



new life fellowship

**Sermon Title: The Holy Spirit: The Wind of the Spirit**

**Speaker: Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor**

**Scripture: John 3:1-8**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

<sup>4</sup> "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> 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."  
(NIV)

#### **Sermon Outline:**

It is easy for someone to look like a Christian, talk like a Christian and go to church like a Christian, but until you have been taken up by the wind of the Holy Spirit, you are not truly living the life God has called you to.

In today's scripture, we find Jesus speaking with the great religious leader Nicodemus. Nicodemus is confused about all that Jesus is doing and comes to speak with Jesus at night to ask him some questions but before he can pose his questions, Jesus says to him: "Very truly I tell you that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

To be born again mean to be born from above, to be born anew. When Jesus says we are to be born again, he means we need to have something happen deep down in our soul that causes us to look at things in our lives differently. Unless you are born again, you cannot see how God is active because the Kingdom of God is what God is doing.

Jesus lets Nicodemus know that he needs to rethink what he has been doing and how he has been living so that he can be born again. We are also being called by Jesus to a different way of being. We have been so profoundly formed and shaped over the years that we can have a very difficult time of seeing where God is working in our lives.

Although we have been formed by our society in the way we should see the world and interact with other people, the Holy Spirit wants to move us to see the world through the lens of Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, we hold on to the ways we have been formed for dear life, not wanting to be open and letting go of the ways we have been formed.

The wind of the Holy Spirit comes and lets us know that he wants us to change some things, but we remain rigid in the ways in which we think. It is very easy for us to remain stuck in our ways and use various excuses to being set in our ways.

We are called to repent and in doing so are to rethink everything in light of Jesus Christ. True repentance comes by virtue of the Holy Spirit.

The ever-present movement of the Spirit.  
“The Wind blows...”

The divine prerogative of the Spirit.  
“Wherever it pleases...”.

The countercultural way of Jesus Christ is being carried by the Spirit. Our lives are to confound the people around us. The Holy Spirit wants to carry us in such a way that confounds the world around us.

What does it mean to be carried by the Holy Spirit?

- Newness is possible at any moment.
- We say yes to the unfamiliar.
- We live with a posture of openness.
- We see setbacks as Spirit moments.

The Holy Spirit is never out to destroy you or your life, but he is out to disrupt you and your life. May we all be open to the surprising, countercultural, confounding way of Jesus.

**Sermon Summary:**

This Sunday, Pastor Richard Villodas, Lead Pastor, continues our sermon series on the on the Holy Spirit. Today Pastor Rich leads us through a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, one of the great religious leaders of ancient Israel, and how this story is relevant in our lives today.

**Sermon Questions:**

1. Do you feel an invitation from Christ in today’s scripture passage? Are there words that resonate with you if so, why?
2. When it comes to your family of origin, what ways have they formed you to see the world and interact with others? Are you able to acknowledge some of the negative ways you have been formed? Do you feel as though the Holy Spirit is moving in your life to help you see things differently, through the lens of Jesus Christ?
3. Are you remaining stuck in your old ways using excuses around your age, life experiences, or personality to not follow the Holy Spirit’s prompting for you to make changes in your life? How can you be open to the Holy Spirit disrupting your life so that he is able to take you where he needs you to go right now?
4. When it comes to being carried by the Holy Spirit, where do you see this happening in your life right now? Do you feel as though transformation is possible at any moment? Do you feel like you are being led where you don’t feel like going? Are you’re asking the Lord to carry you where he wants you to go? Or, are you able to see setbacks as Spirit moments, knowing that the Holy Spirit is still with you and inside of you?