

A WIND FROM ELSEWHERE by: Kathryn Wilcox

Our world is the modern Sodom and Gomorrah, only worse - murder, idolatry (money and entertainment, especially), corruption, witchcraft and occult practices, and abortion, in addition to sexual sins, - there is no end to the list. America has a serious pollution problem. sin Many Christians have also developed a blindness to sin. The onslaught of evil has us craving solutions. We want to see our nation healed. But what power do we have over such spiritual blindness?

In the conclusion of his book; *THE SPIRIT OF PYTHON*, Jentzen Franklin refers to a study that was done concerning the air pollution problem in Los Angeles. The experts concluded that it was hopeless. There was nothing they could do. And then one expert whimsically suggested that the only way to get rid of the poisons in the air over the city was for "*a wind from elsewhere* to sweep through the city and blow the toxins out to sea."

Franklin goes on the explain that in the Old Testament, the people were so sinful that for over 600 years God stopped speaking to them. No prophetic words were heard during that entire period. Then came Pentecost- "Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come..... suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as a rushing mighty wind." (Acts 2, NABRE, emphasis added)

The wind blew into the room, filling the apostles and faithful and fanning the flames of faith in their hearts; making them *fully alive* with the Spirit of God. It blew away their fear. It empowered them. It cleansed them and enabled them to leave the room and go out and preach Jesus' salvation. It was the wind of the Holy Spirit that went before them driving the spirits of darkness back to hell and preparing hearts to receive the preaching of repentance for sin and giving people the desire *and the power* to change. We can change very little on our own. The Spirit of God can change us into 'new creations.'

John 3:8 (NABRE) also compares the Holy Spirit to wind saying, "The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Charles H. Spurgeon was once asked how it is that the Holy Spirit was like the wind. In a sermon on October 13, 2010, he explained how wind interacts with a sail boat: "Look for a moment at that stately ship. It is the wind which propels her forward; but the wind would not act upon her as it does, unless she had the rigging all fixed, her masts standing, and her sails all set to catch the passing breeze..... When properly prepared, see how she flies!" What a beautiful explanation. How about us? How do we bring the power of the Holy Spirit into our own lives and into the church?

We are the boat and the Holy Spirit is the wind. We must ready our boat for the journey on the sea of life. Our body, like the boat (vessel, rigging, and sails), must be cleaned, repaired and strengthened. Do we need a complete overhaul? Then attending another Life in the Spirit/Gift Seminar will renew us. We also must get rid of excess baggage and rips in our sails, such as past sins, unforgiveness of people and old hurts, and even material things to which we have an unhealthy attachment. We must also prepare for the journey with a good map (our bible and the Sacraments) and sail with our course charted for our ultimate destiny- heaven. We must take time to read and memorize scripture for spiritual warfare, and pray, pray, pray our way through each day so that we are prepared, with sails ready, for whatever comes.

There is no legal or logical solution for the sin pollution that attempts to cover our world in darkness. Counseling will not cure sin. Laws will not stop sin. And all the rhetoric in the world will not bring change. Only the Spirit of God can truly change and transform hearts and rid society of sin pollution. Prophecies are consistently alerting us that a new outpouring of a "WIND FROM ELSEWHERE"-the breath of heaven, the Holy Spirit, is coming! Are our sails up and ready? Come, Holy Spirit!



THE WEEKEND THAT CHANGED MY LIFE by: Virginia Baker

In September, a team from the Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal travelled to St. James Center in Sheffield, PA, to present a Life in the Spirit Seminar called *"The Gift."* This seminar took place over a Friday evening and a Saturday. Friday evening was an introduction to the Holy Spirit. We listened to videos by world class speakers and then had discussions about the talks in small groups.

(Please refer to the March Newsletter for more information on Pope Francis encouraging people to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit through "The Gift" Seminar and also April Blum's testimony of her experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit).

