

- gifting without character is dangerous
- gifting with character is powerful

3. Getting Started

- People are body, soul and Spirit

John 3:5-6 *Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit"*

- Flesh can only produce fleshly things
- our problem is spiritual death
 - fear / superstition
 - wrong spirit
 - dead to God
- Holy Spirit gives birth to Spirit

John 3:17 *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.*

- The normal Christian birth is believe in Jesus/born again, baptism in water, baptism of the Holy Spirit

John 7:37-39 *Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.'" But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

- thirsty
- believe
- Receive

