

## God Breathed - Part Two

Our Present Hope

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**BIG IDEA** - The Holy Spirit reveals to us secrets beyond what we can find by reading and deducing alone.

**scripture focus** – Isaiah 64:4 NLT

For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!

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### Introduction

I've shared before about the church that I grew up in in LA. Hispanic Pentecostal, Suit & Tie Sunday best, it was the 90s, there were echoes of what people called the "Brownsville Revival". Many Spanish Pentecostal churches were opening in storefronts across Los Angeles. People were hungry to hear God's word, people were being baptized in the holy spirit at the weekly prayer meetings. My uncle planted one of those store front churches and it grew very quickly and soon became three storefronts. The City of Los Angeles got involved and said this place is not suitable for people that are congregating it's not up to code, you cannot have church here! I was a kid, I thought it was so fun, that we were moving, We met in a tent in the park of an Adult Day care facility for a summer. This church was a church on the move, the prayer team was the whole church, people would gather on Friday nights to pray till the sun came up, they'd go out to the foothills and desert to pray. I was a kid; I didn't know any different expression to Christianity other than God moving on behalf of his people.

As I grew up and became aware that the world isn't the wonder that you see as a kid, I grew bitter. In my early young adult stage was burned by people who appeared to be holy but lived a different lifestyle outside of the church. People that I should have been able to trust that ultimately betrayed that trust. Maybe I had set them on a pedestal, maybe I had set my sight on man and not God.

After all **Psalm 118:8 NLT** does say,

"it is better to take refuge in the LORD than to trust in people."

As a young adult going from high school to college I wrestled because I knew God, I saw the miracles, I saw the things he DID on behalf of his people.

And I entered a world of academic biblical instruction. I was so excited; I dove into God's world like I was visiting an all you can eat buffet. I was learning and filling my mind with knowledge, reading, going to lectures, hearing different streams of academic thought and encountering God in a different way as to what I was used to, learning to exegete scripture, to reason with my mind.

All the meanwhile, I hadn't been to church in months, I was going to chapels, I was going to bible lectures, I was growing in knowledge of God, but my heart was cold, I was away from the church, I was not hearing God's voice, I felt alone.

In that time where I was spiritually homeless my mom reminded me that when I was sick as a kid I wouldn't ask for medicine, If I had a cold, a flu, a headache, I would grab the oil from the kitchen and ask my parents to pray for me. So, I sought the help of a spiritual director, rekindled my life with God, remembered what it was like to be in tune with God in Spirit and in truth, and stepped into God's Call.

I believe there must be a crossroads in our walk with God where our knowledge of biblical things, and our practice of hearing Gods voice intercept. If we go all in into knowledge alone, we tip toe into what scholars call Rationalism.

Rationalism is knowledge that is based on the use of reason or logic. Every I is dotted, every T is crossed, in rationalism, there is no room for emotional response, there is no room for senses, there is no room for wonder. If it cannot be deducted and if it cannot be reasoned it is not real.

Intellectual pursuit of God, seeking knowledge of God's word is not a bad thing, but knowledge is not the goal. Nobody gets saved for their knowledge of doctrine or theology, the saving power comes from Christ alone.

There is a story in the book of John where Jesus had healed a paralytic man on the sabbath, subsequently Jesus is harassed by Jewish leaders for having done so, and Jesus replied to them saying:

#### **John 5:39-40 NLT**

you search the scriptures because you think they give you eternal life. But the scriptures point to me! Yet you refuse to come to me to receive this life.

These Jewish leaders had that spent all their lives studying the torah and living to the code, believing that they were better off than all the other peoples, and the Messiah is literally in front of them healing the sick, but they could not see HIM.

Chuck Smith once said,

“If you ask an orthodox jew today, they will tell you that they will recognize their messiah, for he will come and bring them their temple.”

Basically, whenever the temple is rebuilt in Jerusalem, they believe their messiah will be revealed. The logic is there but the truth is 2000 years too late man.

