

Let Him Breath

John 20: 19-31

My brothers and sisters there is a book out which extols the idea of “A New Earth” by a man named Eckhart Tolle and is endorsed by our sister Oprah Winfrey as the next answer to the Bible and its teaching. My brothers and sisters there are untold millions of people who will be influenced by such false teachings.

Because it has already caused many Christians to mistakenly believe that the religious teachings are compatible with Christianity based upon Oprah’s endorsement, just because it sounds good godly, does not mean it is good godly.

But my brothers and sisters what many Christians and seekers don’t seem to realize is that while many of the claims seem biblical, they are simply not right? This book is just a version of an old idea called “New Ageism,” and its ideas about God, Jesus Christ, forgiveness, and life after death are totally false.

So my brothers and sisters what does it mean to be “spiritual” in a day when “spirituality” is in and “organized religion” is out, and it behooves the church to look for a biblical definition and theological meaning of the word “spiritual”. To this end breathing is more than a means of propulsion; it is a spiritual principle.

Because my brothers and sisters, **GOD HAS PLANTED THROUGHOUT THE BIBLE SCRIPTURAL TIME-RELEASED BOMBS. SO AT VARIOUS PERIODS IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH THESE BOMBS GO OFF WITH THEIR CONTENT EXPLODING FOR ALL OF US TO SEE, BY ENGAGING PEOPLE OF THAT ERA TO “LOOK AT ME,” AND TO TAKE SERIOUSLY MY WORD COMING ALIVE FOR THEM TO SEE RIGHT BEFORE THEIR OWN EYES IN HIS HOLY BIBLE AND IN HIS HOLY CHURCH. AMEN!**

Church, God wants us to see and know that it is He at work in our lives and events of the world, and we should give him all the praise and reverence DUE UNTO HIM , “I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, HAVE NO OTHER GOD BEFORE ME, SAID THE LORD”. (Gen.20:2)

So my brothers and sisters as we begin by looking at the Second Chapter of Genesis “the human species has been breathed upon by the divine, *Genesis 2:7* says:
⁷And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

And we see where the human species was first breathed upon by the God of creation through Adam bringing life to the Garden of Eden. So, if it was this first breath then that brought us breath and birth, the second breath then brought us rebirth and a second breath through Jesus Christ.

Because my brothers and sisters, when we look at *John 20:19* which reads:

¹⁹Then the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and said unto them, **Peace be unto you.**

As he records Jesus' first post-resurrection appearance to his disciples, when Jesus came and stood among them, breathing on them, things begin to happen that were new, you may know the story.

When Jesus came and stood among them, "Peace be with you"! He said, and then showed his hands, feet and side. So when they saw the Lord, they were filled with joy. Jesus again repeated, "Peace be with you," and said, "As the Father sent me, so I send you." Then he breathed upon them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (V 21-22) giving each a holy kiss of holy breath, a sweet aroma of the breath of God.

But let us revisit for a moment that first breath, because that first breath moved man to come alive in God. Church, Adam was God's first divine breath to man. But my brothers and sisters it was the second breath of God that moves us to come alive in Jesus Christ and to be "born of the Spirit" (John3:8). Jesus is God's second breath then and the Spirit is the breath of God in the body of the church and therefore the Holy Spirit is the third breath.

My brothers and sisters let me try to put this breathing matter another way for a better understanding, because it is very important to our spiritual growth that we get it. The Pastor has taught us that God is perpetual, is that true? The Holy Spirit then my brothers and sisters must be perpetual too, because the third breath from God came on the day of Pentecost and is still with us today.

Because my brothers and sisters God is continuous and continually breathing as it were upon mankind's soul and mankind's soul is breathing unto God. Grace is descending into man's heart from heaven, while prayer and praise are ascending into heaven, we have all been taught that when praises go up that blessing come down is that true.

It is by this action between God and man that a fellowship developed with the Father and the Son as a kind of respiration. The life of God in the soul is sustained and the child of God grows up until he comes to full acceptance in the stature of Christ, which means that the child begins to walk like and talk like Jesus.

In other words, my brothers and sisters salvation is at heart a form of breathing. The means of grace are breathed in (inhaled) and good works are breathed out (exhaled). So, my brothers and sisters, if one tries to only get by using grace, what will happen. How long can you hold your breath? After a while one would pass out. Breathing that only takes in but doesn't give out is a form of respiration that leads quickly to expiration, which is death.

