

# The New Movement Is In the Adverse Winds

Last month adverse winds struck in the most unsuspecting place: Arizona. Tornadoes came out of nowhere in a place no one expects them to come. Tornadoes are whirlwinds, adverse winds. What is getting ready to happen in Arizona?

Several months ago the Lord spoke several things to me, not long paragraphs, just short phrases, to give me hints about the future. One phrase was “fresh winds,” another was “movement,” a third was “awakening and visitation.”

I inquired of the Lord about the phrase, fresh winds. It seemed like all we were seeing were adverse winds. In Michigan we have had several wind advisories for gusts up to 75 mph. The day before Rosh Hashanah, the winds were so extreme in our area that they blew down power lines in the city of Detroit. These power lines hit homes or garages and, in at least five neighborhoods fires broke out. In all, 85 homes were destroyed.

I thought, *What in the world was the Lord saying?* These were not fresh winds. Fresh winds to me are soft breezes that are refreshing, cooling, gently blowing a sailboat along its course. These winds were violent, destructive and

unrelenting as well  
as recurring. How was I to make sense out of this?

Suddenly I heard the  
Lord say, "The fresh winds are in the adverse winds. Don't  
fear the adverse  
wind, but head into it." I began to study winds in Scripture.

In Acts 27, an account  
of an adverse wind is reported. Paul had warned the centurion  
not to set sail  
but because there was a soft south wind, he set sail anyway.  
Shortly  
thereafter, "a tempestuous head wind arose, called Euroclydon"  
(v. 14). This is  
a destructive nor'easter wind. This wind thrust the ship  
aground, and it was  
destroyed. They ended up on Malta.

Throughout the  
journey, Paul kept his cool by seeking the Lord and His  
protection for the  
people. Despite the fact that Paul warned them not to go  
because this would  
happen, he did not get angry when they ignored him and the  
very thing he said  
would happen, happened. Instead he fasted and prayed for the  
men on the ship  
because he cared about them.

In fact the Lord said  
to him that not one of them would be lost. Paul encouraged the  
men with this  
word from the Lord. I wonder how many of us would have prayed  
for them like  
Paul after they disregarded his original warning. Not Paul—he  
hung in there and  
prayed them all the way through even after they disregarded

the word of the  
Lord through him.

Paul's stance  
throughout the journey got the centurion's attention, and he  
came to respect  
Paul greatly, so much so that he saved Paul's life. The  
sailors were planning  
to kill all the prisoners. All of their lives were spared.

Now the story begins  
to intensify and drama breaks out. Having landed by shipwreck  
on Malta, they  
made a fire to warm themselves. A poisonous viper was in the  
wood and leaped  
out of the fire, biting Paul on the hand. Paul just calmly  
shook the viper off.

Those witnessing it  
were sure he was going to die. He didn't. The reality that  
Paul lived convinced  
the residents of Malta that he was a god. Then Publius, the  
leading citizen of  
Malta, took Paul and the others into his estate to take care  
of them.

Now the move of God  
begins.

Publius' father was  
sick and dying. Paul prayed for him, then laid hands on him  
and healed him (see  
Acts 28:7). Paul did not look at the devastation of the  
situation. His eyes  
were on God. Though this was not God's original plan for them,  
God never wastes  
a moment. So, through Paul, God began a healing movement  
starting with Publius'

father. Others noted this, and all the sick were being brought to Paul (see Acts 28:9).

There were fresh winds within the adverse winds. The adverse winds brought destruction. But that destruction caused Paul and the others to land somewhere they never would have landed had it not been for that destructive storm. The fresh winds of the Holy Spirit blew in a healing movement on the isle of Malta.

We are in days of extremely adverse winds. It is within those winds that the fresh winds will begin to blow. They are the opportunities that will arise within the troubled area to release the power of the Holy Spirit in a whole new way. It was a healing movement that was released on Malta. It might be a salvation movement in some other place.

But the message in the story is, look for the possibilities. Don't be thrown by the loss and devastation. God is going to break out in the most unlikely places and through the most difficult circumstances.

Job experienced a devastating wind that blew down the four corners of his house (see Job 1). He lost everything. It was a horrible experience, one that took time to recover from. Yet his latter days ended up greater than his former. God did not intend

for him to remain devastated.

We are in a brand-new day. The enemy will try to overwhelm us with what *isn't happening* or with what is going down the tubes. But look up! A movement is about to break out. An opportunity to touch hurting people with the gospel of the kingdom will present itself. Run to the devastated areas. They are setups for a fresh Holy Spirit breakout. They are setups for a latter house that is greater than the former.

Kingdoms are clashing; conflict is increasing. This will cause many to be deceived, lose hope, give up and check out. But here is the message in Acts 27 and 28: Don't give up; hang on; believe God and pray through. He has not set you up to be destroyed. He is setting you up to be a deliverer—a deliverer of healing, salvation or something else. Paul did not let the adverse circumstances move his internal compass off course. He kept looking for the Holy Spirit breakthrough and breakout. He kept going in faith.

In the adverse winds are the fresh winds of the Holy Spirit. Sail on! There is a planned Holy Spirit movement within the storm.

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