

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
**I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God
IN CHRIST JESUS.***

(Philippians 3:13-14 NASB)

#03-0901

The Wind Blows – 2009

January 1, 2009

As a new year approaches, I ask the Lord for a word for the year. I received the word *victory* for 2007 and the word *love* for 2008. These words go hand-in-hand, for the word *victory* refers to conquering; and we more than conquer, actually overwhelmingly conquer, through love, or, more specifically, through Him (Christ) who loves us (Romans 8:37). **The love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us** (Romans 5:5). This love is what gives us the victory and makes us conquerors, for **love never fails** (1 Corinthians 13:8). Ultimately, the love of God will win the heart of every single person born of the human race **so that God may be all in all new** (1 Corinthians 15:28). With the new creation in view, He who sits on the throne declares: **“Behold, I am making all new!”** (Revelation 21:5). This is the purpose of God.

I suppose that the word for each year does not have to be connected with the word for the preceding years, but it seems to me that they are, for I see each word building upon the other as part of the Lord’s plan to bring about the end of our present age and the ushering in of His kingdom.

I do not believe these words are for me alone but are given so that I might encourage others throughout the year with a word from the heart of God. Specifically, I believe the Lord has called me to encourage all who are conquering in this day, the ones that will be counted worthy of His kingdom to reign with Him. We all need encouragement in these days, encouragement to **press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus**. This goal is not about flying off to heaven in the good ol’ gospel ship; it is about becoming like our Lord Jesus which only comes with the first or out-resurrection and the transfiguration into the image of the Celestial One. The conquerors are the firstfruits anointed, the new creation in Christ, and the first of mankind to receive celestial, spiritual, glorified, immortal bodies. When we see Him, we will be like Him (1 John 3:2).

Now, the word for 2009 came to me as I was sitting outside on our patio on a relatively warm December day. I previously had been inquiring of the Lord for a word but none had come to me until this day as I sat with the sun warming my body and a gentle breeze blowing into my face. I closed my eyes and said: “Lord, what is Your word for 2009?” In an instant, I heard: **“The wind blows.”**

As with most things the Lord reveals to me, I have no doubt that this word will be enlarged upon as time passes. Over the years, I have learned that, at least for me, His word often starts off like a flickering light that continues to shine brighter and brighter. It is like planting a seed and watching it grow into a full-fledged plant. Consequently, we will have to wait to see how this word is manifested or explained in the months and days ahead. However, at this point, I have a few thoughts to offer on *the wind blows*.

The most obvious explanation of this word is discovered in Jesus’ conversation with Nicodemus in which this ruler of the Jews did not understand that he, along with all the Jews of his day, could not see or enter into the kingdom of God based purely on their flesh, that is, their lineage as descendants of Jacob. They, along with any from all the nations, must have a spiritual birth—born from above.

“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.” (John 3:8 NASB)

I realize that there are various interpretations of this verse, but I do not believe I was given this word in order to reinforce one interpretation over another. Simply, *the wind blows* was not given as a theological statement but rather as a prophetic word pointing to what the Lord is going to do or begin to do in the year 2009 in relation to those born from above that are being invited into His kingdom and glory.

The key to understanding this word is not that the wind signifies the spirit of God, which it does, but it is in the thought that one does not know where one born from above of the spirit of God comes from or is going, just like the wind. When the wind blows, one can hear it as it moves over objects like trees or buildings. In fact, last night as I was lying in bed, I could hear this sound coming toward our house. It sounded like a freight train that kept getting louder and louder until I heard the wind hit the house and shake it. I did not know where it came from, but I knew that it had arrived, for I heard it. As it passed, I also heard it moving off into the night just like a passing train; its sound gradually subsided. But I did not know where this mighty wind was going; it simply passed on.

Only time will tell, but I believe that the Lord gave me this word to indicate that the spirit of God is going to begin moving upon God's people, in particular, His conquerors, just as the wind moves across the globe. The conquerors are going to be led in ways that they have never been led before as they are sent out into the world by the spirit of God. They might even be like Philip as he preached to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:25-40), appearing suddenly in new places to teach the nations of the kingdom of God. It will matter not where they come from or even where they are going. It will not be based on their past affiliations with denominations or any other organization created by believers under a Pentecostal anointing. This will be much different as the conquerors are unshackled from all things religious and even from the bondage of Babylon. What will matter is that the spirit of God will lead them as they go forth out of obedience. They will be like a mighty wind blowing across the nations of the world preparing the way for the Lord and the coming of the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11:15). They won't necessarily be the big names, the so-called religious leaders, within Christendom. They will be the unknown that the spirit of God has been preparing for the day leading up to the day of Christ. They will go forth in the spirit of Elijah and of John the baptist. They will be a voice crying out to the nations.

I state this based on two words that I heard exactly 14 months apart. On October 5, 2007, I heard: "**Elijah is coming.**" Then, on December 5, 2008, I heard: "**Gabriel is coming.**" This word caught me by surprise until I looked at Luke's gospel. It was Gabriel the angel or messenger of the Lord that announced the birth of both John and Jesus (Luke 1:5-38). In other words, Gabriel announced the birth of the one who came in the spirit of Elijah. I might add that this word came unexpectedly as I finished studying the birth of the man child, which refers to the coming forth of the firstfruit anointed or the conquerors.

My one caution with this word is that although it is a word for 2009, it could be progressively manifested from 2009-2010 until it breaks into its full manifestation during the Feast of Tabernacles. We will have to wait and see.

What is just as important is the character of the ones that will be led as the wind of the spirit blows. They will not be arrogant or full of pride; they will be humble and will bear the fruit of the spirit. They will express the very life of the Lord Jesus in accord with the nine expressions of the fruit of the spirit—**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control** (Galatians 5:22-23).

I have one final thought on this word, and it deals with the numbers associated with the years 2007 (victory), 2008 (love), and 2009 (the wind blows). The number 7 signifies spiritual perfection. Ones that attain spiritual perfection are in victory and rightfully called conquerors. The number 8 signifies new birth or beginning. Birth comes forth as an act of love, and so it will be when the conquerors or man child comes forth in the image of Christ. The number 9 signifies both judgment and the fruit of the spirit. I have no doubt that we will see greater judgment of Babylon during this year. In one sense, it will come from all angles and no one will know where it will come from next, just like the wind. However, there will also be a very positive force at work as the spirit of God brings to birth and then leads a company of people in the spirit of Elijah. As a reminder, it takes 9 months of gestation for a child to be born. Nine months from December 5, 2008 puts us in the fall of 2009, which is close to the fall feasts and the Hebrew year 2010.

We are in for very exciting times over the next two years. As Bob Dillon sang: "*The times, they are a changin.*"