

## “The Winds of Life” - - Aug. 11, 2021

Wind – metaphor. Winds of change, opposition, testing, & favor.  
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** – “So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, **to equip his people** for works of service, so that the body of Christ **may be built up** until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and **become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. // **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. **15 Instead**, speaking the truth in love, **we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, 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.”

**Understand:** Winds test our faith. Need C-community to hold together

- 1- Be prepared for that testing by having a teacher/pastor to build you up
- 2- Be held together and built up in love by Christian friends.
  - a. This is the foundation to withstand any wind in your life.
  - b. If wind isn't blowing against you right now, build someone up.

### **2 – Become Mature about life ... Winds will Happen**

**Matt. 7:24** - “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. **26** But everyone who hears these words of mine & does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. **27** The rain came down, the streams rose, & the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

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

- Jesus isn't talking about houses/property; it's our lives & problems.

- 1- Winds of all kinds: opposition, grief, challenges/health, change.
- 2- **Common element**: can't control the wind.
- 3- Winds come in All directions: roof, foundation, walls
- 4- Having stood in the wind, you find out what kind of faith you have.
  - a. Some will learn their faith is weak...little:
    - i. Heard the Word, not didn't put it into practice. Not deep.
    - ii. On their own; not built up by Christian friends, no pastor.
  - 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