

Releasing the Wind of the Spirit



I'm not much of a believer in psychology, but the Lord actually used an unlikely source from the secular world to shed some light for me on several passages of Scripture. I believe these precious verses can be used to spiritually treat a particular malady of the spirit-man I've come across in several cases lately and I'd like to make you aware of its diagnosis and treatment.

I was in my study a couple weeks ago, reading an article on clothing style in the *L.A. Times*, when I came across the term "anal-retentive." A bit puzzled by the term, I went to the public library to research the origins of this uncouth oddity. There I discovered that it actually came from the psychological philosophizing of an apostate Jew, Dr. Sigmund Freud.

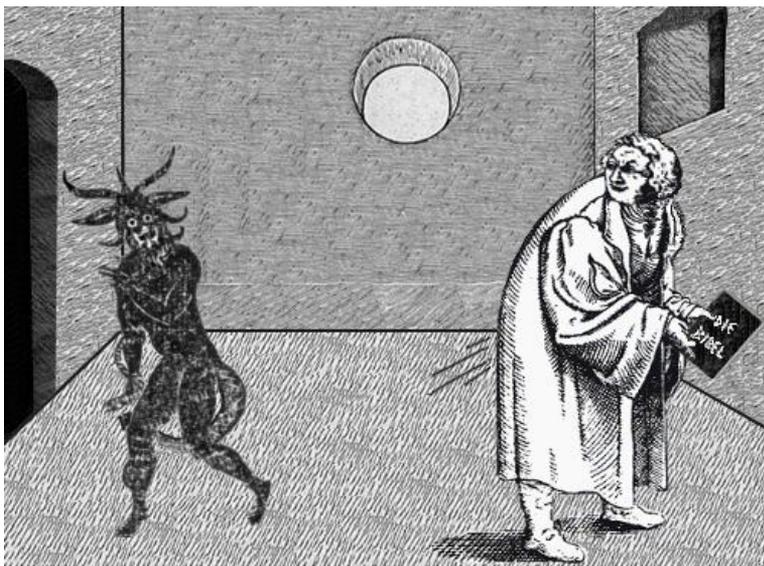
Researching it a little further, I came across this definition of "anal-retentive" in the Second College Edition of *The American Heritage Dictionary*:

anal-re-ten-tive Designating personality traits such as meticulousness, avarice, and obstinacy, originating in habits, attitudes, or values associated with infantile pleasure in retention of the feces.

As I read these troubling words, suddenly the Lord spoke to me:

"Brother Bob," He said, "there's an anal-retentive problem in the church." In an instant of time my eyes were opened and I beheld in vision form several members of Faith Confession Tabernacle exhibiting the kinds of behaviors described in this *American Heritage Dictionary* definition.

You've seen them...stodgy, stern-faced, sourpusses afraid to scratch their nose during worship for fear somebody might think they're raising their hands in praise... Uptight believers with their collars starched



so stiff that if they tilt their head their neck'll snap...

These are the kind of folks that get their panties all in a knot every time somebody says, "Amen!" They're tithelless tightwads, afraid they might accidentally slip a \$5-bill in the offering plate instead of their usual \$1. They're so anally-retentive in the Spirit that they've become spiritually-bloated, afraid they might leak out a bubble of joy and

somebody might hear them let out a squeak in the Spirit. When I saw what I saw in the Spirit, I knew that God was right—there is an anal-retentive problem in the church.

"Brother Bob," He said, "there's an anal-retentive problem in the church."

But I want you to know, my Beloved, that there is a cure for the disease of spiritual anal-retentiveness. When Dr. Jesus

gives a diagnosis he always provides the cure. On the tail end of that vision of the anal-retentive problem in the church, I received a flood of Scripture quotations providing God's prescription for this insidious infirmity. I'd like to share these passages with you in hope that if you or someone you know is suffering

from this affliction, you'll be able to get deliverance as you meditate on these verses from God's Holy Word.

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The Lord gave me *fifteen* passages dealing with the prevention, diagnosis, and cure of spiritual anal-retentiveness. Now according to the Law of

First Mention, the number 15 is the number of overflow which is the opposite of retentiveness. Genesis 7:20 describes a flood in the natural: "Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered." What I'm talking about is a flood, not in the natural, but in the spiritual realm.

1) The first verse the Lord gave me was Ecclesiastes 8:8: "There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit..." Beloved, when we realize that the Holy Ghost always has full reign in the spiritual realm and that, when push comes to shove, we are powerless to retain it or hold it back, we won't have to worry about being spiritually anal-retentive. When you're in spiritual health, you can't hold back the Spirit. You can't retain it. You just naturally release it and let it flow.

