

Receive The Holy Spirit pt1 – A Beginning

Pastor John Carmichael

[Jhn 20:22 NASB95] 22 And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

- I was struggling. Just saved. However, no real victory or peace. Pastor Bob, "You need the Holy Spirit." "If it is of God, I want it."
- In the verse, Jesus was birthing the church. It was the beginning of the church. The disciples were being born again. (Dr. Robert Plummer – John 20:22)
- This is not a history lesson of Jesus being dramatic but the inspired John writes this to teach us what is necessary to begin the journey of being what God has called us to become.

What is so important about Jesus breathing in the disciples?

There are three important concepts that affect believers today from this verse.

I. A necessary first step.

- a. The atonement had happened. The commission has been made.
- b. [Jhn 20:21 NASB95] 21 So Jesus said to them again, "Peace [be] with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."
- c. They were not ready, yet. They needed to be regenerated (converted), sanctified (become like Jesus), and empowered.
- d. Unless we are saved, purified, and walking in the power of God, we can never fulfill what God has called us to fulfill.

II. An initial act.

- a. He breathed on them...
- b. This was not symbolic but salvatic. Jesus was not being dramatic; He was being didactic. This was more than an analogous act but a release of reality.
- c. You see it in creation. Man did not "become" until the breath came. The same word in the LXX. [Gen 2:7 NASB95] 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.
- d. You see it in prophecy. The army was together, but not alive until the breath came. [Eze 37:9 NASB95] 9 Then He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they come to life.'""
- e. Yet, ongoing.
 - i. When coupled with Acts 2, this is the first by not only act of the Holy Spirit.
 - ii. Then, in Ephesians 5:18, there are more acts of the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. There is not one act of the Holy Spirit, or two, or three... many upon many acts.
- f. The initial act of Jesus breathing demonstrates the importance of the Holy Spirit.

III. A required response.

- a. "Receive the Holy Spirit."
- b. Aorist Imperative Active – labete (lambano) to take or lay hold of due to active voice. It is a command.
- c. Jesus initiated the release (availability) of the Holy Spirit, the disciples must actively take what was released.
- d. It was a work of God and a work of His people.
- e. [Phl 2:12-13 NASB95] 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for [His] good pleasure.

Receive The Holy Spirit pt1 – A Beginning
Pastor John Carmichael

- f. We are not passive receivers but active responders.
- **God's beginning work in your life will require you to respond to the release of the Holy Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit.**