

Message Three

A Man of God with the Breath of God and the Lord Being with Our Spirit to Be Our Empowering Grace

Scripture Reading: 2 Tim. 3:14-17; 4:22; 1:6-7; 2:1

I. God's ultimate intention is to gain a corporate God-man for His corporate manifestation; God does not desire a good man but a God-man, a man of God with the breath of God—John 1:1, 14; 1 Tim. 3:15-16; 2 Tim. 3:16-17:

- A. "Jehovah God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul"—Gen. 2:7:
 - 1. The breath of life breathed into man's body became the spirit of man, the human spirit—Prov. 20:27; Job 32:8.
 - 2. The breath of life breathed into man's body was not the eternal life of God nor the Spirit of God; but because the human spirit came out of God's breath of life, it is very close to the Spirit of God—cf. Gen. 2:8-9.
 - 3. Thus, there can be a transmission between God the Spirit and man's spirit, and the human spirit is able to contact God and be one with God—Rom. 8:16; 1 Cor. 6:17.
- B. "He breathed into them and said to them, Receive the Holy Pneuma"—John 20:22 (lit.):
 - 1. The Holy Pneuma is the Holy Spirit, or the Holy Breath.
 - 2. In the Gospel of John there are three wonderful expressions: *the Word*, *the flesh*, and *the breath*; the Word is God, the flesh is man, and the breath is the Spirit—1:1, 14; 20:22.
 - 3. The Word became flesh to accomplish judicial redemption and then resurrected to become the Holy Breath indwelling us and supplying us for our organic salvation—1:14, 29; 1 Cor. 15:45b; Rom. 5:10; 10:12-13; cf. Lam. 3:55-56; Psa. 5:3; 77:1; 107:6, 13, 28; 119:147.
- C. "All Scripture is God-breathed"—2 Tim. 3:16a:
 - 1. The Scripture, the word of God, is the breathing out of God.
 - 2. God's speaking is God's breathing out; hence, His word is spirit, or breath—John 6:63.
- D. This all reveals that being a man of God with the breath of God requires the exercise of our spirit, the continual receiving of the Spirit, and the breathing in of God's word—2 Tim. 1:6-7; 1 Tim. 4:7; Gal. 3:2; Eph. 6:17-18.

II. The antidote of the divine inoculation against the decline of the church is the God-breathed Scripture, which is profitable for teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be complete, fully equipped for every good work—2 Tim. 3:14-17:

- A. The Bible is God's breath, this breath is the Spirit, and the Spirit gives life—John 6:63:
 - 1. Our reading of the Bible should be our inhaling of God to receive life, and our teaching of the Bible should be our exhaling of God to impart life—Acts 6:4.
 - 2. We need to read the Bible by means of all prayer and petition in the spirit to inhale God, and we need to minister the word as the Spirit to exhale God into others—Eph. 6:17-18; Acts 6:10; 2 Cor. 3:6.
- B. On God's side, the Bible is God's breathing; on our side, the Bible is for us to receive the breath of God as our profit in four matters: teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness:
 - 1. Teaching equals revelation; to teach is to roll away the veil so that others may see something of the Triune God and His economy—Eph. 1:17; 3:9.

2. Conviction comes from the revelation that we have seen; whenever we see something of God, we realize our mistakes, wrongdoings, shortcomings, and sins, and the result is that we are convicted and reproved; the more we see God, know God, and love God, the more we abhor ourselves and deny ourselves—Isa. 6:1-8; Job 42:5-6; Matt. 16:24.
 3. Correction follows conviction and is a matter of setting right what is wrong, turning someone to the right way, and restoring to an upright state—cf. 7:13-14; James 5:19-20.
 4. Instruction in righteousness is to be divinely instructed to enjoy Christ as our lived-out righteousness and to be divinely disciplined in being right with God and with man—Phil. 3:9.
- C. The issue of God's breathing out of Himself through the Scripture for teaching, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness is that the man of God becomes complete, fully equipped for every good work—2 Tim. 3:17:
1. A man of God is a God-man, one who partakes of God's life and nature (John 1:13; 2 Pet. 1:4), thus being one with God in His life and nature (1 Cor. 6:17) and thereby expressing Him.
 2. God's breathing produces God-men; we need to continually inhale the Triune God by reading the Scripture with prayer to receive revelation, conviction, correction, and instruction in righteousness.