The church of Corinth knew rational thought. They were entrenched in the world of philosophy and the Apostle Paul knew that they were people of reason. He didn't look to present the gospel to them in the methods of persuasion and reason, he told them:

### **1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NLT**

When I first came to you, dear brothers, and sisters, I didn't use lofty words and impressive wisdom to tell you God's secret plan. For I decided that while I was with you, I would forget everything except Jesus Christ, the one who was crucified. I came to you in weakness—timid and trembling. And my message and preaching were very plain. Rather than using clever and persuasive speeches, I only relied on the power of the Holy Spirit. I did this so you would not trust in human wisdom but the power of God.

#### **1. God Gives us Revelation By His Spirit**

The Apostle Paul knew something that the church of Corinth didn't. It isn't something that can be deduced in reason, it's something that Christ reveals to those who seek Him. He called it the Mystery of God, the hidden plan that was hidden, that had been hidden since before the world began.

He calls back to Isaiah 64, the prophetic promise that was given.

### **Isaiah 64:4 NLT**

For since the world began, no ear has heard, and no eye has seen a God like you who works for those who wait for Him!

### **1 Corinthians 2:10-12 NLT**

But it was God that revealed these things by HIS Spirit. For His Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets. No one can know a person's thoughts except that own person's spirit, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit. And we have received God's Spirit (not the world's spirit), so we can know the wonderful things God has freely given us.

- God reveals things by His Spirit
- His spirit lets us in on God's deepest secrets.
- I can't know your thoughts, but I can ask the Spirit to reveal God's thoughts.
- God freely gave us His Spirit

### **1 Corinthians 2:13-16 NLT**

When we tell you these things, we do not use words that come from human wisdom. Instead, we speak words given to us by the Spirit, using the Spirit's words to explain spiritual truths. 14 But people who aren't spiritual can't receive these truths from God's Spirit. It all sounds foolish to them, and they can't understand it, for only those who are spiritual can understand what the Spirit means. 15 Those who are spiritual can evaluate all things, but they themselves cannot be evaluated by others. 16 For, "who can know the Lord's thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?" **But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.**

Pray: Lord give us Eyes to See and Ears to Hear, Let our Minds be in Christ, Help us to know your love.

So, you can deduce this by reading the bible with a lens of reason to get the facts.

1. God is love 1 John 4
2. God loves me Ephesians 3
3. God loves the world John 3:16

& because of who and where we are we've been taught to use reason and logic. Everything must line up, we dot every I, we cross every T. We live in a world that reasons.

Well sometimes it doesn't seem that way... but for the most part we live in a world governed by rules, laws, knowledge, and reason. there is an explanation for everything, the intellectual pursuit is what gives us comfort, we want to KNOW.

But there are things that God reveals to us in the spirit, and the way that he reveals it to us in the spirit, that don't fit in reason.

- When my grandfather was healed of cirrhosis in his 40s, that was medically impossible.
- When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were thrown into the fiery furnace, and there was another in the fire, and they walked back out from the furnace without a single etch of fire, not even a single hair singed, that was impossible. Makes no sense its irrational yet it happened.
- When Jesus multiplied the fish and the loaves to feed 5000 men, their wives, and their children, that was impossible.
- Faith makes no sense, yet it moves mountains. That 1 would die so all would have a chance, is not a rational deal.
- Jesus' death, resurrection and power over death is not rational.
- Healings aren't rational.
- Yet God is a miracle working God.

Because of the way that things are in the world

- We tend to over rationalize things. If we can't understand it then we don't want it, some say that if can't be explained than it must not be real.
- There are some out there that go as far beyond as saying that the spirit of God is not active today, and that any sort of spiritual manifestation, be it healing, prophetic, tongues, that it would be of Satan. That gets you into some murky territory to attribute what is clearly from God as evil, but that's not what we're here for today.
- God isn't calling us to throw the baby out with the bathwater, because we do need reason, but we were also given faith. We were also given, prayer, and God does things, amazing things by the power of his Love.

