



HOLY *flexibility*

I have long been fascinated with Jesus' teaching on the new birth and the move of the Holy Spirit in our lives. When He was speaking to Nicodemus about birth in the Spirit, He said, "The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" (John 3:8).

Often this scripture is used to show that the Spirit is like the wind. Though this is true, this is not what Jesus is saying with His words. He is saying that those of us who are born of the Spirit are like the wind. The wind of the Spirit blows wherever it pleases; we respond to the wind, we are blown by the wind. I call this "holy flexibility," being able to change our wills, our plans to be blown wherever the Spirit wishes. We make plans, but always hold them gently, not knowing whether God will change directions.

If Abraham had not lived in "holy flexibility," he would have killed Isaac. Though he had plans made responding to the voice of the Lord to offer Isaac as an offering to the Lord, those plans were, thanks be to God, interrupted by further instructions. We plan, but we listen.

On one of my recent visits to Moses' writings, I saw the amazing requirement being made of Israel during those years in the desert. Israel followed the cloud. Wherever the cloud settled, there they encamped. Whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. If the cloud stayed one night, they remained only one night at that campsite. If the cloud stayed over them for ten years, they remained for ten years, but always ready to break camp at the Lord's instructions. Imagine what it was like to live like that for forty years. Yet this is exactly the call of God on our lives.

If you want a bit of Godly humor on this whole subject, read Numbers 9:17-25. The Lord hammers home the point. Nine times in those few verses the Lord speaks of time to set out and time to encamp. "Sometimes the cloud stayed only from evening till morning, and when it lifted in the morning, they set out. Whether by day or by night, whenever the cloud lifted, they set out. Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out, but when it lifted they would set out."

In these days the Lord will require the same kind of holy flexibility of all of us who desire to walk in the fullness of His call on our lives. “The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

-Don Finto