

“The Winds of Life” - - Aug. 18, 2021

Wind – metaphor. Winds of change, opposition, grief, & testing.
How do we deal w/them? How do we get through? An ABC guide.

1 – Cultivate Christian friendships & Choose a pastor/teacher

Eph. 4: 11-16 – Jesus gave us ... “pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service” - so the “body of Christ may be built up” to have “unity in the faith & in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature....” 14 **Then** we will no longer be infants, tossed back & forth by the waves, & **blown here & there** by every **wind** of teaching & by the cunning & craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. **Instead**, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow** to become in every respect **the mature body** of” Jesus Christ. 16 - “From him the whole body, **joined & held together** by every supporting ligament, **grows & builds itself up in love**, as each part does its work.”

Foundation - Be prepared by having a teacher/pastor to build you up
Be held together and built up in love by Christian friends.
This is the foundation to withstand any wind in your life.

2 – Become Mature ... know Winds will Happen

Matt. 7:24-27 - “Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came **down**, the streams **rose**, & the **winds blew** and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Understand: Wind will come to every life – be prepared/ready.

Unprepared & Immature – fall “with a great crash.”

T.S. Fred – “flooding rain, gusty winds, storm surge” (3 types) All kinds!

Stand in the wind, you’ll find out what kind of faith you have.

- a. Weak – hear, but not roots. No pastor/friends. On their own.
- b. Others discover their faith is strong:
 - i. House is still standing. They are strong, now confident.
 - ii. Teaching is in place; love has built them up. God had purpose

3 – Always keep your Eyes on Jesus

Matt. 14:23 – [Mark 6 & John 6] After Jesus fed 5000; sent disciples ahead] NLT- “23 After sending them home, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Night fell while he was there alone. 24 Meanwhile, the disciples were in trouble far away from land, for a strong wind had risen, & they were fighting heavy waves. About 3:00 in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. When the disciples saw him walking on the water, they were terrified. In their fear, they cried out, “It’s a ghost!” But Jesus spoke to them at once. “Don’t be afraid,” he said. “Take courage. I am here!” Then Peter called to him, “Lord, if it’s really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water.” “Yes, come,” Jesus said. So Peter went over the side of the boat & walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw the strong wind & the waves, he was terrified & began to sink. “Save me, Lord!” he shouted. Jesus immediately reached out & grabbed him. “You have so little faith,” Jesus said. “Why did you doubt me? When they climbed back into the boat, the wind stopped.” 33 Then the disciples worshiped him. “You really are the Son of God!” they exclaimed.

6 situations we struggle in life:

- 1) A strong wind arose. Sudden change. Didn’t anticipate it. Unprepared.
- 2) At night- Fear is at its worse in the dark. Can’t see...
- 3) Far from land. Don’t feel anchored, secure.
- 4) Fighting heavy waves. Exhausted. Powerless.
- 5) Knowing Jesus isn’t in your boat. Been living on your own.
- 6) Is it really you? Question God’s call to us.

ABC. Put it all Together: Winds happen, Fix your eyes on Jesus.

- 1- It’s never too late to look to Jesus. . . . He’s been watching you.
“When I trust instead of think, I walk on water instead of sink.”
- 2- Jesus is strength; He lifts us up; Rescue. He allows us to walk ...
- 3- **Kites** fly against the wind, not with it; more wind... higher.
- 4- Only way to peace - calm winds – eyes on Jesus. Choose to Believe!
 - a. Believe Jesus cares. He rescues. He helps us to the impossible.

Song of the Week: 'To Walk on Water' by Lize Hadassah Wiid

lyrics: "I choose to believe – that your arms are not too short to pull me out,
that your ear is not too far for you to hear my call. It is time – to walk on
water."