2) The moment I realized this in the Spirit, I found myself interceding for the church in the words of the Prophet Isaiah:

Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?" (Is 63:15).

As I repeated my question to the Lord, asking, "Are thy zeal and the sounding of thy bowels restrained toward me?" I heard the Lord thunder deep in my spirit, "Never!"

You see, Beloved, the bowels of the Lord are always sounding toward us in the Spirit even when our senses are not attuned to it. The sounding of His bowels is never restrained even when we become anal-retentive in the Spirit. If we're suffering from

this malady, it's not because God is anal-retentive.

When you're in spiritual health, you can't hold back the Spirit. You can't retain it. You just naturally release it and let it flow.

3) The next thing the Lord showed me was the two primary causes of spiritual anal-retentiveness: idolatry and a negative confession. He scrolled Habakkuk 2:19 across the TV screen of my spiritual mind:

Woe unto him that saith to the wood, Awake; to the dumb stone, Arise, it shall teach! Behold, it is laid over with gold and silver, and there is no breath at all in the midst of it.

We're talking here about the spiritual bondage of idolatry. I've found that folks that are obsessed with their houses of wood or stone or with wood furniture or with gold, silver, or filthy Mammon, are usually bound up and anal-retentive in the Spirit. God tells us here that "there is no *breath* at all in the midst of it."

Now the word "breath" here in the original is the Hebrew word *ruach*. *Ruach* has a double-meaning in Hebrew. It can be both *Spirit* and *wind*. What we're talking about here is *the wind of the Spirit*. There is no wind of the Spirit in the midst of an idol.

4) Psalm 115:8 tells us that when you worship idols, you become like them. There is no wind of the Spirit at all in the midst of you if you're worshipping the things of this world. That's why folks who

don't pay their tithes and offerings and are so tight with their money that they squeak are some of the most spiritually anal-retentive people I know. They are actually unable to release the wind of the Spirit.

5) The Lord rebuked a negative confession with Job 15:2. He said, "Should a wise man utter vain knowledge, and fill his belly with the east wind?" Don't be fooled, Precious Child of God. A wise man doesn't utter "vain knowledge." A negative confession proceeds out of vain knowledge and is found on the lips of a fool and unbeliever. And the Word says that a negative confession fills a man's belly, not with the Spirit or Wind of God, but with the east wind. The east wind represents God's judgment throughout Scripture. People who are anal-retentive in the Spirit are always suffering the consequences of a negative faith-confession. Instead of releasing the wind of the Spirit they release negativity and a curse.

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In the Old Testament, physical fatness is symbolic of spiritual constipation. The next passage the Lord showed me was concerning Eglon, king of Moab. He represents someone who is spiritually anal-retentive.

6) The Word pictures Eglon sitting in his summer chamber trying to relieve himself. How was the problem solved? God sent somebody armed with a

dagger, representing the sword of the Spirit:

And Ehud put forth his left hand, and took the dagger from his right thigh, and thrust it into his belly: And the haft also went in after the blade; and the fat closed upon the blade, so that he could not draw the dagger out of his belly; and the dirt came out (Judg 3:21-22).

7) We're told in Ephesians 6:17 that the sword of the Spirit is the word of God. The Greek reads "the rhema of God." In other words, as Brother Kenneth Hagin has pointed out, the sword of the Spirit is a special revelation of the Word which is applied to a specific situation. In the case of Eglon, it was applied specifically to his anal-retentive condition and we are told that it brought a release.

8) The Lord showed me that when we take a special word that He drops in our heart and begin to confess that rhema-word, we can begin to loosen up not only to contain, but also to release the wind of the Spirit. God flashed Proverbs 18:20 up on the screen of my spirit-man:

A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; [and] with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

When our mouth begins to confess the Word, we'll find that our bellies begin to be filled to the point of becoming spiritually bloated, but if we'll hold on, that bloating won't last long for as we saw in Ecclesiastes 8:8, it's impossible to retain a full flooding of the *Ruach*.

9) When that tightened retentiveness is loosened, what is released is not the filthiness of dirt of Eglon or the curse-filled negativity of the east wind, but the supernatural power of the

Wind blasting out of the depths of Papa God. We see the release of it in Acts 2:2:

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

That Wind is mighty and rushing and when it begins to fill your belly, every trace of anal-retentiveness must absolutely be expelled. There's no holding it back.

10) There's a spiritual cleansing that takes place when the wind of the Spirit is released. As the Lord showed me in Job 37:21, "...the wind passeth, and cleanseth them." When that Wind is passed, I've seen it drive out devils, knock people to the floor, and bring tears of laughter to the eyes of drunken sinners.

