

2023 NLC SUMMIT - Catching the Wind from Heaven
by Pastor Neil Bernard

I believe there is a fresh wind of the Holy Spirit that is blowing in our nation and on the church. *G. Campbell Morgan once said, "We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again."*

How to set our sails to Catch the wind from Heaven?

1. RETURN - We must Wholeheartedly **Return** to the LORD.
Hosea 6:1-2 (NIV) "Come, let us RETURN to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. 2 After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence.

2 Chronicles 7:13-14 NIV When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, 14 will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
Revival is admitting that we have backslidden and are in need of forgiveness.

2. ENGAGE - We must **ENGAGE** our communities with the gospel.
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 (MSG) Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: 20 religious, nonreligious, 21 meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, 22 the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. 23 I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be in on it!

The gospel is still the answer to the problems of this generation

Matthew 5:13 (NLT2) "You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.

3. Serve – We must **SERVE** those in **NEED**.
Acts 2:44-47 (NIV) All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. 4 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.–

Find a need and meet it and find a hurt and heal it.

Matthew 20:25-28 (NIV) Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. 26 Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- 28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

4. Empower – We must seek to be **EMPOWERED** to be a witnesses.

Acts 1:8 (NIV) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The purpose for the power of the Holy Spirit is so that we would be HIS witnesses to our world.

Luke 4:18 (NKJV) "The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

5. Train to transform - We must TRAIN God's people to do the work of the ministry.

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV) And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, .

Acts 8:1,4 (NIV) And Saul was there, giving approval to his death. On that day a great persecution broke out against the church at Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.; 4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went.

God never intended for the work of God to be carried out by a few select people. He fully intended every Member to be a minister.

Romans 12:6-8 (NLT2) In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. 7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. 8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly