



## NEW WINE IN THE CLUSTER

Dr Stephen Smith, 23 February 2014

- Response to *Spiritual influence* creates *Atmosphere*.
- Atmosphere that is sustained creates *Climate*.
- Climate that is sustained creates *Strongholds*.
- Strongholds sustained determine *Culture*.

In other words, sometimes the fastest way to change or **SHIFT**, is simply to change your **CULTURE**.

*Thus says the Lord: As the juice [of the grape] is found in the cluster, and one says, Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it, so will I do for My servants' sake, that I may not destroy them all.*

**Isaiah 65:8**

The concept of new wine means it is the first of a new harvest season, and since it was the first of the harvest season the people thought they were drunk of the new wine, because you get so accustomed to the old wine that it does not affect you so much as the new wine does because you knew what the strength of it was.

Here's the thing: When the guests drank of the new wine, no one knew where it came from except for the servants because they helped making it.

I believe one of the first miracles that need to happen in our churches is Jesus turning our "water into wine". That will be the first miracle that will begin a lifelong flow of miracles in your church.

Sometimes when the anointing is in transition, everything looks unstable because it is new – but destroy it not, for there is a blessing in it.

We cannot take new wine and pour it into an old structure. We have to have a structure that is set for where we are going.

Our ultimate goal is **Mark 16:15**, as the Lord Jesus commanded us: *Go into all the world and preach the Gospel openly, the good news to every creature.*

A healthy church will abandon whatever Christ calls them to give up for the sake of the gospel!

We shall:

- Build with God's help.
- Embracing a new work.
- Letting the Spirit lead us into the unprecedented!
- Living our lives on fire for God instead of coasting in comfort.

*The purpose of the church is to fulfil God's two commands and the one commission. This means being committed to loving God, loving others and making disciples of all nations. Our effectiveness will be determined by the degree to which we are led by and surrendered to the Holy Spirit. Whatever our strategy for passing on the baton, it must be embraced and implemented first within the local church. We need to return to the foundation worth building on – loving others as God loves us.*

**John McElroy**