

# SPIRIT BREEZE

WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

JANUARY 2016

## KEEPING AN EYE ON THE AUTHOR OF OUR FAITH

Resolutions! Resolutions! Resolutions and more Resolutions. After all, it's the beginning of a New Year and everyone should resolve to do something that will move us beyond what we were doing throughout the year we have just completed. Right?

Well, there's nothing particularly wrong with making resolutions, provided we resolve to do what is realistic and resolve to keep them. Frankly, I'm not into making new resolutions because I have made one that I endeavor to keep year in and year out. When I am able to keep it—with the help of the Holy Spirit, then whatever other resolution I might have been tempted to make, has been taken care of.

Oh, I have made my fair share of New Year's Resolutions through the years and have broken my fair share of the same. But that has changed.

My Resolution this year?? It is based on Hebrews 12:2, 3. ***“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. .... Consider him, who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.”***

Jesus had his eyes fixed on one thing. Yes, He came to earth to save humanity from the bondage of sin. Yes, He was willing to leave his home in glory and take on human flesh in order to achieve that purpose. Yes, He was willing to suffer and die on the cross in order to overcome the power of sin and death. Yes, He did all this and more!

**But**, he always kept his eye on that ultimate goal—He knew what was beyond all this, ***“Who for the joy set before him”*** [the Joy of knowing that he would be returning to his home in glory], he suffered persecution, ridicule, unbelief, dishonor, rejection by friends and death on the cross - and was able to scorn its shame, because he knew where he was going—home!

It appears that he had a single resolve and was able to accomplish it because he had his eye fixed on the one thing that brought joy to his heart—his heavenly

Father's will.

At one point in his ministry he said, ***“The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what my Father has commanded me.”*** [John 14:31]

Again he said, ***“I have come down from heaven not to do my will but the will of him who sent me...For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.”*** [John 6:38, 40]

Jesus was so focused on the joy that was set before him, he was able to endure whatever the world threw at him, including killing him.

That's my resolve, to look to the Son, to keep my eye fixed on Jesus, believing him and so enter into that level of joy which resided in his life. When that happens, then, like him, I believe - with the help of his Spirit, I will be able to endure whatever life may throw at me. Not only endure it but, like him, overcome it.

Sometimes a person is tempted to be discouraged because of circumstances and experiences that flood in on us and overwhelm us. These may include the very kinds of things Jesus experienced: insult, persecution, ridicule, dishonor, rejection by people we trusted or even the maligning of our name.

Scripture reminds us to ***“Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary or lose heart.”***

I endeavor to keep my eye fixed on him because he knows that through which I am now going or may go in the future. Watching how he handled the situation sets the model for me to emulate and teaches me to ***“have this mind which was in Christ Jesus.”***

Whatever your plan for the New Year and whatever the Resolutions you plan to make, I encourage each one of us as Believers in Jesus Christ, to fix our eyes on him, focus on the joy that is his - and ours, and thus not grow weary or lose heart, regardless of what the New Year may bring our way. lle

*Wind of the Spirit Ministries*

Rev. Larry Eddings  
Phone 360-550-2422

PO Box 175, Silverdale, WA 98383  
email woseddings@msn.com

## EPIPHANY

It is sometimes said that a person has experienced an epiphany in their life. This usually means that something has “happened” or “appeared” in their life that has made a change or transformed them in one way or another. **Epiphany means “an appearance,” “to manifest,” “the show forth.”** It is the kind of appearance or manifestation that impacts a person’s life in a way in which it may never before have been impacted.

The Christian Community celebrates Epiphany as the day on which the Wise Men [Magi] from the east saw a star in the heavens - which meant, for them, that royalty had been born. **“Magi from the east came to Jerusalem—[after a long and arduous journey], “and asked, Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him.”** [Matthew 2:2]

It is a familiar story. We are told in Scripture that when King Herod heard this he was “disturbed.” From the events that followed, it would appear that he was more than just “disturbed.” He was absolutely furious! He was not open to the idea of another king being present in his domain.

