

Awake, O North Wind; and Come, Thou South

by C.H. Spurgeon

The sermon emphasizes the importance of spiritual growth and the role of trials and tribulations in sanctifying our graces, which can delight our Beloved and make Him glad.

Scripture: Song of Solomon 4:16, James 1:2

Topics: "Spiritual Growth", "Embracing Trials"

Description

C.H. Spurgeon emphasizes the necessity of experiencing both trials and comforts in our spiritual lives, arguing that anything is preferable to the dead calm of indifference. He reflects on the longing for the north wind of trouble to awaken our graces and the south wind of comfort to bring joy and divine love. The spouse in the sermon exemplifies a humble submission to God's will, desiring any form of grace that would enable her to please her Beloved. Spurgeon encourages believers to embrace both affliction and consolation as means to cultivate their faith and produce the sweet fragrance of their graces for Jesus. Ultimately, he expresses the profound truth that even our feeble efforts can bring joy to Christ's heart.

Transcript

Anything is better than the dead calm of indifference. Our souls may wisely desire the north wind of trouble if that alone can be sanctified to the drawing forth of the perfume of our graces. So long as it cannot be said, "The Lord was not in the wind," we will not shrink from the most wintry blast that ever blew upon plants of grace. Did not the spouse in this verse humbly submit herself to the reproofs of her Beloved; only entreating Him to send forth His grace in some form, and making no stipulation as to the peculiar manner in which it should come?

Did she not, like ourselves, become so utterly weary of deadness and unholy calm that she sighed for any visitation which would brace her to action? Yet she desires the warm south wind of comfort, too, the smiles of divine love, the joy of the Redeemer's presence; these are often mightily effectual to arouse our sluggish life. She desires either one or the other, or both; so that she may but be able to delight her Beloved with the spices of her garden. She cannot endure to be unprofitable, nor can we.

How cheering a thought that Jesus can find comfort in our poor feeble graces. Can it be? It seems far too good to be true. Well may we court trial or even death itself if we shall thereby be aided to make glad Immanuel's heart. O that our heart were crushed to atoms if only by such bruising our sweet Lord Jesus could be glorified. Graces unexercised are as sweet perfumes slumbering in the cups of the flowers: the wisdom of the great Husbandman overrules diverse and opposite causes to produce the one desired

result, and makes both affliction and consolation draw forth the grateful odours of faith, love, patience, hope, resignation, joy, and the other fair flowers of the garden. May we know by sweet experience, what this means.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/ch-spurgeon/awake-o-north-wind-and-come-thou-south/>

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