

# Breath of God

It's Pentecost Sunday!

- A king has been **crowned**.
- A throne has been **taken**.
- A promise has been kept.
  - Jesus has poured out his Spirit on his people.
  - And the Holy Spirit appears in this story like he often does, as a wind, as a breath.

Acts 2 *When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

If you look at the Holy Spirit throughout the Bible you see that what he does at Pentecost he has always done.

- And if you look at what he has always done, you see what the Holy Spirit is doing at Pentecost.
- I worry sometimes:
  - Pentecost isn't about tongues, modern worship music, it isn't even primarily about power

In Genesis 1 God makes Adam from the dirt and shapes him like a potter shapes a vessel

- A vessel to **be filled** with his breath
- **God breathes his life** into a pot that's human shaped
- In that moment of intimacy a human opens his eyes and sees the face of God
- And God gives him a mission
  - Represent me - but not by yourself
  - Represent me and reproduce yourself
  - Fill this earth with my image, my presence, in you and with you.

In Ezekiel 37 the prophet has a vision of defeat, death and despair.

- A valley of dry bones
- But defeat, death and despair are not match for the breath of God

**Ezekiel 37 9** Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: **Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.**” 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

In that place of shame and uncleanness the Spirit brings life.

- The breath of God brings restoration and return
- Not for an individual but for a people
- The people of God, reunified and ruled by the true king.
- **And they will grow**

**Ezekiel 37 24** “My servant David will be king over them, and **they will all have one shepherd**. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. 26 I will make a covenant of peace with them; it will be an everlasting covenant. I will establish them and **increase their numbers**, and I will put my sanctuary among them forever.

So the pattern is the breath of God, the Holy Spirit, brings life.

- But not just life that is opposite to death
- Life in fullness
  - Purposeful: Life on mission. (Fill the earth/be an army)
  - Connected: Life together. (Not good to be alone/Be an army)
  - Fruitful: Life that brings life. (Go forth and multiply/be an army)
  - Directed: Life that is led. (They will have one shepherd)

And that’s exactly what we see in Acts 2

- Purposeful: Life on mission. (to the ends of the earth)
- Fruitful: Life that brings life. (3000 added that day)
- Directed: Life that is led. (*God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah 2:36*)

### **Conclusion**

You might feel like dirt, a dry bone (death) or have betrayed Jesus recently

- He wants to fill you with his Spirit
- He wants to remove the defeat, death and despair
- He wants to give you life
  - Not just when you die but right now!
  - Purposeful. Fruitful. Directed. **And connected.**

He wants to give you connected life.

- The Holy Spirit doesn't empower lone rangers.
  - The Holy Spirit is all about community.
  - The Holy Spirit is all about relationship.
  - A Holy Spirit empowered, God breathed, church is a church that does life and mission together.

That's what we see in Acts 2.

***Acts 2 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,***

**Are we a God breathed church?** Are we a church filled with the Spirit of God?

- Are we purposeful? Fruitful? Directed? Connected?
- We're trying to be. We're heading in the right direction.
- But there's always more.

It's amazing that we have Pentecost Sunday before our Church 246 Sunday.

- Next week we are taking our community to the four corners of Melbourne.
- Because we aspire to be a God breathed church.