

Coming Alive Easter 2022

Readings from John 20.

On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We remember the days leading up to Good Friday when Jesus, the Son of God was crucified next to two criminals, he was taken down from the Cross, wrapped in burial clothes and placed in a tomb. On Easter morning Mary Magdalene discovers the stone has been rolled away. She runs and tells the disciples who run to the tomb. John outruns Peter and he arrives first. They go in and discover the linen cloths lying there and the face cloth that had been on Jesus' head folded up. Jesus then appears to Mary Magdalene whom she first mistakes for a gardener. As soon as he says her name "Mary" her eyes are opened.

John 20:31 says:

"...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

John says these things are written so that you may believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is by believing you may have life in his name. It's not by working or performing or trying hard or sacrificing but by believing. This is called salvation by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone.

What does John mean you may have life in His name?

1Cor 15:22 (ESV)

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all **be made alive**."¹

Again we are told that in Christ all shall be made alive. I love that word ALIVE. That same word translated ALIVE is used here:

"For just as the Father raises the dead and **gives them life**, even so the Son **gives life** to whom he is pleased to give it." (**Joh 5:21, NIV**)²

The SON gives LIFE. And the example that is used is a dead person being raised to life. When Jesus gives LIFE, he resurrects a person. The person is not described as being improved, amended or healed but resurrected first and foremost. He was previously dead and is now ALIVE.

¹ "For G1063 as G5618 in G1722 Adam G76 all G3956 die, G599 even G2532 so G3779 in G1722 Christ G5547 shall all G3956 be made alive. G2227 " (1Co 15:22, KJV+).
G2227 (Strong)

ζωοποιέω

zōopoieō

dzo-op-oy-eh'-o

From the same as [G2226](#) and [G4160](#); to (re-) vitalize (literally or figuratively): - make alive, give life, quicken.

² "For G1063 as G5618 the G3588 Father G3962 raiseth up G1453 the G3588 dead, G3498 and G2532 **quickeneth G2227** them; even so G3779 the G3588 Son G5207 (G2532) **quickeneth G2227** whom G3739 he will. G2309 " (**Joh 5:21, KJV+**)

How Do We Come Alive?

Well how was the first human being brought to life? The book of Genesis tells us

“then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life**, and the man became **a living** creature.”

(Gen 2:7, ESV)

When God breathed into Adam's nostrils made from the dust of the ground, the man became ALIVE. He became a living creature.

But God breathed again on man when He rose from the dead and His new creation began. In Genesis we have creation of man from God's breath. After Jesus' resurrection we have re-creation of man from God's breath again.

“Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” And when he had said this, **he breathed** on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

(Joh 20:21-22, ESV)

Jesus – being fully God- blew upon mankind once more. First to create mankind. And here again to re-create mankind. The word blew used here is the same word for when God “breathed” into Adam's nostrils the breath of Life.³ The beginning of new creation life comes from the breath of God through Jesus His son.

The breath of God – the breath of Jesus is literally the Spirit/breath/wind/ruach of God. When Jesus blew on them he said “Receive the Holy Spirit” because His breath is the Spirit of God. It brings dead things alive. It re-creates. It brings LIFE.

We see this in Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones. What is it that brings a pile of dead bones to life? That makes them ALIVE? That resurrects them? That turns them into a mighty army? The breath/Spirit of God:

“Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.”

(Eze 37:5, ESV)

'So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. '

Ezekiel 37:10

Paul also teaches in Romans that it is the Holy Spirit (the breath of God) who resurrects and makes ALIVE and gives life:

³ see TPT study notes on John 20:22 <https://my.bible.com/bible/1849/JHN.20.22>

'If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life⁴ to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. '

Romans 8:11

A New Home For God

Paul Highlights something very significant. It is the Spirit of God which gives life, resurrects and makes you ALIVE. But there's more. That Spirit/breath of God which give life now dwells in you. Dwell is a very significant word. It means to inhabit and live. This is hugely significant. The Spirit of God, the holy, divine, glorious presence of God that used to dwell in the most Holy Place of the tabernacle and later the temple – now dwells in you. Let's not let the significance of that be lost on us.

