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THE SOUND OF WIND—There are several ways in which wind makes itself heard. Trees provide a natural outdoor instrument. As branches and leaves shake, they cause vibrations in the surrounding air. The faster the object moves, the higher will be the pitch that is heard. Tree sounds are unique to those who stop and listen: the willow has been likened to a flute, the pine to a violin. High pitch sound also arises when narrow objects cause changing eddy currents of air, similar to a whistle. A lower pitch results when large open objects resonate, like air blown across a jug. These many effects sometimes make whistling, whirring, or moaning sounds, the combination of many frequencies. Air rushing directly past your ear itself can also resonate and play its music. We can tend to take these delightful sounds for granted or miss them altogether. However, they are an enjoyable part of the creation.

In the Bible the wind is likened to the Holy Spirit. The word "spirit" in both Hebrew and Greek means "breath" or "wind". Both a breath of air and a breeze are appropriate images for the Holy Spirit.

Consider several properties of the wind. First, wind is moving air, and this fresh air is needed continually for life itself. Even seeds often require wind for their dispersal and subsequent growth. Similarly, the Holy Spirit is the presence of God, the source of all life. Second, wind has no material shape or form. It is invisible; we cannot see the source or the destination of wind. It is a mysterious, unseen force. Nevertheless, its presence is known by its effects. Likewise, the unseen Holy Spirit can be experienced in a refreshing way. His presence is displayed in the work he does in human lives by transforming, sanctifying, encouraging, and teaching. Third, wind is a powerful force. It cannot be stopped or controlled by people. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is not subject to human control. The moving of the Holy Spirit is God at work. Fourth, there is great variety in the wind. It may be a soft whisper gently rustling the leaves on the trees, or it may be a hurricane uprooting trees. Likewise the Holy Spirit may gently bring a person to Christ, such as a little child raised in a Christian home, or he may work in some climactic, dramatic way to bring conviction and conversion to the hardened sinner. In Acts 16, contrast Lydia, whose heart the Lord opened, and the jailer, who needed an earthquake to jar him to his spiritual sense. In both cases, the Holy Spirit did the regenerating work. John 3:8, *"The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit"*.

—D. DeYoung

PRAYER ANSWERED—John Rutledge of Buffalo NY, a

"...a net...cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind." Matthew 13:47

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godly sailor, was used very much in winning his swearing, licentious fellows for the Saviour. They had left Buffalo when the lake was still dangerous with floating ice, and they had accomplished three-quarters of their way, then one morning, to the great alarm of crew and skipper, they saw the ice closing upon them. There was just a narrow passage straight ahead, and it was fast closing. If the ice closes, it would crush the ship to pieces like a tinderbox, and they would all be lost. The men's faces grew white, for the wind ceased and the calm came, as if to let the ice nip them and grip them to destruction. John Rutledge asked the skipper's leave to go down to his cabin and pray. The captain was a godless man, but eternity was near, and he believed in John Rutledge. He had sailed with John for many a voyage and the Christian had commended Christ by his life. (Happy soul when the man that works by you acknowledges your fidelity to Jesus. They may not like you, but they trust in you even when they profess to despise you.) The captain gave his leave for John Rutledge to go down to his cabin and pray. As he was there on his knees a few of the men gathered with him, and amongst them was the captain. Rutledge prayed that God would guide the vessel, that God would steer the craft, that God would deliver them. The men heard and listened attentively. As they returned to deck, the man at the wheel greeted them with, "There is hope, the wind is nor'nor' east." The wind began to "sough" and sigh and fill the sails, and the ice began to part, and the men said to the captain, "Shall we spread more canvas?" "No," he replied, "not a stitch, **somebody else** is guiding this ship. Let her alone."

A happy life is that when difficulties come, when rebellions arise, when doubts all drop upon deck, for the man to be able to say, "Let her drive; there is someone else controlling and guiding."

Note: Maybe this is how we should look at the past election. Daniel 2:20-22, *"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: and he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: he revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him."*

OVER YOUR HEAD (DEEP WATER)—Nautical expressions like the one above abound. Just what does it mean to be "in deep water"? Let's suppose your desires have been provoked in the area of a new car. In your spare time you shop around and narrow your choice down to a couple of models. The one you really want is twice as expensive as you can afford, but the desire is great. Upon checking financing, you can now get payments for up to 72 months, so you

jump! At the end of the first month you see your predicament. After the house note, insurance, food, utilities, etc., there is nothing left! You jumped all right—INTO DEEP (financial) WATER!