On Saturday, the talks focused on why the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is so important and how it changes people's lives. Jaci, my small group leader, talked to us about being baptized in the Holy Spirit. As gentle as she was in describing 'resting in the spirit' and the 'gift of speaking in tongues,' the look on our faces must have been absolutely priceless because, after answering our many questions and giving her own testimony, she looked at us softly and said, "Don't be afraid. It's okay. Just trust God." I remember she had told us that she was "never the same" after the baptism in the Holy Spirit and that "God became real and personal" to her as soon as she was baptized in the Spirit. She reassured us that speaking in tongues and resting in the spirit were gifts from God and there was nothing to fear. Still, I was pretty sure that I did not want them, so I did everything I could

to resist them and, as the group talked later, others had done the same thing. But you know, God does have a sense of humor. As Jaci gathered us into a circle for prayers for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I felt I DID NOT want to go first, but God had His own idea about this. I stood in front of her with my hands together and with my rosary wrapped around them, asking for the Blessed Mother to come and protect me. I was trying to keep an open mind, but at the same time I was honestly wary. Then Jaci very gently laid her hands on my head and I immediately felt this wonderful presence and power come upon me and my head started leaning more and more towards her. The next thing I knew, my body was on the floor and I was enveloped in a deep peace that I absolutely knew was from God. It was unlike anything I had ever experienced. I laid there for a long time and she continued to pray over me and spoke words over me that she could not have known. Later, she asked me to try to pray in tongues when she was praying for the other group members, but I did not believe in tongues, so I did not try to pray in tongues. I still prayed over them, though, as she praved over them and words did come into my head from the Holy Spirit to speak to them. To our utter astonishment, all five of us were slain in the spirit despite all five of us being resistant to this when she explained it and thinking in our minds. "No. THAT is NOT going to happen." There were tears. There was joy. There were words of wisdom and knowledge

that were so specific to each person that it could have only been inspired by the Holy Spirit. And for some, there were tongues.

The next day was Sunday, which is when my husband David and I say our morning prayers. I told David, "I am going to take a shower first." I was in the bath tub when I felt this love come over me. Not an earthly love, but a love that could only come from God. I raised my hands and said to Jesus, "I am offering this love to you for everyone who feels depressed, alone and suicidal. Take it, take it," over and over again. As this presence came upon me and grew stronger, before I knew it, I was kneeling in the tub face down. I tried to get up, but the presence of the Holy Spirit was too heavy. My tongue was moving so fast and I began crying, then I began laughing at the same time. It was all from God. My husband heard this and he came upstairs, opened the shower curtain, and asked if I was alright. All I could do was hold my head up and say, "One moment." When the presence lifted, I was able to get up and stop crying, but could not stop laughing. I saw the concerned look on his face and I said, "I am alright. Really I am fine." I called Jaci later and told her what had happened. She said "You received the gift of tongues, the gift of tears and gift of laughter." I now believe in speaking in tongues because I do it all of the time and it is such a wonderful blessing to have a praver language!

Continued on page 3



This newsletter may be copied to put in churches or shared with others.

THE WEEKEND THAT CHANGED MY LIFE—CONTINUED by: Virginia Baker

My story doesn't end there. Actually, it has continued and continued, but I will end my testimony with this. That same week, as I was praying, I heard a voice say, "You are in the presence of God!" As I went down to the floor on my face prostrate and was asking God for forgiveness of my sins (which He gave me knowledge of), the Lord said, "Go to confession." And I did. When He made me aware of His holiness, my own sinfulness, and told me to go to confession, Jesus wanted me to communicate this message to everyone: "My mercy overshadows all your sins." This was my amazing experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit and how it changed my life, bringing me closer to Jesus. That is only the beginning of my new walk with the Lord. I could never have dreamt of how that weekend would change my life, or of how much more God had in store for me or how real His power and love truly are. May God bless you.

Editor's Note: Virginia is now the Leader of God's Holy Love Prayer Group (See: Prayer Groups Section).



Word of Life CCRC wishes to acknowledge and thank Jack Heintzel for the incredible amount of time and talent he has contributed over the past 30 years as Editor (7 years) of and contributor to (29 years) to the Reflection Newsletter.

This newsletter would not have been possible without his passion, dedication, and service. **THANK YOU, JACK!**

To all my friends on the WOL Center board of directors --- I thank you sincerely for the service award you gave me a few days ago. I was really surprised. It's good to know that God has given me such good colleagues.

I think that I began to submit articles to Reflections about 1992. And I have been involved in the Renewal since 1971. I have enjoyed my involvement terrifically and gained so much enjoyment over the years. I have considered it all a blessing from God. I wish I good remember all the people I have met over the years; they have contributed so much to my spiritual life.

