

THE BREATH OF GOD

Introduction

One of the ultimate proofs of life is that a being is able to carry out respiratory functions; to breathe. The interaction of God's breath with clayey man (Gen. 2:7) caused that the lifeless clayey man became a living soul. This scriptural account gave us an idea on how the human race emerged. Every human born into this world gains life out of God's breath and without this breath no human can come into being (Isa. 42:5).

The breath of God sets dimensions to things, meaning that it is licensed with the ability to define the scope of things as revealed in Job 37:10. God's breath does not just hold relevance on earth alone; it also has its influence in the heavens Ps. 33:6.

"God's breath" referenced all through scriptures is seen to have different modes of operation to arrive at different ends and purposes. There were times it came as wind (Ezk. 37:9-10), fire (Isa. 30:33) and a flowing stream, by implication water (Isa. 30:28). This implies that God's breath has no fixed physical form of expression. Rather, it bears the form of the Spirit and delivers God's intent to every of its recipient.

We see that Jesus in John 20:22 breathed on His disciples as a ministration of the Holy Spirit unto them. God's breath can therefore be referred to as His Spirit, and it is through this breath that He makes utterances (2Tim. 3:16), no wonder His words are spirit and life (Jn. 6:63). And it is through these breathed-words that the believer undergoes constant soul transformation until he arrives at the point where he becomes perfect unto every good work. Perfection here implies the state in which the believer arrives at the knowledge of purpose, becomes fit for it and embraces it. This state can only be gotten by consistent exposure to God's breath.

There are endless possibilities to God's breath/ Spirit. In fact, we must understand that whenever God wants to attend to a situation, He does not speak English or any other human language as a means of communication to the situation, He just breaths on it. This breath is thus expressed in different operations in different situations. God's breath is what gives understanding (light) to the spirit of a man Job 32:8.

WHAT GOD'S BREATH FURNISHES

The Breath of God Gives Life

God made all things by His Word; the Heavens and its host, the earth and all that is in it and there was nothing that was made without the Word of God. But in the making of man, God formed man out of the dust of the ground. Man was lifeless until God breathed into his nostrils the **Breath of Life** and man became a living soul.

*The spirit of God has made me and the **breath of the Almighty has given me life.** [Job 33:4]*

This scripture reveals that without God's breath, man is in a state of death. Since man's spirit proceeds from God's breath, there can be transmission from God's spirit to the human spirit. It is interesting to note that this part of man remains the channel through which man communicates with God. The Spirit of man is the unifying link between man and God (Prov 22:24, 1 Cor 6:17).

The Breath of God Releases the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is God's operating personality in the lives of believers. After the resurrection of Jesus, he came to his disciples and showed them his hands and side where He was pierced and they were glad that they saw the Lord.

*...And when he had said this, **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained. [John 20:21-22]*

The Hebrew word "**ruach**" is variously translated as "wind," "breath," and "spirit".

We had previously seen that man's body needs the breath of life to live physically, but in this scripture, the disciples needed the Holy Spirit to live spiritually. By the breath of God, the Spirit of God was given to the disciples.

Spiritually, when God blows the wind of His breath on us, and when the breath is within us, it is the activity of the Holy Spirit that comes alive in us.

The Breath of God Gives Understanding

The believer's experience of all the realities of Christ is solely dependent on his understanding of the finished works of Jesus Christ and our exercise of faith in it. We must know that God is faithful and cannot lie, thus, all His promise are fulfilled in Christ Jesus. And our understanding of this truth transforms and sets us at liberty to experience the love and goodness of God towards us.

However, the word of God is spirit and truth and cannot be perceived nor understood by man in His own nature, except it is revealed by the spirit.

I said, Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom.[Job.32.7-8]

*But there is a spirit in man: **and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.***

The Spirit of God is the source of understanding and our disposition to God's word must be to pay attention. For since the Holy Spirit dwells within us, we must lay hold of the understanding that He gives and engage it just as unto “a light that shines in darkness until the day Dawn and the day star arises in our hearts” [2Pet1:19 KJV].