The OT describes how only the High Priest once per year after lots of ritual sacrifices and cleansing could come near the holy Presence of God. Jesus came to earth as the new Temple – the new dwelling place of God on earth:

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling⁵ among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”
(Joh 1:14, NIV)

Easter would start a new creation, a new covenant in His blood when Jesus broke bread and drank wine at the last supper with His disciples. He said drink this blood of the new covenant.⁶ He started a new Passover meal we call Communion. The old temple and covenant would be done away with as explicitly revealed when the veil of the temple was torn in two when Jesus died on the Cross. The Spirit of God, the very presence of God would now dwell on earth in a new Temple. Firstly, in the temple of the body of Jesus and then in the body of all who believe in Jesus, His true church.

“Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”
(1Co 12:27, ESV)

“Jesus answered him, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.”

⁴ **G2227 (Strong)**

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From the same as [G2226](#) and [G4160](#); to (re-) vitalize (literally or figuratively): - make alive, give life, quicken.

⁵ **G4637 (Strong)**

σκηνόω

skēnoō

skay-no'-o

From G4636; to tent or encamp, that is, (figuratively) to occupy (as a mansion) or (specifically) to reside (as God did in the Tabernacle of old, a symbol for protection and communion): - dwell.

⁶ “And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” (Luk 22:20, ESV)

(Joh 14:23, ESV)

The Presence of God used to dwell in the Most Holy place in the tabernacle. But Jesus says the Presence of God will now move into a new Temple, the presence of God will move into a new home of those who love and obey Jesus. Those who love and obey Jesus will become the new home for God, the new Temple, the new dwelling place of God on earth. How incredible!

“Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.”

(Joh 15:4, ESV)

Again the Presence of God will abide in those who love and obey Jesus and it's the very Presence of God – the Holy Spirit- that will cause fruit of character and good works to grow. People will be transformed into the image and glory of God as they cooperate with the Presence of God dwelling in them.

“Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

(1Co 3:16-17, ESV). See also⁷

The old Temple was destroyed. The old sacrificial system became obsolete in Jesus. No more lambs would need to be sacrificed because Jesus became our Passover Lamb and sacrificed His own body. He died so you could live. He was separated so you could be united. He was wounded so you could be healed. He was rejected so you could be accepted. He was resurrected so you could be re-created back into the image and likeness of God. Thank you Jesus!

The Spirit Gives Life

“It is the Spirit who gives life⁸; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.”

⁷ “What agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” **(2Co 6:16, ESV)**.

“So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.” **(Eph 2:19-22, ESV)**

“you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” **(1Pe 2:5, ESV)**

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own,” **(1Co 6:19, ESV)**

⁸ **G2227 (Strong)**

ζωοποιέω

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From the same as [G2226](#) and [G4160](#); to (re-) vitalize (literally or figuratively): - make alive, give life, quicken.

(Joh 6:63, ESV)

We have the same Greek word here again for gives life or made ALIVE. Who or what gives life? The Spirit is who gives life. The flesh cannot resurrect itself. No matter what one attempts in the flesh, resurrection cannot happen. Life, new life, re-creation, being made alive can only happen by the Spirit of God. Jesus then says the words he has spoken are spirit and life.

“It is the **Spirit** who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are **spirit** and life.”
(Joh 6:63, ESV) ⁹

How significant is that! It is the spirit who gives life. Spirit is from the Greek word pneuma: a *current* of air, that is, *breath (blast)* or a *breeze*. ¹⁰

It is the spirit who gives life and the words Jesus that Jesus spoke are spirit and life.

Stay with me here. Let’s dig in and fully try to grasp the significance of this.

God breathed into Adam to bring him to Life. Jesus breathed on his disciples to bring them to new life. When Jesus blew his breath carried the Spirit of God as Jesus is fully God. Now when you speak what is it that makes the noise? You require breath to stimulate the vocal chords. You make an exhalation with every word you make. Try it. Hold your hand to your mouth and speak. You will feel breath. So when Jesus speaks – every word is carried by His breath and releases His Spirit which brings life. That’s why his words are spirit and they are life.