You see, Brother, Sister, your body is the temple of the wind of the Spirit. That means that when you're clear of anal-retentiveness and are no longer bound up in your spirit-man, your very bowels can become the channel of the Wind of Heaven.

11) The Lord brought Isaiah 26:18 to my remembrance and showed me our potential as Pentecostal, tongue-talking believers, full of the Ruach of God. The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah says, "We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind..." If that was true in the Old Testament, how much more true for us Spirit-filled believers! Glory, glory, glory, hallelujah!

12) When travail comes on us as we stand in the gap, we have the capacity to bring forth the Wind of the Spirit. And when it comes in full force, it'll blast out of you, Brother, like a jet-propulsion rocket:

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth... (John 3:8).

That great spiritual giant of the Reformation move of God, Brother Martin Luther, tells us that he often broke wind at the Devil to drive him away. That tells me that all the bodily functions can be wrought in the Spirit.

When that Wind is passed, I've seen it drive out devils, knock people to the floor, and bring tears of laughter to the eyes of drunken sinners.

13) Isaiah shows how the ministry of breaking wind in the Spirit pertains to intercessory prayer when he writes,

Wherefore my bowels shall sound like an harp for Moab, and mine inward parts for Kirharesh (Is 16:11).

Just as one may weep, laugh, dance, sing, and groan in the Spirit, there is also such a thing as the sounding of the bowels in the Spirit. There's a musical quality to spiritual flatus. Isaiah likens it to the sounding of a harp, the instrument of heaven.

One precious saint of God who has been blessed with the gift of spiritual flatus is that beloved TV evangelist Brother Robert Tilton. He also has a ministry of loosing folks from the condition of spiritual anal-retentiveness by coaxing them to *let go and let God*. Under the anointing I've seen Brother Tilton bring deliverance to as many as twenty

people at one time and I've watched them all yielding to bring forth the wind of the Spirit in one mighty, melodious strain. O hallelujah!

I know there are some of you reading this article who are questioning the value and import of what I'm saying here. I know that. I can sense it in my spirit. But I feel impressed to advise you that your questioning itself is a symptom of the terrible, Spirit-stifling malady I'm talking about. Brother, Sister, your spirit-man is diseased and you don't even know it. You need to be loosed!

You see, when you question the things of the Spirit because they don't make sense to your natural mind, you're operating under the false assumption that the things of God make sense to the natural man. The fact is, they don't make sense, not in the natural.

When I've preached on the subject of releasing the Wind of the Spirit, I've sometimes been criticized as being crass or vulgar. Of course, the things I'm talking about *are* vulgar, bless God, if you're looking at them with your natural mind. But remember that the natural always comes first before the spiritual: first Ishmael, then Isaac; first Saul, then David; first natural birth, then the new birth; first natural language, then the language of the Spirit. And so it is with all the things of God.

14) I would do well to remind you, my Beloved, that the Word says clearly that out of all the many kinds of sounds on earth none of them is without meaning (I Corinthians 14:10). That harp-like sounding of the supernatural flatus of the Spirit may sound like nonsensical rumblings to your natural mind, but I'll have you know that there is a rich

depth to its significance in the Spirit.

15) So what is the significance of the spiritual rumblings and harp-like ripplings of the Wind of Heaven? To help us answer that question, the last verse in the Scripture-cocktail the Lord prescribed as an antidote to spiritual anal-retentiveness is Jeremiah 4:19:

My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war.

By showing me this, the Lord was instructing me about the purpose of healing. When you're anal-retentive in the Spirit, you're sitting on the sidelines of the battlefield.

But O hallelujah to God! when your bowels which have been silenced in anal-retentiveness are given sound once again and you begin to bring forth the rumblings of the Spirit, its primary purpose is to serve as the alarm of war. It's the Holy-Ghost war whoop. When you hear it sounding forth among the saints, you know that God is calling his troops into formation. Amen! And it's time to do some spiritual warfare in the heavens and join Brother Martin Luther in driving Satan and all his minions out of our midst. ☩

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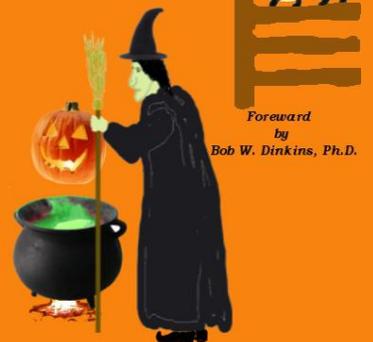
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