

GENERAL BIBLE CLASS - February 1935.

Discussion of John 20:22

The life breath of the human is one thing and the life breath of the Spirit is another. When we learn to put these two in the right place we will learn there is a breath for both. The Spirit life and nature must be fed on the invisible Manna that comes from God by the Spirit and the word. The time will come under the operations of the Holy Spirit when the Spirit and the physical nature will become absolutely one. The human side will be lifted to the immortal standing of the Christ. What feeds one now does not feed the other. We must have spiritual food for the spiritual man and natural food for the natural man.

When God breathed into the nostrils of Adam he breathed the life breath and Adam became a living soul. The new birth began first in Christ but when he died on the cross there was not one new born creature. Jesus said, "He that is least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than John." What does it mean? Simply that John was not born again. Before Christ could impart the divine side of his nature to you and me he had to go to the cross and to the grave and conquer death and rise on the immortal side of things before he could bring this to you and me. After Christ arose he said to Peter, "When thou art converted strengthen thy brethren." A little later he breathed on the disciples. His lungs and heart were not beating by the blood. There was not one drop of blood in his veins, any more than there was blood in those slain lambs and yet he was breathing. He out-breathed. What is the thought. In the place of the blood in the body of Christ, which is the atonement, was the outpoured Spirit of God in eternal life. Every artery of his body, large or small, and every part of him was pulsing under the Spirit of eternal life. Life that lives.

Remember, God breathed on Adam. The Lord from heaven was the second Adam and suddenly he breathed on them and said, "Receive Ye the Holy Ghost." You know in a moment that was not the Gift of the Holy Ghost because immediately after this he commanded them to tarry at Jerusalem until they be endued from on High and classified it as the Gift of the Holy Ghost, for he said, "Ye shall receive the Holy Spirit." Just as Adam began to breath these eleven instantly began to live the life of a new born creature of God. Their whole nature opened up. On their journey to Emmaus suddenly Jesus joined himself to them but they did not discern him. There was no Spirit in them to recognize him. They had not been born again. After he revealed himself to them then they understood. And beginning at Moses and the prophets he expounded things concerning himself and then they understood.

It was ordained that the apostles become the first recipients of the new-birth. It was through their word that the rest came in under the power and Spirit of God to the new birth. Christ was born a new creature, the Son of God, thirty years before he received the Holy Spirit. The moment that breath touched the disciples they began to live after the fashion of the new birth. Thoughts flamed through their minds that they never had before and their whole being was made ready for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. Consequently there was, on the day of Pentecost, this peculiarity about it, the Holy Ghost came and suddenly there was a sound of a rushing mighty wind. Contrast the two, Christ breathed on them the new life and they lived by the Spirit that comes from God. Christ said, "It is given to you to know the mysteries of God." We have all been born again by the same Spirit and baptised by the same Spirit and our aims and purposes are in the deepest sense, one. The new birth is the out breathing of the resurrection life and the baptism comes only with a mighty rushing wind, a hurricane of God Almighty's power. It came on that 120 and swept them out of that temple and there they were, lost in God and speaking with other tongues.

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The new birth and the baptism are the same though they come in different measures.

On the day of Pentecost all rituals and forms were shattered. This all happened in the temple. "They were continually in the temple praising and blessing God."

God, for a reason, ordained that on the day of Pentecost 3000 should be saved. That was the divine order. When the Holy Ghost comes like that there is no limit to the souls that could be saved but God always works according to his plan. God said to Moses, "Put bounds around the Mountain and tell the people to keep away. 3000 people broke through the lines and they died instantly. That was the foundation for what happened on the day of Pentecost after the Holy Ghost came as the life-breath of the church in the establishment of a new order. It is God's seal on you to show you that you are now fit to be a sacrifice to God.

Anything that tends to keep you from a complete consecration to God is of the flesh, the world, or the devil.

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