

Every Wind

#0714

Study given by W.D. Frazee—February 22, 1958

“That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Ephesians 4:14.

The winds are blowing. There are so many kinds of winds, and so many directions they are blowing from. Our text sets before us the glorious privilege of being beyond the influence of any wind. That should be our goal. That is God's goal for us.

How that is to be is set forth in the preceding verses:

“Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” Ephesians 4:8-13.

God has a program of building us up, maturing us, stabilizing us, bringing us to the point where nothing can move us. That is the program. And if we will yield our lives to the work He is seeking to do through the gifts He has set in the church, and work with Him as He seeks to work with us, this goal will be reached. God will have a people pure and true that nothing can move.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

The winds are blowing. They are going to be blowing more and more. The expression in our text in Ephesians is every wind, indicating that there is more than one. We find that echoed and applied in the *Testimonies*:

“The days are fast approaching when there will be great perplexity and confusion. Satan, clothed in angel robes, will deceive, if possible, the very elect. There will be gods many and lords many. Every wind of doctrine will be blowing” *Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, page 80.

This whole page is worthy of special thought. It deals with the crisis in the future which doubtless we are even now entering into. Its climax is still ahead of us.

Every wind of doctrine will be blowing. The icy winds of formalism that chill the warm vibrant spirit of love. The burning winds of fanaticism. The soft zephyrs of Laodiceanism, whispering peace, peace, all is well, and lulling their listeners to the sleep of the enchanted ground. The pestilent laden winds with the deadly heresy and apostasy. The perfume laden breezes that blow from the gardens of forbidden pleasure, filled with the serpent's poisonous fruit. And finally, the howling hurricanes of human pressure and persecuting force which will burst upon the church like the deluge.

To all of these winds you and I must be subjected. What will be our reaction to them? How will we meet them? Will we stand?

It takes more than one kind of reaction to meet these various kinds of winds from lulling zephyrs that sing like lullabies to the howling hurricanes that tare through anything that is not impervious to the storm. Let's look at them.

When we were in Oklahoma several years ago, as the weather was changing we saw the mercury drop 25 degrees in just a few hours.

It had been raining, but under the influence of those chilling winds that blew in from the North the water on the trees and the wires turned to ice. You could go down through the streets of Oklahoma City that night and every avenue was like lighted chandeliers as those icicles reflected the street lamps and headlights of automobiles.

It was a beautiful sight, but every now and then you could hear that ice breaking, causing trees to break under the load. The chilling wind did it all.

We are in the time when the icy winds of formalism are blowing, threatening to freeze in their chilling grip every bit of the spiritual life of the soul. It may be pretty, but it is deadly.

We are in a time when there is a great tendency to formal worship. We have gone a long way in the direction of the formalism of the Papacy. And we claim for it the same virtues that the Papacy claims. I repeat, it may be pretty, but like the ice it is fixed in one mold.

Will the warm spirit of love in your heart be chilled by these icy winds? Unless you have within your heart the oil, which is the spirit of love, the heat will be gone, the light will be gone, and the icy winds will freeze your soul.

In Zachariah's vision provision was made not only for a candlesticks and lamps, and oil in them. Provision was made for a golden pipe that came from the olive trees. And the golden oil was kept constantly flowing to the golden candlesticks.

If the church is to be the light of the world, that oil must be kept flowing. If the warm love of Christ in our hearts is to be kept warm against these icy blasts of formalism, that love must be constantly flowing into our hearts.

We cannot depend upon an experience we had ten years ago, or even yesterday. We must get it warm from glory today. Then we can meet the icy winds. We can even do as the Spirit of Prophecy says, Gather warmth from the coldness of others, courage from their cowardice, and loyalty from their treason.

But all the winds are not icy. There are the burning winds of fanaticism from the desert furnace. How they can sweep in to a congregation and sear and burn like the winds from the Arabian Desert.

That is fanaticism. We know something of its history. Again and again when God has been doing something by His Spirit, the Devil has sought to bring in fanaticism. He did it in the early church. He did it in the reformation movement. He did it in the pioneer days of this message. We are told plainly that he will do it in these final hours.