Like the example, in many situations folks find themselves in over their heads, where it's too deep and too far to land to swim. If you are not careful, the world, the flesh, and the devil will have you treading water in the Bermuda Triangle, with little or no hope of rescue. Defeat and depression abound because folk get into deep water. Alcohol, drugs, and crime are the fruit of people in over their heads. I wonder if I'm writing to someone in deep water, maybe even in deep water with God? If you know the truth and refuse to obey, that's sad news.

The reason for these articles is to present or illustrate basic Bible truth for you to be faced with. I may never know your response, but God does. It's one thing to be in deep water financially, and yet another to be so with God. God's only means of rescue from the deep waters of sin in this life is through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Your response to God's provision for you to be rescued determines whether you are in deep water or not.

Are you guiding your own life, going your own way, making your own decisions? Check your relationship with God. You may find that **YOU ARE IN DEEP WATER!** Let me illustrate with Revelation 20:15, "*And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*" Now THAT water I want to stay out of—it's deep with no rescue!

THE SHIP—I am standing upon the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean. She is an object of beauty and strength and I watch her until at length she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other. Then someone at my side says, "There, she's gone."

"Gone where?" Gone from my sight...that's all. She is as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side, and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination. Her diminished size is in me, not in her; and just at that moment when someone at my side says, "There, she's gone," there are other voices ready to take up the glad shout, "Here she comes!"

And for the believer that is dying! "*We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord*" 2 Corinthians 5:8.

SONG FOR SEA AND LAND—One of the "Jubilee Singers", a student of Fisk University, was on board a steamer that took fire. He had the presence of mind to fix life preservers on himself and his wife, but in the agony of despair, when all on board were trying to save themselves, someone took from his wife her life preserver, so that she found herself helpless amid the waters. She clung to her husband, placing her hands firmly on his shoulders as he swam on. After a while her strength was exhausted. "I can hold on no longer," was her cry. "Try a little longer," was her

husband's agonized entreaty, and then he added, "let's sing ROCK OF AGES."

Immediately they both began faintly to sing, and their strains fell upon the ears of many around them, while they were thus seeking to comfort each other. One after another of the nearly exhausted swimmers was noticed raising his head above the waves and joining in the hymn, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee."

Strength seemed to come with the sound, and they were able to hold out a little longer, still faintly singing. A boat was seen approaching, and they did get strength enough to keep themselves afloat till the crew lifted them on board. And thus Augustus M. Toplady's hymn helped to save more than one from death by the sea, as it has often helped to reach souls ready to perish on land.

Let's keep the old hymns alive. I'll not trade them for the shallow choruses.

THE BEND IN THE RIVER—Some people have the idea that when their life has run its course and they take their last breath, they will no longer exist. But more, much more, lies ahead!

Frank W. Boreham (1871-1959) illustrates this in his book Wisps of Wildfire. "A few weeks ago, in a small boat, I was making my way up one of the most picturesque of our Australian rivers. The forestry on both banks was magnificent beyond description. A canoe glided ahead of us. Presently the waters seemed to come to an end. We watched the canoe, and to our astonishment, it simply vanished! When we came to the point at which the canoe had so mysteriously disappeared, we beheld a sudden twist in the river artfully concealed by the tangle of brush. The blind alley was no blind alley after all!"

Then, making reference to believers who had died, Boreham observed, "They have gone on, like the canoe. It had turned a bend in the river; they have turned a bend in the road." Life may seem to end at death. At that bend in the river, however, the Christian is introduced into a new world where life at its best is enjoyed throughout the eternal ages. But all who have rejected Christ will face God's judgment. John 3:18, "*He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*" What awaits you beyond the bend in the river?

FISHERMAN'S WISDOM—Reputation is a balloon that is very likely to pop if you blow it up yourself.

--The way some children act it would lead one to think the parents sailed the sea of matrimony without a paddle.

--Captain Pete shot his toe off. He got loaded before his gun was. He always said he was going to do something and finally he did—he died!

--Most folks are itching for things they do not want to scratch for.

--Self-control is an anchor to which everybody needs to be tied.

--Promises made in storms are forgotten in the calm.

--You say, "I've never seen anyone live it." You've been in bad company.