



SPIRIT BREEZE

WIND OF THE SPIRIT MINISTRIES Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2013

POLITICAL CORRECTNESS OR ACTUAL TRUTH?

We live in a day in which there is much said about being politically correct. Political correctness has to do with avoiding any statement that might in any way be offensive to a person or persons of another religious persuasion, ethnic background, political viewpoint, sexual orientation, gender identification, or just about anything that may be different from your own belief system or world view.

Any deviation from this standard of political correctness is considered, in some circles of influence, to be “hate speech,” and, in some cases, has been punishable by law with fines and/or imprisonment.

I must say that I am totally in favor of everyone coming to an understanding of the power of spoken words. Words can be used in a way that is certainly judgmental, condemning and wounding. We should make every effort to avoid these and to affirm a person’s sacred worth in the eyes of God, whether or not we agree with their belief system or their lifestyle.

Words can be powerful in their effect when spoken to reveal truth and expose lies. When the truth is spoken in love, it can release people from years of living a lie about themselves and others. Words that are designed to express hope for a person who is in bondage to sin can be interpreted by some as hate speech—especially those who live in sin and love it. However, for the person who is set free from that bondage, they are life-giving words of love. They are not judgmental, they are expressions of God’s grace.

Jesus is the world’s best example of one who has the ability to speak the truth in love. He was able to identify the person apart from the sin in their life. He could affirm the person and yet condemn the sin that was seeking to destroy them. He could bring them to experience freedom from sin and then tell them to go and sin no more. That’s love speech, not hate speech.

He told Pilate at the time of his trial that the reason he came into the world was to testify to the truth. He

spoke the truth and in speaking that word of truth he revealed sin in people’s lives and they were set free.

In our contemporary world, the line between a person’s life and a sinful lifestyle is blurred. Many feel that their identity is in their lifestyle—whether good or bad. Some are heard to say, “This is who I am. If you can’t accept my lifestyle than you can’t accept me.”

That is a lie that is believed and perpetuated in culture—regardless of the culture. Our sins are not who we are! We may be identified that way by people around us who say, “he is an alcoholic,” or she is a prostitute.” That is **not** how we are identified by God or by the people of God.

We say, “He is first and foremost a man; a man who has a problem with alcohol. She is first and foremost a woman; a woman who has not yet learned her true worth as a sexual being created by God.

Likewise, many appear to be identified, by themselves and others, by their sexual preferences, and not by their worth in the eyes of God. From God’s perspective, they are persons of sacred worth, or else why would he have come to die for them and us? There would be no reason for Jesus’ death if he did not feel we were worth dying for and saving.

God calls us to healthy, holy and blameless lifestyles whether we claim to be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, eunuch or whatever.

And yet, to even offer that kind of statement of hope for the person caught in alcoholism, prostitution or sexual deviancy is considered by some to be a statement of judgment upon their lives and their choices. It is politically incorrect and so, considered by many as hate speech. Actually, it is love speech!

Perhaps it is time to have our lives transformed by the renewing of our minds and the healing of our mouths and begin to think of each other as valuable creations of God. May we use words that affirm our worth and acknowledge the wisdom of our Creator! le

Wind of the Spirit Ministries

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THE EMPOWERING GIFTS

Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; I Corinthians 12:7-11

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told the disciples that he was going to send what the Father had promised, but they were to stay in the city until they were clothed with power from on high.

He also told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them and they would be his witnesses [read martyrs] in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

When that Promise of God was fulfilled at Pentecost, the disciples were indeed filled with the Holy Spirit Power that enabled them to go out and proclaim Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of humanity.

In that power, they preached the Gospel in the languages of fifteen different people groups who were gathered in Jerusalem for the celebration of the Feast of Weeks that ended with Pentecost. The people all heard these Galileans speaking in their own languages. That's Holy Spirit Power!

Because of God's amazing power and ability, three thousand people were added to the number of disciples of Jesus that day.

Several years later, Saul of Tarsus was converted to the Faith. The man became Paul, the Apostle. In his first letter to the church in Corinth he set forth and named the spiritual gifts with which the followers of Jesus are empowered when the Holy Spirit comes upon us.

He reminds his readers that there are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit [12:4], and they are all given for the common good [v.7] The Holy Spirit is manifested in the Body of Believers in a variety of ways, but especially through these gifts.

Though Paul gives them in a specific order and probably for a specific reason, I wish to place them in a different order. This is not in order of importance, for they are all important, but for a means of understanding and remembering them.

Three gifts have to do with our **mind and the way we think** in harmony with God's thoughts: **Knowledge, Wisdom, Discernment.** God reveals his will in a given situation through the word of knowledge. He gives wisdom on how to use or speak that word of knowledge as it relates to that person or situation. He gives the gift of discernment to help us to know if that situation—whether it pertains to a person's physical,

emotional or spiritual need, is from God, Satan or man. These three gifts function in our mind and thinking.

Another three gifts have to do with the way in which we **speak the word** that is given to us by God. These are, **Prophecy, Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues.**

Prophecy is speaking the word or revelation that is given by God, on behalf of God for the purpose of edification of those who hear the word. Paul instructs the Corinthians that *"everyone who prophesies speaks instruction to people for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who prophesies edifies the church."* [14:3,4]

Tongues has a twofold dimension to them. That is, there is tongues as a personal prayer language. Paul exercised this gift as he prayed with his spirit. [14:14,15] He also acknowledges that there is a ministry of tongues that is exercised in the gathered congregation. When tongues is manifested in this setting, there must be someone with the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues that puts the message in the language of the listening congregation so that all may be edified and the body built up.

These are the **verbal gifts** that are used in proclaiming the presence of the living Lord and for the purpose of edifying and building up the Body of Christ.

The third set of gifts have to do with ministry outreach: **Faith, Miracles, Healings.** Jesus instructed his disciples that they were to preach the Gospel and heal the sick. He also instructed them to move out in faith—even small faith, and they would see and do greater things than what they had seen him do. *"I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."* [John 14:12]

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for and the conviction of things not seen. [Hebrews 11:1] Miracles are the working of God in ways that we do not understand and yet show the supernatural power of God to use or supersede the laws of nature as we understand them, to accomplish God's purposes.

Healings are the outgrowth of supernatural ministry to the spiritual, emotional, relational and physical needs of those to whom we reach out in the Name of Jesus.

All nine of these empowering Gifts enable us, as the Body of Christ, to **think, speak and act** in ways that reflect the thoughts, words and acts of God.

The work of the Kingdom of God here on earth cannot be accomplished through the use of natural human talents. The supernatural work of God in the supernatural kingdom of God, is accomplished through the use of the supernatural gifts of God.

Come Holy Spirit. Empower us, as you did the early disciples, to proclaim the Name of Jesus with the ever greater results!

WEB-PAGE

Wind of the Spirit Web Page address is

www.wosm-nw.org

MINISTRY CALENDAR

PLEASE POST AND PRAY FOR THESE EVENTS

OTHER MINISTRY EVENTS ARE IN THE PLANNING STAGES

Eddings Email address: woseddings@msn.com

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“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear the 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



SEPTEMBER 19-October 7	Philippine Mission Trip to Conduct Healing Retreat for Pastors with Bishop Rudy Juan. Other ministry events in the Manila area.
OCTOBER 21-26	“The Journey Within” Seminar on Healing of Emotional Hurts, Silverdale United Methodist Church, Silverdale, WA
NOVEMBER	Larry and Audrey will spend much of the month of November writing and revising materials for publication.



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