Then there are those who want to draw in large doses of the Divine Grace while inhaling the grace of God, but don't want to exhale too many good works. My brothers and sisters if one inhales deeply and exhales shallowly, what will happen? You hyperventilate, and church some Christians are hyperventilating in the Holy Spirit right now as we speak because they are shallow breathers.

An early writer put it this way when explaining the shift from our breathing to God's breath. God breaths us into himself in contemplation, and then we must be wholly his; but afterwards the Spirit of God breaths out of us, for the practice of love and good works (exhales) to bring out those good works because the Holy Spirit lives within us.

There are two books of the bible exploding under us and wanting to explode within us. They are the books of Genesis and John. But why Genesis you might ask?

Well because Genesis is the most ancient form of wisdom in our tradition concerning the origins of our universe and in times of rootage assumes added urgency, so we use it as an historical reference and because it also speaks spiritual truths and deliverance, it also teaches those things that must be taught to each generation about God.

So my brothers and sisters when we read starting at Genesis 5:5b, we see that it had not even rained yet, but there was water on the earth, hidden in the underworld caverns and caves. And then (v.6), tells us that when you bring earth and water together you get mud, well alright. But no one wants to be a mud ball? OK! But what about being a clay ball then, because that is what you and I are.

We are a big crusty piece of clay that God scooped up out of the swampland created when he used a flood to rise out of the earth and water all the surface of the ground. We talk falsely of bringing children into the world, but when the truth is known, we come out of the earth.

My brothers and sisters, the Bible celebrates our earthiness and dustiness because we come out of the earth and share a similar fate with it. There is no more a powerful statement than this one of the human creation with the rest of creation than this one. We are the earth come to consciousness through a kiss-like breath of divine life which God infused into earthly dust.

And my brothers and sisters, verse 7 asks, "What did God do to that cosmic clump of clay to bring it to life and give it the divine essence?" Here is the key text that introduces the Bible's first definition of "spirituality." Then the Lord God formed Adam (a human) from the dust of Adamh (The ground) and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Thus Adam became a living creature.

My brothers and sisters, using the triple word play of adamh (earth), adam (human), and adom (red), God fashions the rich red earth into human form and then kisses it and us to life with the divine "breath", which in Hebrew means ruach, in Greek means pneuma, and in Latin means spirare. In its first meaning, spirituality is nothing more than coming alive to life. Aliveness is from God.

My brothers and sisters, God breaths air into our bodies giving us spiritual lives and when He is ready to retrieve it as is recorded in *Ecclesiastes 3:2* says:

²A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is planted*;

A time to live and a time to die, “He takes back our breath (ruach) and we die.” When God withdraws breath, the body deflates like a deflated balloon (*Job 34:14-15*) says ,¹⁴ “ If he set his heart upon man, *if* he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; all mankind would perish together and man would return to the dust.”

My brothers and sisters matter comes alive through the energy of God. In the human species, the body comes from the earth; the spirit comes from God. To be “spiritual” then is first of all to be alive to life. This is what the Greeks meant by “enthusiasm,” which means filled with spirit.

My brothers and sisters in order to better understand the Gospel of John reading for today we must begin in Chapter 20 verse 15 because for John, Jesus is the New ADAM, the Second Adam who restores us to our original Adamic state of relationship to God. Every detail of the first post-resurrection appearance of Jesus is intended to underline continuity and culmination of the First and Second Adam.

Secondly it stands apart from the other gospels in its interest in “spirituality.” It is called “the spiritual Gospel.” And thirdly it uses image after image and is also known as the “I AM GOSPEL,” appealing to a visual culture of precept, more than concept. “IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND THE WORD WAS GOD. HE WAS WITH GOD IN THE BEGINNING.” (John 1:1-2) These words of John are concise and to the point, they leave no doubt just who Jesus is, it is not an idea, it is a fact, and very CLEAR.

My brothers and sisters as I recapitulate this lesson to you let me remind you that,

“The first Adam was dust of the earth, the second man from heaven. And as was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the man from heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, so shall we bear the likeness of the man from heaven.” 1 corin.15:42-49.