The Breath of God produces the Holy Scripture

All scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness.[2Tim 3:16 ESV] [17 KJV]- That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The scripture, the word of God, is the breathing out of God. The speaking of God is His breathing out. Hence, God's word is spirit, or His breath John 6:63.

From God's end, the scripture is the release of His breath, but from our end, the Scripture is for us to receive the breath of God as our profit in four matters: teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness [2Tim 3:16-17]. All these aim at making us mature for every good works.

SOME OF THE DIRECT IMPLICATIONS OF THE BREATH OF GOD IN MAN

The various operations of the breath of the Lord are to give rise to certain specific realities in the life of its recipient. The breath of the Lord is a gift poured out on the believer in order to aid the believer in his God-walk. This implies that outside of the operation of the breath of the God, the believer is grossly handicapped. The activity of the breath is what is referred to as the operations of the Holy Spirit.

Some of the implications of the breath of God in the believer are:

1. **Believers operate the God-class of wisdom by the breath:** Ordinary men judge issues from the surface level. Even the ones considered as wise because of their age only judge from their wealth of experiences not necessarily from the standpoint of the absolute truth of the sovereign God. However, the breath of God confers access into God's wisdom to the believer. This means that a believer can have access to accurate counsel over all matters by the breath of God in him. This operation is what makes believers who irrespective of their age, accurately give unquestionable solutions to questions and challenges arising around them; either at home, work place, school, church, locality and even for nations.

In the book of Job, Elihu elucidated on this truth, that it is the Spirit in man which is the breath of the Almighty, which gives him understanding. Wisdom is seen as the correct application of what is understood. Thus, the breath of the Almighty is the source of wisdom for the believer.

2. **The breath of the Lord makes the Scripture profitable to the believer:** Since it has been established that the scriptures are God-breathed, and this is important in order to fulfill profitable purposes as intended by God. These purposes are; *“for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness”*. This means that the reason why God breathed out scriptures is to ensure that a man who diligently gives his heart to it, will be taught, will be rebuked, corrected and built up in the realities of righteousness. All these are to the end that *“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works”*. The implication of these divine processes is that the breath of God,

through scriptures will do a thorough work of adjustment in the life of a believer who is living by it. And this thorough work is aimed at making the man arrive at perfection; the state at which he can effectively meet the demands of God on His life and carry out the wills and the purposes of God. So we must understand that the breath that brought forth scriptures is the one that comes alive in us through the same scripture to pierce through our hearts and souls in order to judge and adjust the intents of our hearts.

3. **The Believer is changed into another man by the breath- Spirit of God:** In the old testament, after Saul had been anointed by prophet Samuel, He was told many things, among which was that the Spirit of the Lord will come upon Him and He will prophesy and will be turned into another man. From the events that happened afterwards, it is understood that the “another man” he was turned into is the man that was now capable of carrying out God’s instructions and do His biddings. This suggests to us that a complete exchange of content is done for a man who has had the breath/Spirit of God poured out on him. This is very important because, every man who will stand in the ordination of God for his life, cannot do it in His natural state of existence, he must be transformed into another man. It is this man that has the capacity to stand accurately in the ordination of God for His life.

Conclusion

In conclusion, believers must understand that the breath of God is what must be desired and explored greatly in this time. Even as darkness seems to be advancing over the face of the earth and it seems that the lines of godliness are gradually being blurred out, it will take men having the heavy activity of the breath of God over them to stand as God’s representatives. For the believer, it is expedient that we see issues, events and ideologies beyond the surface level. We need to latch on to the breath in order to elicit our God-ordained functions, in order to ensure that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord takes over the earth. The breath of the Lord is God himself poured out to men, and only carriers of the breath will effectively represent Him here on earth. May our hearts be helped to look beyond our physical occurrences into the heart of God so that we can mirror His stance on earth. Amen!!!