Certainly he will overlook nothing. Every method he has found successful in the past he will do again. And there are those who are reacting from the icy formalism who will want to plunge into the fire of fanaticism.

Mind you, the Devil doesn't care which one you respond to. He doesn't care which wind affects you. Every wind will be blowing. And those who do not like the icy wind may say, "Oh, come over here. Here is a nice hot blast. You can never get cold here."

No, but you can get crazy. And there is not much to choose from between cold formality and crazy fanaticism. God save us from either one. We can be saved.

I like to think of that great Rock out in the desert where the blast of fanaticism blows. There is a cleft in that Rock where you and I can be hidden.

Harry Anderson gave us a great picture in the calendar year before last. He drew a great face in the stone, and people coming, hiding under that protection. Oh friends, there is a refuge from the blast. It is in Jesus Christ, the Rock of Ages. If we are hidden in Him, we will be saved from fanaticism. He is our refuge. We must know Him personally.

But the winds are not all icy cold or burning hot. Oh, no. I think that some of the winds that are blowing that are most seductive, dangerous, perilous, are these soft zephyrs of Laodiceanism. They do not tend to arouse any reaction in their very nature. How soft they feel as they come to our cheeks. Just a soft little breeze.

What do they whisper? Peace, peace. Everything is all right. There is nothing to be disturbed about. Nothing to worry about. Just be good. Keep steady. Keep in the middle of the road. Keep balanced. Don't worry about anything. Don't upset the boat. Pretty soon we will all be in the kingdom of God, and everything will be peace, happiness, and rosy.

There is just enough truth in that to make it very plausible. But we are told that the message for the people of God in this hour is not a peace and safety message. The Laodicean message does not say to God's people, "You are right. Everything is fine. You are pretty good." The True Witness says, I know thy works that thou are neither cold nor hot. And the pity of it is that many are boasting of the very fact that they are neither cold nor hot.

Jesus says, It is nauseating to Me.

Oh, let us not be beguiled by these soft zephyrs. Let us not be lulled to sleep on the enchanted ground. But we will be unless we are joining with Jesus in the Gethsemane intercession.

The prophet of God sees the people of God in the time in which we are living, and describes them as she views them:

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. Firmness and great earnestness was expressed in their countenances" *Early Writings*, page 269.

As we read on we see the evil angels crowded around, pressing darkness upon them to shut out Jesus from their view. But we see them reacting to this by the most earnest cries to Jesus. Now and then they see a ray of light. Again the darkness seems to gather round. But they continue their earnest cries, and as the result they receive the victory, they obtain the final deliverance from sin, and the Spirit of God is poured upon them and they go out with power to give the loud cry.

That is our only defense against these winds which are so soft and gentle, peaceful, and naturally pleasant to the selfish heart. They are the soft zephyrs of Laodiceanism. Oh, let us pray that God will help us not to go to sleep, lulled by these soft winds.

There are the pestilent laden winds with the deadly taint of heresy and apostasy. They are not all colored purple or green either. If you go into a house where the room is laden with a pestilent disease, there may be no color about it. Probably there will not be. But you can breathe that atmosphere and get sick.

Satan imparts in the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilent. But there is a pestilent far worse than smallpox or influenza or leprosy. It is the pestilent of heresy and apostasy. It is the pestilent of views of Scripture which undermine the faith once delivered to the saints.

In this movement fifty years ago those who went through the experience of the cleavage that took place at Battle Creek and other places had to do a great deal of praying and searching the Scriptures. They had to do a great deal of reading the

counsel in the Spirit of Prophecy. We were told that time was the Alpha of the deadly apostasy, and that the Omega would eventually follow.

There are varying views as to just what the Omega is or will be. You and I will be individually tried over our faith in the Scriptures and this message. We have been plainly told where some of those tests and trials will come. It will not be merely over the coming of Jesus, the Sabbath, and the state of the dead. We will have to meet spirits claiming to be the spirits of the departed dead. We will have to meet all the sophistries over the change of the Sabbath. But we are told that we are going to be tried on two great points of our faith.

