

## Gentle Breeze

Today in prayer I looked up and out my window. I saw tall cottonwood trees across a field with leaves gently shimmering, touched by a gentle breeze. Then I noticed the pine across the street and the maple in my own yard swaying in the same breeze. The breeze began at the treetops and soon moved down to the ground rustling even the tall grass and shrubs.

I remembered other times looking out this window. Times when raucous gales swooped down from the mountains tearing across the plains bending these trees and sending brown and red leaves flying. I remembered the grey sky and frightening blizzards making these trees invisible through the sideways snow. Then I remembered the brilliant blue sky and bright sun illuminating the silent snow that rested on branches and blanketed the ground.

Winter trees always look like skeletons to me. They feel like the old dry bones of death and I feel hopeless and empty until I remember that they are no more dead than the bones in the dry valley where Ezekiel prophesied.

*“Prophesy over these bones, and tell them: ‘Dry bones, listen to the LORD’s message. This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: Look, I am about to infuse breath<sup>[e]</sup> into you and you will live. I will put tendons on you and muscles over you and will cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’” Ezekiel 37: 4-6*

The Lord infused the bones with breath, and they lived. Likewise, the Lord infuses the earth with breath, the wind stirs, the waves roll and the earth lives.

God’s breath moves in, through and over our lives too. Sometimes the Lord’s breath is a gentle breeze we don’t notice except when it brings refreshment like a fleeting breeze stirs a hot day. Other days the Lord’s breath is like a raging wind in our lives, tearing down false gods we didn’t know we had, and proclaiming, “ I AM!”.

Today, for me, God is a gentle breeze touching my heart and teaching me to sway with the rhythm of the world. What kind of wind is God for you today?

Written 9-3-20, revised 10-1-20

Harvey suggests that I add a prayer practice here