I need to ask this question. To whom does Jesus first appear? I know that it is one of the Mary’s! Does Mary recognize him? I wonder why not? Do you notice who she thinks that he is? Yes just the gardener. What was the First Adam’s occupation? Yes he was just a gardener.

Well here we reach a key revelation, the second Adam returned as a gardener that’s why Mary didn’t recognize him until Jesus names her, immediately after which she gasps in recognition “Rabboni!” It is also terribly important that Jesus carries with him into eternity the scars of his humanity, including his wounded side which he also invites Thomas to touch as proof that he is the Second Adam. “I am come that they might have life and have it more abundantly. No man can get to the Father, but by me.”

My brothers and sisters all scripture was fulfilled with him. He was bruised and beaten but no bones were broken. He was alive, but not recognizable to them. They saw him on the road and did not know him, he spoke to them and they still did not know him.

My brothers and sisters Jesus came to show us how to breathe in honesty and wholeness to God. He showed us that being overly conceited was not the way and would get us in trouble. What you say! How can a person be to self righteous or to self wise? How can a person be to legalistic and have a false righteousness?

Well just ask those who killed Jesus about such matters. Because they saw Jesus doing things that they believed were over the line. Things like drinking with the publicans, talking to sinners, hanging around with adulteress, respecting all people, and saying that “He was the Son of God.”

He had also taught the disciples to respect all people, no need to be overly righteous or wise in your own eyes because one could become deluded by their own press clippings or tea leaves.

They were not to become so rigid or narrow in their views that they lose their sensitivity to the true reason for being good, to always honor God and remember that balance is important. To also remember that God created us to be whole people who seek his righteousness and goodness. And thus we should avoid both extremes of legalism and immorality.

So Jesus Christ breathed upon mankind to do good works and mankind took off on his own showing no respect or honor to God.

So the Great “I AM”, came and breathed upon mankind in person and also established a place where he could come and continually breath on mankind and gave the Holy Spirit dominion over us to bring mankind together for rebreathe and rebirth, the Holy Church ,where He could teach us the ways of God.

My brothers and sisters have you let the God Spirit breath in your life? CAN YOU SAY THIS TODAY? YOU ARE ALIVE TO LIFE IN ALL ITS MAGIC AND MYSTERY? CAN YOU SAY THIS TODAY YOU ARE ALIVE TO LIFE IN THE NAME OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH ALL ITS MAJESTY AND MIRCLE? LET HIM BREATHE MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS; LET HIM BREATHE IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST! LET HIM BREATHE ON YOU!

IN THE NAME OF JESUS LET HIM BREATHE ON YOU! LET HIM BREATHE; LET HIM BREATHE ON YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS!

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS I’M REMINDED THAT ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME LIKE JESUS CHRIST SAID THAT HE WOULD. “I MUST GO SO HE CAN COME.”

MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, "I DECLARE TO YOU, THAT FLESH AND BLOOD CANNOT INHERIT THE KINGDOM OF GOD, NOR DOES THE PERISHABLE INHERIT THE IMPERISHABLE.

LISTEN I TELL YOU A MYSTERY: WE WILL NOT ALL SLEEP, BUT WE WILL ALL BE CHANGED, IN A FLASH, IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, AT THE LAST TRUMPET. THE STING OF SIN IS DEATH.IT WILL BE SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, JESUS CHRIST, AMEN! THANKS TO GOD, THE SPIRITUAL BODY WILL RISE TO MEET OUR SAVIOR.THANK GOD! LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BREATH! LET THE RUACH OF GOD BREATH ON YOU!

LET HIM INTO YOUR LIFE, LET HIM BREATH ON YOU!

HOLY SPIRIT, BREATH ON ME, UNTIL MY HEART IS CLEAN.

HOLY SPIRIT, BREATH ON ME FILL ME WITH POWER DIVINE

UNTIL MY WILL IS LOST IN THINE, TO LIVE FOR THEE ALONE

BREATH ON ME, BREATH ON ME; HOLY SPIRIT; BREATH ON ME

TAKE THOU MY HEART, CLEANSE EVERY PART.

HOLY SPIRIT BREATH ON ME!

PG.128 IN KEY OF C "LET IT BREATH ON ME"