One is the sanctuary and the other is the Spirit of Prophecy. The two are linked together in such a way that anyone who begins to doubt one will soon doubt the other. The sophistries that were brought in fifty years ago were planned by Satan in such a way as to undermine faith in those two great truths. That was the Alpha. The Omega is to follow.

I seek to warn your soul that every wind of doctrine will be blowing. And some of these winds are heavy laden with these pestilent germs of heresy—false doctrines which would rob us of a simple faith in the third angel's message, seductive theories which will philosophize away the great truths given to the people of God. Beware.

How can we deal with those unseen germs which come borne by the breeze? We must have an immunity. And the way we can have an immunity is to have our spiritual blood filled with the antibodies which come by feeding upon the Scriptures. The Psalmist says, Thy word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against Thee. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

When the tempter came to Jesus three times he tried to lead Him into sin. Three times Jesus answered, It is written. Jesus did not try to reason with Satan. He didn't try to argue with him. He simply quoted Scripture. We will be safe in doing the same thing. We will be safe in no other way.

“Antichrist is to perform his marvelous works in our sight. So closely will the counterfeit resemble the true that it will be impossible to distinguish between them except by the Holy Scriptures. . . .

“None but those who have fortified the mind with the truths of the Bible will stand through the last great conflict” *Great Controversy*, page 593.

Who is going to stand? Only those who have fortified their minds by the truths of the Bible. So we should be filling the mind with the Bible. One of the great dangers of our time is that there are so many books about the Bible. Don't misunderstand me. I would not for a moment advocate that no one read nothing but the Bible. But I would warn you against the tendency of the present time. We need more of the words of God and less of the words of men about the words of God. We need to hear God speaking directly through this Book.

“Satan is constantly endeavoring to attract attention to man in the place of God. He leads the people to look to bishops, to pastors, to professors of theology, as their guides, instead of searching the Scriptures to learn their duty for themselves. Then, by controlling the minds of these leaders, he can influence the multitudes according to his will” *Ibid*, page 595.

Do not misunderstand. God is not telling us that there is no place for human counsel or leadership. God has placed in the church various gifts that through them the church might be built up and each member edified and brought to the place where the winds of doctrine will not move us. But remember, the true apostle, the true pastor, the true teacher, the true evangelist, and every worker will be seeking to lead the people to the Word of God as the foundation of faith.

Whenever a man says, You should believe a certain thing because it is what I say, he is on a false platform, even if he may happen to have the truth. And when a man says, You should believe this or that point because other men who have studied it have come to such and such a conclusion, and they are good men who have studied long and hard. Therefore you may accept their conclusions. That is false ground. That will lead us into an experience where we are on the shifting sands of human opinion.

Men do change their minds. The best of men change their minds. And the very man who may be quoted to you as one of authority today may be leading men away from the fundamentals of this message tomorrow.

It has happened. Down through the decades of this last century men who once had a place among us closed their history in war against the remnant church. Beware in trusting in man. Beware of depending on men. Even good men do not see all things clearly. A thus saith the Lord is solid ground.

These perfume laden winds sweep in from the gardens of forbidden pleasure, filled with the serpent's poisonous fruit. So often the youth are attracted by these. Even older people are enticed. There are so many forbidden pleasures today.

We might name a list of commercial amusements. We think of the theater and dance hall. We think of many of the television and radio programs. We think of some things that are looked upon as innocent, but which are very subtle and seductive. We think of much of the reading of today. Things just for entertainment, often fictitious, but always spiked. What is it all for? It is to lure you and me away from the path cast up for the ransomed of the Lord to walk in. It is to entice us to come and see what beautiful sights there are in this garden.

Somebody says, God tells us not to go over there, but it smells so sweet. It looks so beautiful. I can see that fruit hanging there. It must taste delicious.

It does, but it is poisoned. God says that in the day we eat thereof we will die. Will you be enticed? Will you be lured away? You will, young or old, unless you are satisfied with Jesus Christ. David said:

“I have set the LORD always before me: because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fullness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” Psalm 16:8-11.

