

## FINDING YOUR GOD INTENDED PURPOSE FOR LIFE

### “HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS”

The Holy Spirit works in many ways. You can't limit him to one way, that is, your doctrinal way or your church's teaching way. The Holy Spirit is God and you can't put God in a doctrinal box. You can't tell God what to do, but he can tell you what to do. Listen to what Jesus said about the Holy Spirit. "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.

Just like the wind is invisible, so too, is the Holy Spirit. "The wind blows wherever it pleases" If you were out in a little sail boat on the harbour and there was no wind blowing and everything was calm and still, it would not be much good to stand up in your boat and shout out, "Wind start blowing!" Nothing would happen, you would just have to wait. The wind blows where and when it pleases. You are totally dependent on the wind and as Christians one of the biggest lessons we are to learn is that we are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit. We will get nowhere in our Christian life, growth and service without the Holy Spirit.

"You hear its sound" We can't see the wind but we can feel it, we can see what it does as it blows around objects and we can hear it whistle. We can't see the Holy Spirit but we can often feel the peace and joy and assurance of salvation of the Holy Spirit. We can see what he does as he convicts and converts people to God, and as he causes Christians to grow in their faith, but what about his sound?

On the day of Pentecost we read that the Holy Spirit came like a sound of a mighty rushing wind but usually he would not come like that. Acts chapter 2. He is invisible, but he can if he chooses, take on a temporary form, as he did at the baptism of Jesus when he took on the form of a dove. Matthew 3:16. So how do we usually hear the sound of the Holy Spirit or his voice speaking to us? When we hear someone reading or teaching the bible, if what they say touches our hearts, speaks to our hearts, then the Holy Spirit is communicating with us, speaking to us through that person. Or he might speak to our minds as we read the bible ourselves. Of course he can speak to us in many other ways but we might look at that at a later date.

You might ask, "How will we know if it is the Holy Spirit speaking to us?" If it is something that draws us closer to Jesus, makes Jesus more real to us, then we know this is the Holy Spirit speaking to us. Listen to what Jesus says about the Holy Spirit. "He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you." John 16:14.

The verse we are studying goes on to say, “but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going.” Jesus continues to liken the Holy Spirit to the wind. Just like we cannot control the wind or tell it what to do, or where it is going to go, so with the Holy Spirit, he is sovereign, he is God, he is in control, we must learn to cooperate with him. Wait in prayer and patience when he is not working, work together with him when he is working.

The last part of our verse says, “So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.” We cannot mass produce Christians, At different times in history a king of a nation or a chief of a tribe has said they will become a Christian, then all their people are expected to become Christians also. So they have mass baptisms and large numbers become nominal Christians, that is Christians in name only, but not in heart, many or most, have never been born again by the Spirit. They are taught to believe certain things but they have never come to know a personal relationship with Jesus, they don’t know the joy of walking with Jesus, the peace of sins forgiven, the assurance of eternal salvation, only the Holy Spirit can give them that.

There is much more we can say about how the Holy Spirit works but we will continue next lecture.