Yet, in his usual deceitful and devious way, he did inquire to the Wise Men when they saw the star and for them to search diligently for the child. **“As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”** [v.8]

We now know that his plan was not to worship him, but to destroy him. This is born out in his having all the children killed in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and younger. [v.16], **“in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.”**

This is yet another of the truths expressed in Scripture. When God acts, evil reacts! **“Light has come into the world, but men loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.”** John 3:19

Epiphany is a very important celebration in the life of the Church as it marks the historical event in which God revealed, or “showed forth” Jesus the Christ to the Gentile world as well as to the Jewish people. The Magi were Gentiles—non Jews. Thus, another of the Old Covenant prophecies was fulfilled: **“I will also make you a light to the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”** [Isaiah 49:6]

Epiphany also marks the twelfth day of Christmastide. The twelve days of Christmas are those days between the celebration of Jesus’ Birth and the celebration of the visit of the Magi, bringing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to present to the Christ child. What an encounter that was! The wisdom of the world bowing before the Wisdom of God in humble recognition of him who controls the very star they sought to follow to the place of his Birth.

Sadly, there is really very little recognition given in the Church of this important event. Long before the Apostles Peter and Paul began to proclaim the Good News to the Gentiles and that salvation was for them as well as for the Jews, God had already declared, through his prophets and through the revelation given to the Wise Men from the east, that the Gospel was meant for all humankind. He “showed forth” his salvation through the Magi.

Epiphany is an especially meaningful day for me. It was on Epiphany, 1971, that the Holy Spirit “showed forth,” or “made an appearance” in my life that changed my life and the direction of my life, forever. It was on that day that Jesus baptized me with God’s Holy Spirit.

I had received Jesus in my heart while still a teenager. I had been preaching the Gospel since I was nineteen years old. I had known and loved the Lord with as much of myself as I knew how. Yet, on Epiphany of that year, the Lord “showed up,” in a new way, immersed me in his Love and Power. He brought with him spiritual gifts of which I had not before been aware.

Those gifts were not gold, frankincense or myrrh - important and valuable as they were as offerings to the Christ child by the Wise Men from the east. The Holy Spirit imparted God’s gifts of knowledge, wisdom, discernment, faith, miracles, healing, prophecy, tongues and interpretation of tongues—supernatural gifts that came as the Holy Spirit was released in my life to accomplish his work.

The Magi offered Jesus the most valuable gifts they could offer as an expression of their adoration of him, **“who was born king of the Jews.”**

When God “manifests” himself in our lives, he gives the most valuable Gift he has to those who will receive, and that is the Gift of himself—his Spirit. Then he manifests his fruit of Love which “shows forth” in Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control. [Galatians 5:22] Epiphany!

Like the Magi who returned home by another route, on that Epiphany of 1971, God set my feet on a new path. By God’s Grace, I continue to walk by another route—his! Epiphany! It is yet another reason to celebrate God’s love!

**WEB-PAGE**

**Wind of the Spirit Web Page address is**

**[www.wosm-nw.org](http://www.wosm-nw.org)**



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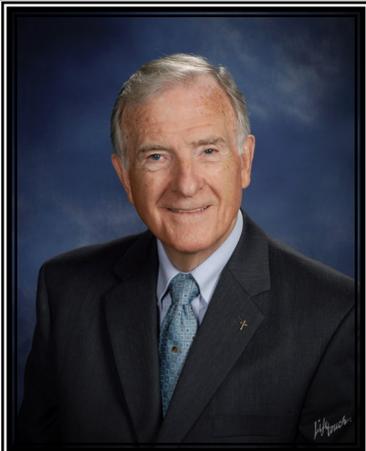


## MINISTRY CALENDAR

PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THIS EVENT

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES  
Eddings Email address: [woseddings@msn.com](mailto:woseddings@msn.com)

*“He gave some to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to equip God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up ...attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11*



- January 16—Mid-Year Meeting of Board of Directors and Support Council of Wind of the Spirit Ministries.
- 21-23—National Association of United Methodist Evangelists, Goodlettsville, TN
- 24—Preach, Irondale UMC in Irondale, AL
- February 16-20—Healing Academy at The United Methodist Church, Silverdale, WA
- April 7-9—Preach, Regional Conference on The Holy Spirit, Peoria, IL
- July 19-21—Bishop’s Convocation and Worker’s Conference, Baguio, Philippines, with Bishop Rudy Juan
- July 21-24—Aldersgate Conference on the Holy Spirit, Lexington, KY.