

Storm Warning, Part II

In last month's message, I related a word the Lord had given my wife:

Take heed, oh saints of God – for perilous times are ahead. Fill your cupboards while you can. Seek a safe place that will withstand the mighty wind that I, your God, will send into the country. Be sober and do not fear, for this is a time of great tribulation which was prophesied.

On New Year's Eve, a second word came to her, emphasizing the first:

2009 – the Year of the Great Wind. The righteous shall be spared, but the unsaved around us will suffer and perish. Your light will stand as a beacon, a testimony, that I the Lord your God take care of my own.

Then, shortly afterward, came a third:

I will speak in parables, I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world. I will give wisdom no one will be able to refute – but the world will refuse to accept. Understanding and acceptance are not the same; stay separate from the world. Stand for Me! Stand for Me! And I will be your shield and your rear guard, even when the bad times come, and they are coming that I will be honored again. Prepare yourselves for My wind that will blow.

The warning, basically, is for anyone that "has ears to hear." God is not only preparing to deliver judgment on this nation that has been walking (in some cases, running) away from Him and His ways, but is also planning to raise up His church. The time is coming again when God will make a distinction between those who belong to Him and those who do not.

He has still not seen fit to reveal just what form His wind will take – whether it be worse economic times that what we're experiencing now, or something else down the road. The important thing is that believers be ready for whatever comes, because we are going to be used to point the way to Him.

The gifts we are given by God through the Holy Spirit are to be used for building up His Body, the Church. So, service to the Kingdom, partly by serving others, is part of the job description of believers. Please do not misunderstand me; we are not saved by our works of service – only Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and our surrender to Him enables us to partake of His Righteousness – but we are saved to do works of service for the

Kingdom of God. (Ephesians 4:12) In short, once we get saved and are now brought into the Kingdom, the King has a job for us to do.

Part of that job is going to be letting our light shine before others. This is not a complicated thing, requiring every believer to get a degree in theology. Instead, “shining” can be as simple as having extra to help someone who needs it, whatever it is. That is why the Lord says to keep your pantries stocked – not just for yourselves, but for others in need.

This will be necessary, because the unsaved will not be won over by mere words alone. They have words, too; the usual arguments that come up when you try to talk to people about their souls and the Lord Jesus. Many more of us than before know what the arguments are, and can refute them soundly from Scripture, but that does not mean the world will accept what is said. What *will* draw them is love expressed in the simple act of sharing what we have with others. Love expressed in the action of the Power of God through sold-out believers doing the works that Jesus did – healing the sick, driving out demons and more – against which there is no argument. Remember that this is what characterized the early Church; believers were known by their love for one another. Jesus Himself said that people will know that we are His disciples by this characteristic (John 13:35).

And God Himself will “have our backs.” Not that we won’t go through persecution – you know how ticked-off Satan gets when God’s Kingdom starts to advance – but God will take us through it if we are not trying to have our feet in the Kingdom and the world at the same time, but are standing solidly for Him. The wind is coming to back up our testimony and remind this nation that once said “No King But Jesus” that He is still King and that we must no longer live for ourselves and our flesh but for Him.

The thing about a big wind is that it can be both a positive and negative force, depending on what you do when it comes. If you try to stand against the wind, you are buffeted hard by it. But if you let the wind carry you, it can take you places. If you let the wind move you (like in a turbine) it can give you power. The trick is not to fight the wind, but *surrender* to it. Say to the Lord, “Your Will be done,” and let Him do as he likes with you and this nation.

So, it’s time to make ready for the wind, whatever form it takes. Be ready to share with others. Get out of the churches that teach Godliness as a means to great personal gain – God as the great “claw machine” in the sky – and into those that preach the Gospel and service to the Kingdom by service to others, where the Power of God is surrendered to God for His use, and not to impress each other with how “holy” we can appear.

Oh, by the way – does that part about the “unsaved will suffer and perish” offend you? Does it seem a bit harsh? Are you reacting along the lines of, “well, a *loving* God would never do *that* to people, would he?” No, He wouldn’t – which is why He sends us. We are the Body of Christ, remember? His hands and feet on this Earth? God does not want *any* to perish, but all to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Peter 3:9) This is why we are kept here in the first place and not immediately taken to heaven when we are saved. So, we need to take *Him* to *them*.