I love you very much. Jack





SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP See Page 7 for details Facilitators: Pat Montefiori and Jacqueline Phillips Friday, June 15, 2018 6 PM - 9 PM Saturday, June 16, 2018 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

THE GIFT SEMINAR (LIFE IN THE SPIRIT)

See Page 6 for details Friday, May 18, 2018 6 PM - 9 PM & Saturday, May 19, 2018 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM St. Joseph's Church Hall 112 Rectory Ln, Lucinda, PA 16235 To register call Denise Varo (814) 744-8199 There is no charge for this course - Registrations required

PANEL DISCUSSION ON DELIVERANCE AND OCCULT

T.A. Walkiewicz and Dr. Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol St. Joseph's Center (behind the church) 147 West 24th St, Erie Saturday, August 25, 2018 Promptly 8:30 AM Praise and Worship, Prayer Teams Register by 8/22/18, \$8.50 by calling T.A. at (814) 833-9717 *You may register on event day without breakfast included (\$5.00)

EVENING WITH OUR LORD

St. Joseph Bread of Life Church 147 West 24th St, Erie Worship by Jaci Phillips and friends Exposition by Fr. Jonathan Shmoltz Friday, September 7, 2018 7 PM - 9 PM Free Will Offering to Support Erie Charismatic Renewal/Word of Life Center

HEALING MASSES (SPIRIT-FILLED)

Sponsored by Son of God Prayer Group
Holy Rosary Church, 2701 East Ave, ErieTuesday, May 8, 20186:30 PM (Worship 6:15)Tuesday, August 7, 20186:30 PM (Worship 6:15)Tuesday, October 9, 20186:30 PM (Worship 6:15)

"In 2018, we will experience an anointing of the Holy Spirit that will surpass anything we have ever known. The thrust for evangelism will be coupled with an extraordinary demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. This will be an unprecedented year of miracles."

Pat Robertson

PRAYER GROUPS

† SUNDAYShalom in Jesus Prayer GroupIn home, DuBois, PARick Kenawell(814) 375-0328Acts II Community

St. Julia ChurchWest Lake Rd. & Powell Ave.Jack Heintzel(814) 838-1325

Holy Crown of Thorns Prayer GroupFirst Sunday of the month749 Bean Farm Rd, Sheffield, PALil Herbstritt(814) 968-3208

† Monday

Disciples of the Holy SpiritSt. Mary's Church Annex139 Church St., St. Mary's, PAMary Ellen Frank(814) 781-3904

St. Andrew Chapel (formerly Leopold Center group) Chaplet of Divine Mercy and Rosary

 1116 West 7th St.
 3:15 PM (before Mass)

 Mary Lou Peterson
 (814) 866-5678

River of Life PG 2nd & 4th Monday evenings St. Bridget Ch., Rm.4, Meadville, PA 7:00 PM Amy Mosbacher (814) 724-6104

† TUESDAY

Son of God Prayer GroupHoly Rosary Church2701 East Ave., Erie PA7:00 PMPat Montefiori(814) 823-3968

† Friday

Light of the World Community In Home Prayer Meeting Call for location T.A. Walkiewicz

1:00 PM (814) 833-9717

† SATURDAY

God's Holy Love Holy Redeemer 11 Russell St, Warren PA Virginia Baker

10:30 AM (781) 217-1683

CONTEMPORARY MASS Every Sunday 11:00 AM St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Community Children's Liturgy of the Word

PERPETUAL ADORATION Bread of Life Chapel St. Joseph Community Center

<u>ST. JOSEPH NOVENA</u> Every Wednesday 7:00 PM St. Joseph Church / Bread of Life Community

AS BY A NEW PENTECOST - PART ONE by: Jaci Phillips, PhD

If you are one of those people who wants to believe there is more; hopes that there is more; I hope this articles speaks to you and convinces you that God is always seeking to give us 'more' of Himself. More knowledge, more love, more wisdom, and more power of the Holy Spirit. If you realize this already, praise God. But He still wants to give you 'more.' If you are a Spirit-filled Christian who has never given the Gifts what they need to develop, there is more. If you are a Spirit-filled Christian who was once alive, but has grown lukewarm over time, God wants to renew and restore your spirit to 'more." If you have no idea what I am talking about, trust me that God has MORE for you, IF you but ask. "how much MORE will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" Lk. 11:13

I love the Catholic Faith. Much to the disbelief of some non-Catholic Christians, I am what I consider to be an alive, on fire, born again, Spiritfilled Catholic. And since I am filled with the Spirit of God, I see the things that some consider to be 'dead rituals' and Pharisaical burdens as living and beautiful and full of the power of God. But so many Catholics never see this and many end up leaving before having this revelation through the power of the Holy Spirit. It is necessary. Ι confidently and unapologetically say that the Holy Spirit is the only thing that can renew the Church.