III. To receive the word of God as the breath of God in order to be constituted with God is also to receive the word of God as the sword of the Spirit in order to slay God's adversary—Eph. 6:17-18a:

- A. Satan is not only the enemy outside of us but also the adversary inside of us; to deal with this inward adversary, we need to experience the killing power of the word, praying over the constant word of the Bible so that it becomes the instant word of the Spirit—John 6:63; Eph. 5:26; Rev. 2:7.
- B. The sword, the Spirit, and the word are one; when the constant word in the Bible becomes the instant word (the applied word spoken at the moment by the Spirit in any situation), that word is the Spirit as the sword that kills the adversary—Heb. 4:12.
- C. The more we take the word of God by means of all prayer in spirit, the more the negative elements in our being are slain; eventually, the self, the worst foe of all, the enemy of the Body, will be put to death—cf. Rev. 1:16; 2:16.
- D. Whenever we are troubled by something negative within us, we should take the word of God by means of prayer in spirit; when the negative things in us are killed through pray-reading the Word, the Lord is victorious.
- E. We are preserved in the church life and in the ministry by receiving the word as the Spirit to be the killing sword, which is a spiritual antibiotic to kill the "germs" within us so that we can live a healthy Body life, a healthy church life.
- F. The overcomers keep the Lord's word by always coming to the Lord to contact Him as the living Word in the written Word so that He can become the applied word as the dispensing Spirit in them—3:8; John 1:1; 5:39-40; 6:63.
- G. The overcomers are fully constituted with the Spirit as the word of God to be the bride of Christ and the new man—the corporate man of God with the breath of God as the killing sword for the destruction of the enemies of God and for the manifestation of the sons of God—Rev. 2:7; 22:17a; 19:13-15; 2 Thes. 2:8.

IV. The Lord is with our spirit that we may enjoy Him as our empowering grace to stand against the downward current of the church's decline; grace is the circulating

Triune God dispensing all that He is into us for our enjoyment; the entire church life depends on grace as the circulation of the Divine Trinity within us—2 Tim. 2:1; 4:22; 2 Cor. 13:14; 1 Pet. 5:10; cf. Heb. 12:28a:

- A. The first case of grace in the New Testament is the case of God's incarnation—John 1:14, 16-17:
 - 1. Mary was graced by God and found grace with God because He came to visit her, and He entered into her and stayed in her to be the very essence of her conceiving a wonderful person, who would be both God and man, a God-man—Luke 1:28, 30, 35; Matt. 1:18, 20.
 - 2. In this principle, grace is God's visitation to stay in us, to be born in us, to be one with us, and even to become us—Gal. 1:15-16; 2:20; 4:19; Phil. 1:21a.
- B. Grace is the wonderful Christ as the embodiment of the Triune God in three aspects: what He is, what He gives, and what He does on our behalf for our enjoyment; Christ can be everything to us as grace because He has been processed and consummated to be the life-giving Spirit indwelling our spirit—Gal. 6:18; Phil. 4:23; Philem. 25:
 - 1. Grace is the wonderful Christ in what He is—John 1:14, 17; 8:58; Rom. 5:17, 21; 1 Cor. 15:10; cf. Gal. 2:20.
 - 2. Grace is the wonderful Christ given to us, dispensed into us, superabounding with faith and love in Christ Jesus—1 Tim. 1:14:
 - a. If we are short of something, this shortage is our opportunity to be supplied with more of Christ as grace to meet our timely need for our growth in Him—Heb. 4:16; Rom. 5:17; 2 Cor. 12:7-9; 1 Pet. 5:5.
 - b. When we cannot do anything, when we are not able to move, and when we have no strength, that is the time to trust in and enjoy the supply of God as grace—S. S. 8:5-6; Heb. 11:21; Gen. 47:29, 31.
 - 3. Grace is the wonderful Christ doing everything in us on our behalf:
 - a. Grace is Christ as our burden-bearer—1 Cor. 15:10, 58; 2 Cor. 12:9; Phil. 4:6-7; Isa. 9:6.
 - b. Those who wait on the eternal God (who stop themselves with their living, doing, and activity and who receive God in Christ as their life, person, and replacement) will experience the resurrection power of Christ as grace to support, sustain, strengthen, cover, and protect them—2 Cor. 12:9; Isa. 40:31; Ezek. 1:8; Psa. 17:8; 57:1; 63:7; 91:4.
- C. The grace of the Lord must be with each one of us in every aspect of our daily life because we are saints; this grace consummates in the New Jerusalem as the consummation of God's good pleasure in joining and mingling Himself with man for His glorious enlargement and eternal expression—Rev. 22:21.