

# THE SAIL - METAPHOR FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT

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On the surface there is no difference between a sail on a boat and a large sheet of canvas. A canvas sheet, folded and lying on the stern of a masted boat, is useless and worthless.

However, that same canvas, mounted to a mast and fixed to a boom (a simple wooden pole) can propel a yacht or ship to the ends of the earth. When fastened to the mast and fixed to the boom an invisible force fills it. The once limp canvas swells up like a balloon and is transformed to an elegant shape that can propel a yacht or a mighty ship to the ends of the earth when yielded and directed by the wind.

Filled with wind it is now something completely new - a sail. It is no longer a mere piece of canvas - something has been added, an invisible yet powerful force - WIND. It has been transformed from a flaccid cloth to a powerful sail.

This is exactly what happens us when we are fastened to the wooden mast of the Cross, fixed to the boom of the word of God and filled with the Holy Spirit. Like the drooping canvas we are limp and lifeless until the Holy Wind/Spirit comes and fills us. Then we are no longer merely human - we are humans to whom an invisible (but totally real) element has been added - the Holy Spirit. We are new creations who express the power of the Wind that fills us.

*"If anyone is in Christ He is a new creation." (2 Corinthians 5.17)* The new creation (born again) man is a composite of man + Holy Spirit. The human being without the Spirit of God is limp and spiritually powerless, but with the Spirit of God within Him, he has become something new. Being filled with the life of the Holy Spirit totally changes his nature and empowers him for his journey. Through all the storms and waves of his journey the wind-filled sail will carry him on towards his destination.

The old creation man is a human without the Holy Spirit. The new creation man is one who has received, and continues to receive, the Holy Spirit as the power which energizes him. No one is complete until he has received the Holy Spirit *"It is the Spirit that gives life. The flesh is of no help." (John 6.33)*

*"And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ (Romans 8.9)*

Just as the individual believer is lifeless and powerless without the wind of the Holy Spirit, the church (however orthodox its doctrine) is a dead rag without the daily infilling and operation of the Holy Spirit.

Hitch yourself to the Cross; anchor yourself to the Word of God, open yourself to the Spirit/Wind of God and let Him propel you through life's journey!