## 2. God Reveals His Love

We can read in **John 3:16 NLT**

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and Only Son, so that everyone who believes in HIM will not perish but have eternal life.

**John 14:6,12-14,23-27 NLT** Jesus says,

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me”.

Verse **12-14** Jesus says,

“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. <sup>13</sup>You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. <sup>14</sup>Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!”

Furthermore, in verses **23-27** Jesus again says.

“All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them. <sup>24</sup>Anyone who doesn’t love me will not obey me. And remember, my words are not my own. What I am telling you is from the Father who sent me. <sup>25</sup>I am telling you these things now while I am still with you. <sup>26</sup>But when the Father sends the Advocate as my representative—that is, the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I have told you.

<sup>27</sup>“I am leaving you with a gift—peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don’t be troubled or afraid.”

- Notice how Jesus keeps pointing back to the Father!
- Notice how Jesus says that when we call to him and pray in his name, he will do it.
- Notice that Jesus says, We will do great things in His Name!
- Notice that the Holy Spirit is the advocate, not only does the Holy Spirit give us the understanding, it’s by Him that we do what we do.
- Notice that He doesn’t give the Holy Spirit an expiration date!

Theologian Mark Virkler wrote about this in his book, “How To Hear God’s Voice.”

***“But because Love is an experience that happens inside of our hearts, we cannot fully experience His love just by knowing that He loves us, we need his touch.”***

A lot has happened since Jesus said those words... Christians across history have gone through trials and tribulations and held on to those words, We live in a broken world; we've encountered difficulties and trials of all kinds. God is fully aware of our pain points; he knows where we struggle!

You were never meant to hold on to these things for yourself. I am not strong enough; you are not strong enough. Jesus is the only way, and we must surrender to Him completely. When we ask for God to reveal his love, when we encounter his healing touch, it transforms us. We're no longer who we used to be. When His Spirit encounters our heart, we encounter an overflow, we encounter joy, tears, an intuitive and fully immersive experience. This is more than VR; this is a spiritual reality of heaven touching earth and epicenter is your heart.

I want us to revisit **1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NLT**, we were just there,

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard,  
and no mind has imagined  
what God has prepared  
for those who love him.”

**10** But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

- We simply can't begin to imagine or place limitations on what God will do.
- It's beyond reason, it's irrational, but it's God.

### **3. God Gives Us Hope**

The Apostle Paul did his best in encouraging the church of his time to press on. If you were to look at all the letters he wrote, to Corinthians, to Philipians, to Colossians, to Timothy, to these guys and those guys and who knows if there are others that were lost to time. Paul had his work cut out for him. He must've been tired, sick at times, he was called a fraud so many times, beaten, arrested, publicly humiliated, etc.

Paul writes in his second letter to the Corinthians that we have a light shining in our hearts. Pastor Glenn briefly mentioned this about the soul last week, but it's a real thing. It's an interesting thing, Science has a theory that the human soul weighs 21 grams.

In 1901 there was a doctor by the name of Duncan MacDougall that tested the theory of, "*if humans have a soul, then there has to be some weight to it*". He did some science work and in 1901 he had a patient that died exhausted from tuberculosis while on a scale. This patient without moving now of death dropped 21.2 grams. He repeated this experiment with other patients a few more times the next one lost 14 grams. Another lost 10.6 grams, but the scale had malfunctioned, and he couldn't fix the reading.

He even went on to experiment on 15 dogs and there was no loss of weight. does that mean that all dogs don't go to heaven?

I share this because reason tries to explain this in a weird way, but scripture presents to us the reality of what God invites us to.

## **2 Corinthians 2:7-10, 16-18 NLT**

We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we are ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves. 8 We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed but not driven to despair. 9 We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. 10 Through suffering our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen In our bodies.

**Verses 16-18** he says:

That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are being renewed every day. 17 for our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever. 18 So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.

- I believe that God is calling us to a greater measure of faith and expectation that HE will move in our families, in our workplaces, in our schools, in our neighborhoods and in our church.



