

## **The Wind of God**

The Hebrew word for spirit is “ruach”. “Ruach” can also be translated as “wind” or “breath”. Take some time to think about wind. What do you know about wind? How does it connect to what you know about the Spirit of God?

In Genesis 1 we see the presence of the Spirit hovering over the waters. In Jewish thought, the waters or the sea represented chaos. The Spirit brings order out of the chaos. In Matthew 3 we see Jesus enter into the waters and then come out with the Spirit leading him. Many see this as a symbolic picture that Jesus has entered into the chaos of our world to bring order. Where in your own life do you see chaos that you would like to invite the presence of the Spirit to come and bring order? How is the Spirit leading you to pray on behalf of chaos others are experiencing in your neighborhood and throughout the world? Take time to pray that the Wind of God would move in these places to bring order out of the chaos.

Read Matthew 3v1-2; 4v17. Both John the Baptist and Jesus come telling people to repent and that the kingdom of God is now. We are called to the discipline of repentance regularly. How is the Spirit convicting you in your own life? What is the Spirit calling you to repent of? Take time to pray a prayer of repentance.

What do you sense the Spirit is calling the church to repent of? Take time to pray a prayer of repentance on behalf of the church.

When we submit ourselves to the Spirit and repent, we are more enabled to live by the Spirit, joining Jesus in bringing the kingdom now. In what ways is the Spirit calling you to bring the kingdom in your daily life?

Read Galatians 5v22-26. Read through the fruit of the Spirit, prayerfully asking God to fill you with that fruit. Peter Scazzero challenges us in his book *Emotionally Healthy Spirituality* with this, “Ask yourself honestly: ‘To what degree are these fruits realities in my life today?’ Think about yourself at home, work, school, church. Allow God to love you where you are now. Ask him to do his work in you, that you might become the kind of person described in the previous passage.”

Reflect on the two questions that this teaching ended with:

1. Have you been to the waters of baptism? Has your life been transformed?
2. Is your community willing to submit to the Wind/Spirit of God?

God is saying, “Repent/turn—the kingdom is now!” Are you being sensitive to God’s Spirit stirring? Are you going down to the waters and asking the Spirit, “What else do you have for us?”