

THE Blowing Wind

By Zig Ziglar

Very few people ask for trouble. We certainly don't ask God to give us problems. But maybe we should.

I received an interesting note from Thomas Wylie of Westminster, Maryland, who visited the Biosphere Two, a man-made living habitat in Arizona. During the tour the guide explained that one oversight of the designers was their failure to create wind within the structure. No wind to blow the trees back and forth created a problem: The trees would grow to a certain height and then topple over from their own weight. Lack of wind resulted in the trees not having a deeply extended root system.

Mr. Wylie explained that this thought made him realize that without the winds of adversity we cannot grow and become the people God designed us to be without toppling over. I agree. You cannot raise champions on a feather bed. The percentage of people who overcome adversity to go to great heights is legendary.

From time to time when the weather doesn't suit us, all of us are inclined to say things like we wish we could make it rain or stop raining, the wind to blow more or less, that it would get cooler or warmer, etc. The biosphere clearly demonstrates to us that man is far more likely to "forget" some things or doesn't have the wisdom to know things, as they forgot to let the wind blow to give the trees those roots. It really causes us to be grateful that God is in control of the total picture, and while we might not understand His head, we can certainly trust His heart.

GOD BRINGS MEN INTO DEEP
WATERS, NOT TO DROWN
THEM, BUT TO CLEANSE THEM.
—John H. Aughey

TO "FIT IN UP THERE"

I have a friend who during the Great Depression lost his job, a fortune, a wife, and a home. But he tenaciously held to his faith—the only thing he had left.

One day he stopped to watch some men doing stonework on a huge church. One of them was chiseling a triangular piece of stone. "What are you going to do with that?" asked my friend.

The workman said, "See that little opening away up there near the spire? Well, I'm shaping this down here, so it will fit in up there."

Tears filled the eyes of my friend as he walked away, for it seemed that God had spoken through the workman to explain the ordeal through which he was passing: "I'm shaping you down here, so you'll fit in up there."

—Billy Graham (from *More Stories for the Heart*, compiled by Alice Gray)

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Topics: God's plan, hardship, character, strength

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