

Polly's Pondering

I took a break from office work to sit out near the fountain on the benches on the church grounds. As I sat there was a beautiful wind blowing. I began to close my eyes and to breathe in deeply. As I felt the cool breeze rush across my face this scripture came to mind; "With that he breathed on them and said, receive the Holy Spirit" John 20:22.

I have a son-in-law who knows a lot about weather. He can watch the patterns created by the winds and know a bit about the movement it will make and how it will affect people living in different parts of the world. But the one thing he will not ever be able to explain is where the wind originated. Can you imagine the first-time humanity felt the cooling breeze of the wind? Can you imagine their awe and wonder and perhaps a bit of trepidation when the winds gained strength and came with power as a mighty rushing force?

God has always been connected to us in the wind. We are told in Genesis that God breathed into the lump of clay that He had fashioned into Adam and gave him life. The word in Hebrew for breath is ruach; it is also the word for Spirit.

In Judaism, the Holy Spirit (ruach hakodesh) refers to the divine force, quality, and influence of God over the universe or over God's creatures. I have learned a lot about God and about His Holy Spirit, but like my Son-in-law, my education and experience are limited. I can not tell you the origin of the Holy Spirit. But I know this, I have felt that breath of God moving in me. I have felt the influence of God when He breathed into me His Holy Spirit. I have felt God's leading, teaching, corrective power as the Holy Spirit abides with me. It has at times felt like a mighty force pushing me toward higher grounds of faith. I have felt God's comfort and companionship when life was uneasy and I felt isolated and alone, just as Jesus promised would happen when he sent the Holy Spirit to move among us. I have felt the Holy Spirit renew my energy as the weariness was blown away and I have felt new life spring from the death and destruction of dreams, selfish desires, sinful motivations, and damaging untruths I had unknowingly been holding onto for so long.

How do you need the Holy Spirit to move in you to deepen your relationship with God? Do you need a comforter? Do you need a teacher? Do you need to be more kind, patient, gentle? What do you need the breath of God to blow away to make this more possible? Could it be resentment, bitterness, selfishness, discontentment, apathy, stress, self-pity, self-righteousness, grief, despair, pride, etc.?

Let's join together in a prayer asking God to move among us with His breath of life, His ruach hakodesh in the name of Jesus.

Most powerful Holy Spirit, come down upon us and subdue us. From heaven, where the ordinary is made glorious, and glory seems but ordinary, bathe us with the brilliance of Your light like dew. God give us the courage to allow the Holy Spirit to move freely within us. Open our minds to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Open our ears to the teachings of the Holy Spirit. Open our hearts to the healing of the Holy Spirit, and open our lives to the power of the Holy Spirit. We ask this so that we might be in right relationship with You, God, and with Your people on earth. We ask this in the powerful and holy name of Your only begotten Son, Jesus.

Amen