

## **“WIND - SHAPING THE FUTURE”**

**John 15:1-8**

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Wind. We get plenty of it in Houston when the storms come. There can be tree limbs on the street, car accidents, damaged, power lines down, computers surging - all reminders that we can't do much to control the wind. It comes up, does its thing, and then disappears for awhile. We are left to clean up, take stock, and move forward.

I'm not particularly fond of wind, especially if I'm playing golf. I've lived in a few states where there always seems to be wind. However, I got a different perspective on wind before we left Arizona to come to Korea. One weekend my wife and I took a trip to Biosphere II, north of Tucson, AZ. The Biosphere experiment was to see how well man and nature could survive in an enclosed and controlled "earth" environment.

Although the human experiment ended, the plant life experiment continues. What was unusual was what we saw inside the glass covered earth. Although the sight was really marvelous, something just didn't look quite right. The vegetation, especially the trees, looked somewhat unhealthy. After a number of sightseers commented on this, the guide told us that the only thing lacking in Biosphere II was wind. Wind is what makes the vegetation and trees strong and fruitful. It is wind that creates enough force to help that which is living to become strong. They did not have wind in Biosphere II.

The winds of change may blow, the winds of war may come, the winds of trauma may take its toll. Winds will come. The Bible tells us that God's Spirit (pneuma) is like the wind. The wind of the Spirit may come when we least expect, may shake us to our very foundations, but will always make us stronger and more confident in our faith. He may blow off some weak limbs, may even snap some big looking branches that are not really strong. The wind of the Spirit may even shape us much like the bent tree along a wind-blown coast that survives storm after storm. The Apostle Peter said, "Dear friends, don't be bewildered or surprised when you go through the fiery trials ahead, for this is no strange, unusual thing that is going to happen to you." The Spirit fulfills what Jesus talked about in John 15:1-8. I hope you will read it this week and know that God has your staying power in mind.