

## The winds of change

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The winds of change are upon us. Wind is neither good nor evil. It just is. Sometimes it's good. When the wind dries out the corn for harvest. Sometimes it's bad when the wind knocks the stalks down making harvest more difficult. Sometimes neither. It's just wind.

Change is the same. It can be good or bad, depending upon the circumstances and our perception.

No one can deny that the winds of change are upon us. Some of us have an ominous feeling about change. "Of course change is bad and I am preparing for the worst!" Some of us have a hopeful feeling about change. "Of course change is better and I am grateful for better things to come because of it." Then some of us are noncommittal waiting to see if the change is good or bad. "I'm not going to take sides on this, I'll just wait it out." The winds of change are upon us.

The Bible has a similar statement about rain. Rod Smith in "God's Rain" said about Jesus' statement, 'The rain falls on the just and the unjust' that Jesus spoke these words to mostly farmers living in a land with low rainfall. They depended on rain to make their crops yield a harvest. Their food supply depended on rain. To them, rain was a picture of God's blessing. The context of the verse makes it clear that Jesus gives rain as an example of the way God sends blessings on everyone, both good and bad.

Jesus said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." Matthew 5:44, 45.

God loves us whether we are good or bad, just or unjust, righteous or unrighteous. God sends his blessings to all of us.

We are to love in the same way. This is most difficult when we feel that the winds of change are caused by evil persons (whom God calls us to love). This is most difficult when we feel that the winds of change will bring hardship on one particular group of God's children (whom God calls us to love.)

The winds of change are upon us. We have a part to play in praying for God to be in the wind. We have a part to play in praying for our leaders both locally and nationally. Our prayer is that the winds of change be within His will for us, our neighbors and our world.

The winds of change are upon us. May we be in a place to love all in the midst of change. May we be in a place to be helpful to those who are damaged by the winds of change. May we be in a place to encourage each other in the midst of change.

The winds of change are upon us. The blessings of God's love through Jesus Christ are upon us and for all of us.

Lord, hear our prayers. Amen.

