

The Hand of God Forms Us: Understanding Divine Creation and Intimacy

In the beginning of creation, we see a powerful picture of how God works. Genesis 1:1-2 tells us, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty. Darkness was over the surface of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

This image of the Holy Spirit hovering over the waters carries significant meaning. The word "hovering" implies nurturing and brooding, like a bird over its nest. Even when everything was chaos, the Spirit of God was there, waiting to bring order.

What Does God Do When Our Lives Feel Chaotic?

This gives us encouragement for our own lives. When areas of our lives feel chaotic—whether it's our marriage, children, finances, or mental health—the Spirit of God is still hovering, waiting for God to speak into those situations. Just as in creation, the Holy Spirit is ready to bring order to our chaos.

Throughout Genesis 1, we see a pattern: "And God said..." Creation unfolds through God's spoken word. The Father speaks, and the Holy Spirit moves, bringing order and peace to chaos. Nothing in creation happened by accident—it was all deliberate and intentional.

How Does God Create Differently When It Comes to Humans?

When we reach Genesis 1:27, something changes. For everything else, God spoke things into being. But for humans, "The Lord God formed the man from dust." This reveals a different level of intimacy and involvement.

The Hebrew word used here, "yatsa," is like a potter forming clay—intimate, hands-on shaping and designing. Each of us is "fearfully and wonderfully made," not an accident. Ephesians 2:10 calls us "God's workmanship," created by His hand for His purpose.

What Makes Human Creation So Special?

Genesis 2:7 takes this intimacy even further: "The Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life." This face-to-face divine intimacy—God breathing His own breath into us—shows a profound connection.

This is similar to the Maori tradition of the "hungi," where people share breath as a sign of brotherhood and honor. When God breathed into Adam, He was saying, "We share breath now. You are my son, my daughter." We are face-to-face with the Creator of the universe, with our Heavenly Father.

How Can We Experience God's Presence Today?

To make the most of God's presence in our lives, we need to:

1. Acknowledge His presence - The Holy Spirit is omnipresent, omnipotent, omniscient, and eternal. He is present everywhere at all times. We don't need a worship set to enter God's presence—He's already with us.
2. Lean into His leading - Romans 8:14 says, "Those that are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God." Instead of making our plans and asking God to bless them, we should seek His plans first.
3. Listen for His voice - Galatians 5:25 tells us to "keep in step with the Spirit." This is a skill that can be learned, like marching in rank and file. When we all listen to the same voice, we can move together in unity.

What Happens When We're Filled with the Holy Spirit?

Spirit-filled believers move from being thermometers to thermostats. A thermometer passively reports the temperature, but a thermostat actively controls it. When we're filled with the Spirit, we don't just reflect our environment—we change it. We bring peace, purpose, and order to any situation.

Why Is Silence So Important in Hearing God?

In our modern world, we're never alone or in silence. The constant noise and digital distractions have made us deaf to God's voice. Jesus regularly withdrew to "eremos"—a solitary, quiet place—to be alone with the Father (Mark 1:35).

We need to rediscover the practice of quiet time with God. Not just for ministry purposes or to get something from Him, but to maintain our primary relationship as children with our Father. This means creating space where we can simply be quiet before God and listen.

Life Application

The same hand that formed the universe, the same Spirit that brought order to chaos, and the same breath that filled our lungs is still at work today. This week, consider these questions:

1. Where in your life do you need to acknowledge God's presence more consistently?
2. What areas of chaos in your life need to be surrendered to the Holy Spirit's ordering power?
3. How can you create more "eremos" moments—solitary, quiet times with God—in your daily routine?
4. Are you approaching God primarily as a Father, or has your relationship become transactional?

Challenge yourself to spend time alone with God this week, without distractions. Remember that you were formed by His hands and share His breath. Restore that face-to-face intimacy with your Creator, and allow His hand to continue forming you into His image.