

Breathe Him

There was a story in Facebook: a 93 year old man caught the Corona virus and had to be put on a respirator for one day. His co pay was \$500. When he heard this he started to cry, the nurses said, "Don't worry, the government can help pay this." But he replied, "I have lived for 93 years, breathing God's breath of air for free. Until now, I've never considered it's value. All these days at \$500 a day, and I've never thanked God!" I've been choked twice in my life, my body gasped for air; all it wanted at that instant was to breathe! Let us thank God for every day we wake up breathing.

"If you take away their breath, they perish and return to their dust. Ps 104 "Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'" Jn 20 "As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit." (1 Cor 12) In Genesis, God breathed into Adam his own eternal breath. In John's Gospel, Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into his disciples. The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, it is the soul and breath of the Body of Christ. As billions of Christians make up the one body of Christ, there is also the one breath, one Holy Spirit. The body of Christ craves and desires the breath of the Holy Spirit. The One Spirit of the body of Christ moans and calls out: "Abba, my Father." Like the old man in the story, do we think about the Holy Spirit? Are we grateful that God has breathed into us his very own life?!

Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion, his body, blood, soul and divinity and he makes all races, all men and women, all ideologies, all cultures and languages, all sexes one in his body. At baptism and at confirmation, we receive the Holy Spirit with all his gifts, but have we ever unwrapped these gifts? The gifts of the Holy Spirit are: wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, fear of the Lord. These gifts help us to seek right living, understand God's nature, choose to please God, endure the cross to the end, actually know God, worship and adore God, and be in awe of God's majesty, power and justice. You must develop and use these gifts just like you would your mind or your muscles. Imagine that God made one person a great basketball player, but he never played basketball. Imagine God made a certain woman to cure cancer, but she never became a doctor. It would be a great tragedy if you do not become whom you were meant by God to become. Discover the gifts of the Spirit and how to listen to him. If today, you hear the voice of God's Holy Spirit, harden not your hearts. Become, become the true you.

Satan has done a great job dividing us by race, income, sex, politics, philosophy, culture, language. God made all the colors of the rainbow, all the races of mankind. Every color is beautiful, unique, and makes one beautiful rainbow. We tend to not like or associate with people different than us. If we humble ourselves before God and before each other, maybe we can get along with each other. If we love one another, then we will be sharing the greatest gift from God: his Divine Love! There is one body of Christ, one Holy Spirit. We are all little cells connected together. God so loved you he sent Jesus! God so loved you he sent his Holy Spirit! Breathe him!