## **Psalm 126 ESV**

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream. Then our mouth was filled with laughter and our tongue with shouts of joy, they said among the nations, **THE LORD HAS DONE GREAT THINGS FOR THEM...** He who goes out weeping bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

- You that have sown in the secret place of prayer, praying, waiting, and expecting for God to move.
- I believe we're at the midnight hour of what God is about to do. I pray that God would breathe a fresh wind into our lungs.

## **Romans 15:13 NLT**

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **Conclusion**

Briefly want to take us into the chapter of Acts, I believe this is the assignment of the hour, it's been the assignment of the hour for the last 2000 years.

This is the portion of Acts where the Apostle Peter quotes the book of Joel,

## **Acts 2:17-18 NLT**

17 In the last days, God says,

I will pour out my Spirit upon all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy.

Your young men will see visions,

Your old men will dream dreams.

18 In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike—

And they will prophesy.

I don't want to preach for another hour and a half, but I want to briefly touch this.

I can't title this sermon **Our Present Hope** and say it's just the hope for you and me that are in this auditorium or online.

- We're all called to make disciples.
- We're all filled with the Holy Spirit
- We can't be afraid to share Jesus.
- We can't assume that our friends and neighbors all know Jesus.
- Some of you, God is calling you out of retirement and into the mission field of Lakewood, CA.
- Some of you God is calling you out of your comfort zone and he's highlighted people to you that you've prayed for but it's time to share Jesus.
- We have the Spirit of God, He breathes life into us, we can't keep it to ourselves.

Quoting Pastor Glenn's Message Last Week

**"God breathed through the Holy Spirit to create, bring order and peace to our world and our lives.**

The same Holy Spirit that did all that wants to still move in and among us today. Our world needs order and peace. Our lives need the creative, ordered, peaceful move of God!

If you need to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit as we gather today, I'm asking that you not only come, but you come hungry and thirsty for God. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and wants to move among us, just like He has done all throughout history, restoring, redeeming humans to himself.

There has not been one time that I purposely met with God, setting aside everything to focus on him, listen to his voice and let him restore my soul that He did not show up and forgive me, heal me, and comfort me.

Be desperate for God and let the Holy Spirit breath on you."

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## NOTES

### Scriptures

Psalms 118:8 NLT

John 5:39-40 NLT

1 Corinthians 2:1-5 NLT  
Isaiah 64:4 NLT  
1 Corinthians 2:10-12 NLT  
1 Corinthians 2:13-16 NLT  
John 3:16 NLT  
John 14:6,12-14,23-27 NLT  
1 Corinthians 2:9-10 NLT  
2 Corinthians 2:7-10, 16-18 NLT  
Psalms 126 ESV  
Romans 15:13 NLT  
Acts 2:17-18 NLT

## Questions

**Q:** How do faith and prayer intersect with one another and what role does it play in shaping your individual spiritual life?

**Q:** How can we know when God is revealing his word to us through the Holy Spirit? What are signs or experiences that might indicate that we are being led by God and how can we distinguish this from our own thoughts and emotions?

**Q:** What is it about life with God that gives us hope? How can we share this hope with others who don't yet know him in a way that is respectful and compassionate?

**Q:** **Read Ephesians 4** What do you think can come when you intersect intellectual study of God's word, with biblical spiritual practices and how can this empower you to share the Hope found in Jesus?

## Internet Links

How to Hear God's Voice by Mark & Patti Virkler

<https://www.amazon.com/Hear-Gods-Voice-Mark-Virkler/dp/076842318X#:~:text=How%20to%20Hear%20God's%20Voice%20is%20a%20practical%20book%2C%20clearly, Lord%20is%20saying%20to%20you.>

How Much does the Soul Weigh?

<https://www.livescience.com/32327-how-much-does-the-soul-weigh.html>

Chuck Smith's Sermon on John 5

<https://subsplash.com/twft/media/mi/+4rtghmc>

What is Rationalism?

[https://www.philosophybasics.com/movements\\_rationalism.html](https://www.philosophybasics.com/movements_rationalism.html)