Some people seem to be trying to demonstrate that they can be happy in spite of their religion. I am afraid of some of these things that are being used today to try to get our young people contented and happy. Some are in their place, but some of them are endeavors to get people to be happy in spite of their religion. God wants us to be happy because of our religion. There is a difference.

Where is your joy, your greatest happiness? Is it in Jesus? Ask yourself that question. Oh, that God may give us an experience such as David had, such as John the Baptist had, such as Joseph had, such as Daniel had. Then none of these tempting allurements of the flesh or sensual enticements will in any way affect us. We will march along closing our nostrils to those perfumes. Satisfied with Jesus is the only defense.

The howling hurricane of human pressure and persecution force will burst upon the church in the great, final crisis. But God has warned us that the same spirit often asserts itself within the church. Whenever men try to force a human conformity to human opinion, that is the blast of the hurricane seeking to crush all opposition. The ultimate is to put men on a rack and stretch them until their bones are pulled apart. Open their throat and pour hot lead down. Nail them to crosses.

That is the ultimate. But there are a great many degrees along the road. There is such a thing as the sweat box and the star chamber which may be quite as much a weapon of persecution as anything made for the flesh. Oh, do you and I have such an experience with God that we can withstand human pressure, threat, whether it be in the realm of the body or the mind?

This storm is coming relentless in its fury. The dragon, beast, and false prophet are going to unite their forces against the remnant church. All the governments of this world and all the churches of this world will be in league together to persecute, to boycott, to imprison, and finally seek to kill those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. That will be the final storm.

I want to give a picture of these great winds of persecution as Jesus pictures them:

“Therefore whosoever hears these sayings of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that hears these sayings of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built

his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it" Matthew 7:24-27.

That is the wind of all winds. That is the hurricane that closes up human history. Every house that is not built upon the eternal Rock, Christ Jesus, will go down in that awful storm. We may, like Peter, declare our dedication, and vow our loyalty. But, like Peter, after a few thrusts with the sword, we will run and deny our Lord unless we have built upon the Rock.

I submit to you that there is more than one wind blowing. Praise God, by having an experience with God, you and I can be proof against every one of these winds. The soft seductive winds, the loud howling winds, the pestilent laden winds, every wind is blowing and will blow. But you and I can be kept by Jesus if we will have a personal experience with Him.

I want to share something that has recently come to me:

"Many of you say, How can I stop sinning? I have tried to overcome, but I do not make advancement. You never can in your own strength. You will fail. But help is laid upon One who is mighty. In His strength you may be more than conqueror. You should arise and say, Through the grace of God I will be an overcomer. Put your will on the side of God's will. And with your eye fixed upon Him who is the author and finisher of your faith say, Jesus is my Saviour. I will love Him because He first loved me. Show that you trust Him. As you walk the streets, as you work about your house, you can communicate with your Lord. Lay hold upon Him by living faith, and believe the Word of God to the letter. Say, I will be free. I am free. And when Satan tells you that you are a sinner, tell him, I know it. But Jesus said, I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"
Review and Herald, September 20, 1892.

We are to say, I will be an overcomer. I will trust my Savior. I will be free. I am free. We are told to say that.

Is it presumption? No, it is faith. I will give myself to Jesus, and I know He accepts me. Jesus is my Savior. I will love Him. I do love Him. That is the way to settle it. And it is getting that personal experience with God that rivets us to the eternal Rock, and no matter what wind blows, we are not swayed. The tree anchored with its roots deep down in the Rock stays there.

Be like the tree. Get the simple things of believing in Jesus deep in your soul. Practice them. Every day say, Lord, I believe You. I do surrender. I do love You, and I know You love me. You died for me, and I cannot doubt You.

It is all right to study deep theological problems and the mysteries of the prophecies. We should. But never let it keep you from the sweet, simple, trusting faith of the little child. If we knew a thousand times more than we know, it would still be true that only as we become as little children that we can enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Come ye weary, heavy laden,
Crushed and ruined in the fall;
If you wait until you are better
You will never come at all.

Come to the cleft in the Rock. Come to that place of refuge. Hide in Jesus.

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