The Apostles heard the Gospel preached for 3 & 1/2 years, 'straight from the horse's (Savior's) mouth.' They observed all of the signs and wonders and miracles performed by Jesus. Yet it would not be enough. It was enough for conversion (water Baptism), but they still lacked power to overcome their own weaknesses and humanness and the moment that Jesus was arrested, they abandoned Him. Even Peter, who was so sure that He could follow Jesus in His path, immediately proceeded to deny Jesus

3 times. Yet, the same Apostles who denied Jesus, just 7 weeks later, would proceed from the upper room with a power that could not be stopped. What changed? They "received power when the Holv Spirit" came upon them and all of the 120 who awaited the Promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) in the upper room. The moment that they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they were forever changed; changed in a way that not even 3 & 1/2 years in Jesus presence could accomplish. This is why Jesus emphasized, "The Holy Spirit cannot come to help you until I leave. But after I am gone, I will send the Spirit to you." (Jn. 16:7 CEV) They received their 'more' that Jesus knew they would need. After all, He told them NOT to go out and try anything on their own, but to WAIT for this amazing gift.



The Apostles and early believers evangelized through the *combination* of the WORD and with SIGNS, WONDERS, and MIRACLES. They walked in signs and wonders. Jesus walked in signs and wonders. They didn't 'seek after a sign' like a 'wicked generation.' If you hung around Jesus or the Apostles or the early believers, signs and wonders 'accompanied' their ministry. And guess what? Signs and wonders should accompany us also. Jesus said they would happen and we take Him at His word. And as Peter prophesied

on Pentecost (in Acts 2:39), the power of the Holy Spirit was also for "those who were far off' (AKA: us!). So why is it that we do not regularly see people delivered from demons, healed of cancer, and raised from the dead (Jesus' promise)? These things happen, but they surely are not the common "signs that would accompany those who believe in My Name." (Mk. 16:17) Why not? Sadly, some Spiritfilled Christians have been made to feel that they are doing something wrong by expecting what Jesus promised and walking in it. There are accusations of being 'weird' or 'radical,' etc. People are afraid of what they have not experienced themselves and discount what they do not understand and for them, it is weird. Some are accused of only following after signs and only seeking emotional experiences. This has, at times, been a very valid criticism of Spirit-filled charismatic Catholics and Christians. I have seen people like this. My experience is that they generally fall into lukewarmness after a time. If we are lukewarm, we risk being "vomited out of the mouth of God." (Rev. 3:16) But we should seek to be mature Spirit-filled Christians who also know that we were meant to walk in signs and wonders. We are not living in an either/or scenario. Long ago, I dare say my whole life, God made me a 'fool for Christ.' Praise God! "God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong." (1Cor 1:27, NASB).

The simple promises of Jesus require the childlike faith of taking Jesus at His word and believing what He said. Children often appear 'foolish' to wise adults, right? Right. I praise God that I walk in a life that is filled with the privilege of being able to frequently witness miracles, both big and small. Next month we will look at why miracles are not more common place in the lives of the faithful (please keep Part I for reference).

IF I BE LIFTED UP by: Amy Mosbacher



Still in the Easter season, the events surrounding the death and resurrection of Jesus are fresh in our minds. We know now that when Jesus said, "And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself," (Jn. 12:32) He was referring to His own crucifixion.

Often that quote of Jesus' is referred back to Moses and his lifting up the bronze serpent on the pole to heal the people of their snake bites. But why? Other than being lifted up on a pole or a cross, what's the similarity? Why should looking at a serpent which caused their illness bring healing?

The Hebrew people, having just come out of Egypt, were complaining against God and Moses. (Num. 21:4 -9) Perhaps they didn't recognize their grumbling as a sin, but it killed their soul as much as their ingratitude for the freedom God won for them. When God became angry and sent the serpents that bit them, they could recognize it as something that hurt them. Perhaps God allowed the serpents to be the visible sign of their sin. When Moses lifted the serpent on the pole and the people had to look at it to be healed from the bites and delivered from the snakes, it was like they were looking at their own sin head-on, and when they recognized and admitted their sin, they could finally be healed.

"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Cor. 5:21) Jesus took on not only our humanity but all the effects of our sinful humanity. He was subject to hunger, cold, tiredness, pain and suffering. We had to be able to see not only the good that Jesus as God did for us, the teaching, healing, and compassion, but also what He endured. When Jesus was crucified and lifted up on the cross, "he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Isa 53:4-5) Our sin manifested itself in Jesus' tortured body. Only when we look to Jesus on the cross can we recognize our own sin and the death it brings to us. We have to acknowledge it head-on in order to repent and be healed and delivered.

