

Acts 2:2, 3 – “And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind... Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.” The sound as of a rushing mighty wind and the tongues as of fire were visible indications the Holy Spirit had come. John the Baptist predicted Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Fire is a symbol of purification. The outward phenomena at Pentecost were symbolic. They signaled that Jesus was baptizing in the Spirit and that the church age had come. Wind is symbolic of the Spirit’s power. Fire is symbolic of the Spirit’s holiness. By outward symbols the Spirit is shown to be powerful and holy. God appeared to Moses in a burning bush. He appeared to Him at Sinai as fire and smoke. Moses represents the dispensation of law. Wind is a symbol of God’s power. At times when God judged, He showed up in a rushing mighty wind. We are not to seek the outer, the visible, the symbolic. The biggest mistake one can make is to seek phenomena. We are to seek what phenomena represent – the holiness and the power of the Spirit. These are necessary qualifications for serving God. They are standard equipment. Without them education is nothing, Bible study is nothing, preaching is nothing. Without them the church is nothing. No one is equipped for ministry without the Spirit of holiness, the Spirit of power. Without the Spirit, the church is an organization. With the Spirit, it is an organism of holy power. Christians are the church. We choose what the church will be by our relation to the Spirit. Revival restores the Spirit to His rightful place. When the Spirit reigns in the church, holiness is an ever-present power. Fanaticism seeks wind and fire. Fruitfulness depends on holiness and power. When the church is right, holiness and power will be as evident as a mighty rushing wind and divided tongues of fire. When you put wind and fire together the blaze can’t be contained. I know. I lived most my life in California. HA