

## THE BREATH OF GOD

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Sunday, December 7, 2025

Throughout Scripture, God reveals His life-giving work through the imagery of breath, wind, and spirit. In Hebrew, the word *ruach*, and in Greek, the word *pneuma*, both means breath, wind, spirit. From Genesis to Revelation, these words provide imagery pointing to the activity, presence, and power of God.

### (Genesis 2) The Breath That Gives Life

In the beginning, when God formed man from the dust of the ground, Scripture says God breathed into his nostrils, and *man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).*

### The breath of God brought Spiritual & Physical life.

- Spiritual life was experienced in man's perfect union and fellowship with God. Sin shattered this union. God warned that disobedience would bring death—a separation from life – “Death passed upon all men.”
- **Spiritual Death:** separation from the life of God; alienated from God's presence.
- **Physical Death:** the body was cursed to return to the dust; the spirit departs from the body.
  - (James) “the body without the spirit is dead” (**James 2:26**).
  - (Job) “If God were to take back His spirit and withdraw His breath, all flesh would perish.”—**Job 34:14–15**
  - (The psalmist) “When You hide Your face, they are troubled... when You take away their breath, they die.”—**Psalms 104:29**

---

*Conclusion: The breath of God is the source of all life—physical and spiritual.*

---

**The Breath of God is the Holy Spirit:** After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples.

*“He breathed on them and said, Receive the Holy Spirit.”—John 20:21–22*

(As in the beginning) new creation is made possible through Christ's death and resurrection.

### The Breath of God is the Power of God.

**Acts 1:8 (NIV)** You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

**Acts 2:1–4,11 (NIV)** “...Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They...were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them...declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!

### The Breath of God is Truth.

“All Scripture is God-breathed (inspired)”—**2 Timothy 3:16**

He breathed inspiration into the writers of Scripture—filling their minds and hearts with His eternal truth.

When we open Scripture, we “inhale” the breath of God; filling our minds – moving in our hearts.

May God breathe upon us His life-giving power & truth that we may be born again or born from above!

**John 3:7–8 (NIV)** You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’<sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

### **The Vision of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37:1–14)**

One of Scripture’s most powerful pictures of the breath of God comes through Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones.

Bones connect; Tendons form; Flesh covers them. But they remain lifeless until the breath enters them

Then God commands Ezekiel to prophesy to the four winds, and when the wind—the breath of God—blows upon the bones, life begins to return. When the breath of God enters, they stand up as a mighty army.

God shows Ezekiel Resurrection, Restoration, and Renewal.

“This is my people... I will open your graves and bring you up from them. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live.”—Ezekiel 37:12–14

---

*May God Breathe His Life-giving Spirit into us today!!!*

---

### **Our Pathway To Renewal.**

**Acts 3:19** “Repent... turn to God... that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

How do times of refreshing come? From the presence of the Lord!

**Acts 3:20–21 (NIV)**<sup>20</sup> and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.<sup>21</sup> Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Before Christ returns, may God send the breath of heaven once more filling His people with the Holy Spirit’s power, raising us to life, and making us truly alive in Christ.

### **Closing Prayer**

Lord, breathe upon us again. Send Your life-giving Spirit.  
Resurrect what is dead, revive what is dry, awaken what is asleep.  
Fill us as You filled the apostles and the early church!  
Raise us as You raised the dry bones.  
We seek repentance! Oh Lord send us a time of refreshing!  
Make us alive in Jesus’ name. Amen.