Jesus' death and resurrection reconciled humanity with God, but that doesn't mean we are automatically assured of salvation. It would be pride to think we only had to say "I believe,"" but then live however we wanted. "Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?" (1 Cor 6:9) (RSV). When we look to Jesus on the cross and humbly recognize our sin, He will never turn us away. "My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise." (Ps. 51:17) This is why we must always have the crucifix near us, to recognize our own sin; to look at it head on like the Israelites and be grateful for His death and resurrection and to say, "I'm sorry Lord," and then, "Jesus, I trust in You."

Thank you, Jesus, that You were 'lifted up' like the serpent in the desert and for drawing us to Yourself with healing and deliverance when we humbly and gratefully contemplate you hanging on the cross with all of our sins upon Your shoulders.. Thank you for Easter and thank you for undeserved mercy.



St. Joseph's Church Hall 112 Rectory Ln Lucinda, PA 16235

To register for this course, please call Denise Varo (814) 744-8199

There is no charge for this video series course. Registrations appreciated by Wednesday, May 16, 2018

By The Word of Their Testimony

"But they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they did not cling to life even in the face of death." (Revelation 12:11)

THE SPIRITUAL AND THE PHYSICAL - THE POWER OF CONFESSION by Elaine Sinnott

I've noticed ever since I was younger, especially in college in a high-stress time in my life, that going to confession was the best thing I could do for sleep. If too much was going through my mind at night and I would struggle to fall asleep, I just knew I needed to go. Looking back, I truly believe that was the Holy Spirit assisting me because I honestly don't think I could have come up with that on my own. I don't know why it took me forever to think of that this most recent time before I went to confession. I guess the devil was really good at preventing me from hearing the Truth, but I finally went for the first time in four months and I immediately had significantly better nights of sleep afterwards. I had been struggling with sleep more than I ever had in my life ever since my husband left for his latest deployment. I would sleep maybe 3 hours and then not be able to go back to sleep for the rest of the night with never-ending lists and worries running through my mind. I believe I even sank into, at the very least, a mild depression with such little rest. The devil had me believing I was very alone. Once I finally went to confession, it was just amazing how much better I felt and how much better I *slept*. When we go to confession, we restore ourselves to our Heavenly Father. No wonder I sleep better! I'm closer to Love Himself when I repent. There is nothing more comforting! It has become a beautiful realization to me how much the spiritual takes care of the physical sometimes! God truly thinks of everything!



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"For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." 1 Tim 1:6-7 (NIV)

Registration Call: Kathleen (814) 490-3496

Fan into the

SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP Developing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Have you ever wondered what Gifts of the Holy Spirit are strongest in you? Or maybe you doubt that you have any. If you are aware of your gifts, do you desire to understand them better and "take them to the next level?" THEN THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR YOU!

Patricia Montefiori and Jacqueline Phillips will teach and share on how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit work and how to and how to practically apply them in your life and ministry. Jaci and Pat are both experienced prayer group leaders and have been active in the Charismatic Renewal for over 25 years. *They love to see people come alive in their faith and in the power of living God!*

This is a safe and friendly environment to both learn and practice the Gifts. Contrary to what we sometimes think, the Gifts do not necessarily just descend on us in full power at the moment that we are Baptized in the Holy Spirit. We have to step out in them. And that can be a little intimidating in your everyday life. So this is a safe place to learn and to practice; to **Fan into the Flame!**

Registration Form Register by June 11, 2018
SPIRITUAL GIFTS WORKSHOP—Fan into the flame
Location: Please call for Location and Registration—Kathleen (814) 490-3496

State:

Friday, June 15, 2018 (6PM—9PM) & Saturday, June 16, 2018 (8:30AM–3:30 PM)

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Fan into the flame

COST—\$20.00 (Scholarships Available)

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Reflections on 'The Greater Things'

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	Memorial Day					

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/wolccrc

The office is generally open on Wednesday and/or Thursday only. Please call before coming.

The purpose of this newsletter is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to provide teaching, news and calendar of events, which help to foster Catholic Charismatic Renewal throughout the Diocese of Erie.

CHIEF EDITOR Jacqueline Phillips-Sabol, PhD

EDITORS Elaine Sinnott, Amy Mosbacher

> FORMATTING Loretta Swartwood

Volume XXXII

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