

Series: **Come Holy Spirit!**(2) **Wind & Water.**

Let us start in Prayer: *Creator God, who formed humanity from dust, breathe in us again. Revive us and sanctify us by the power of your Spirit. Set our heart on fire with the good news of your Gospel*

Read Genesis 1:1-13 God created the heavens and the earth, bringing order and form where there was none. It was the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit, that was the creative force, shaping and generating, breathing life and purpose as the creation plan required. **Wind** and **Water** are the first two descriptions we will be discussing in the next weeks, used by the Bible writers to encapsulate some of the Spirit's work. **Wind** (Hebrew word Ruah - translated sometimes wind sometimes breath) because you cannot see it or touch it yet are very aware of its existence and impact. **Read Psalm 104:1 & 24-31**



The Holy Spirit continues to bring order, life, and purpose into situations where he is invited. *Are there areas of your life where things have become something of a shambles? Perhaps in need of regeneration, a bringing back to life? For example, how is your prayer life? What else?*

For something you cannot see or touch, it is surprising that the **Wind** is somehow 'physical.' Since reading John chapter 3 (particularly V8) I have felt the **Wind** to be demonstrating the 'physicalness' of God's presence in our world. The Spirit of God is hovering over all, sometimes unnoticed and sometimes pressing hard, lifting, guiding, pushing, carrying, but never absent, always available to silent prayer or urgent cry. *Where would you direct the regenerative powers of the Holy Spirit hovering above Taunton? Why there? Have you been praying for this?*

Water is used within the Bible to illustrate the absolutely essential life-giving properties of God's Spirit. Rivers, streams, wells, baptism, cleansing, refreshing, rejuvenating and more are used. We know that our physical bodies will die without **water**, but many don't understand that our wellbeing is dependent upon the **water** of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of God breathed life into us and without this **water** and repeated watering there cannot be the fullness of life as God graciously intended.

Jesus uses **water** to wash the feet of his disciples (John 13) and Peter misunderstands what Jesus is demonstrating, and they discuss the difference between surface washing and a complete bath. *Using the **water** to illustrate our need for the Holy Spirit, how often does Peter (me and you) need to surface wash? And how often is a bath required, if at all? What is the church's role in both?*

Rightly, in the news almost weekly, are accounts of further pollution to our rivers, lakes and seas. The likely potential polluters point away from themselves towards others. *Do you see any danger to the pure goodness message and intentions of the **water** of the Holy Spirit becoming polluted/corrupted by influences draining from society today? What are they?*

Prayer: *Fill me again Wind of God, push me, when I hesitate, where you know I should go. Wash me Water of God, in all the hard-to-reach places.*