

Preached by Dr. Carl Rush  
Bush Hill Presbyterian Church  
Alexandria, VA  
May 11, 2008  
Pentecost

Numbers 11:24-30  
Acts 2:1-12

## TRUSTING THE WIND

When you think of the wind, do you connect it with memories of flying a kite or seeing a bird in flight? If you're really lucky, do you have a special memory of riding in a convertible on beautiful day and feeling the wind? When we say "wind" we may even think of a new idea or a surprising outcome.

I was surprised after the 8:30 service, to learn that the person that I'm quoting today in this sermon, Bill Brost, there are two of them, one is a very famous bond trader and the other is a source of much of the innovation we see on the Internet, creating educational software. It's the second one I'm talking about.

In the early 90s, we were still making innovations in the way in which the Internet was included in our lives and our businesses. In the early 90s, the second Bill Brost made a huge discovery and he founded what was to become one of the largest educational software companies in the world. He was a business genius and engineer. So he went to his board and tried to persuade them to keep 80% of the company for himself and other board members, to withhold the public offering down to only 20%. His board vetoed his idea, and they, in fact, did the opposite. They offered 80% of the company to the public and to their employees first.

It was a very unusual stock offering. It just doesn't make any sense—it's counter-intuitive. They are starting a company, and most of it would be in someone else's hands. As it turns out, trusting the employees brought about a new level of performance. While other companies were being created, this company, Knowledge Adventure, and eventually World Incorporated—this company kept the edge because their employees were heavily invested. So Bill Brost later wrote an article in the Harvard Review, and he explained that if he had done what he wanted, he would own 80% of a company valued at about \$5 million, but instead, now he owned 20% of a company worth \$77 million. You do the math.

The same thing is happening today and every Pentecost. God is including us in a unique partnership, making us co-creators who are empowered to do something just as counter-intuitive, just as much against our normal instincts. For we, the body of Christ, are being told to trust something as elusive as the wind. We don't like to think of the third person of the trinity as being beyond our understanding. We don't like to think of the Holy Spirit as being elusive but if it could be attained, it wouldn't be divine. If it could be predicted, it would not be the source of our faith.

The Holy Spirit makes it possible for the church to do things and be things and become that which it would not choose to be on its own. We have the chance to be a group that includes others in God's amazing friendship. Trust the wind, and worship will make us

want to connect with one another. Trust the wind, and we will discover that we've become more interested in joining one of our choirs. Trust the wind, and our grouping will desire a grouping of other people who are also trusting the wind. Maybe it's a class, or a particular circle of friends and disciples, maybe it's even one of those groups that meets for breakfast. Trust the wind, and you will actually find that there is time and space to share your life with others who are learning to trust the wind also. Trust the wind, and you will receive the greatest blessing you have ever received when you see the spirit is always fresh and new and revitalizing. I pray today you will feel that freshness as you claim again your own promises of baptism and as you remember the commitment that God makes possible for all of us and guarantees to keep for each of us.

Let us so worship the Lord now, asking God to come into that part of our lives and our hearts that we have kept sheltered from the wind of the Holy Spirit. Whatever is most dear to you, whatever you are afraid of letting go, return it now to God and be amazed at what God will complete in your life.

Amen.