God’s words and not dead words on a page. His words are God-breathed.

“All Scripture *is* God-breathed, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfected, thoroughly furnished to every good work.” (2Ti 3:16-17, MKJV)

The word God breathed¹¹ is *theópneustos* (from [2316](#) /*theós*, "God" and [4154](#) /*pnéō*, "breathe out"). Jesus’ words are spirit and they are life. They are God-breathed –

⁹ “It is ^{G2076} the ^{G3588} **spirit** ^{G4151} that quickeneth; ^{G2227} the ^{G3588} flesh ^{G4561} (^{G3756}) profiteth ^{G5623} nothing; ^{G3762} the ^{G3588} words ^{G4487} that ^{G3739} ^{G1473} speak ^{G2980} unto you, ^{G5213} they are ^{G2076} **spirit**, ^{G4151} and ^{G2532} they are ^{G2076} life. ^{G2222}” (Joh 6:63, KJV+)

¹⁰ πνεῦμα

pneuma

pn̄yoo'-mah

From [G4154](#); a *current* of air, that is, *breath (blast)* or a *breeze*;

¹¹ **theópneustos: God-breathed, i.e. inspired by God**

Original Word: θεόπνευστος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: theópneustos

Phonetic Spelling: (teh-op'-nyoo-stos)

Definition: God-breathed, inspired by God

Usage: God-breathed, inspired by God, due to the inspiration of God.

2315 *theópneustos* (from [2316](#) /*theós*, "God" and [4154](#) /*pnéō*, "breathe out") – properly, *God-breathed*, referring to the *divine inspiration (inbreathing)* of Scripture (used only in 2 Tim 3:16).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/2315.htm>

theopneustos – and every word is carried out by God’s Spirit which brings resurrection and life. Jesus said he Himself is the resurrection and the life¹² and His words are spirit and life. His words are carried by the Spirit and bring resurrection and life.

'as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, **who gives life to the dead** and calls into existence the things that do not exist. '

Romans 4:17

Again we see the theme of resurrection and giving life to the dead.

This is why we need God’s Spirit and God’s Word. All Scripture is God-breathed and we need to learn not just to read Scripture but allow the Spirit to speak through it. This is how we are transformed, equipped, matured, prepared or perfected. We come alive, are resurrected and changed as we hear His Word in the power of the Spirit, pay attention, respond, obey and put into practice. This is where transformation comes from. Spirit and Word.

In Father’s House

Now interestingly Jesus tells a story about resurrection. He tells a story about a dead son coming back to life. It’s called the parable of the Prodigal son which many of you know very well. But the father says something surprising twice in the parable:

'For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'”

Luke 15:24,32

The father in the story describes his son when he is away from home as dead and lost. When he returns home to Father, he describes him as alive again (resurrected) and found.

The Father could have used many descriptions for his son when he was away from home. For this my son was rebellious, confused, struggling with his mental health, not thinking straight, off his head, backslidden, hurting, discovering himself, etc etc

But the father deliberately says he was dead. He wasn’t literally dead though was he? He was physically alive and breathing and having fun and partying and possibly enjoying himself for a while. But he’s given the description of dead. The serpent said to Eve in the garden “You will not surely die. ' Genesis 3:4. Satan knew that rebellion against God would not lead to sudden physical death. It would lead to being sent out of the garden of an intimate connection and relationship with father.

¹² “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (Joh 11:25-26, ESV)

This is death according to God's definition. Being out of Father's home and garden, out of intimacy, connection and friendship with father is dead. Sure, a person may be alive physically, may even be enjoying themselves and having fun for a while but in father's eyes they are dead. Why dead?

Humans are dead in Father's eyes when they are lost and away from home. They were created to be in Father's house and garden enjoying him and his plans and purpose for His family. They were designed to talk to Father, listen to Father, pay attention and do their loving Father's will. So when they are away from Father they are dead, unresponsive and separated.

But the good news is all who are dead and lost can return home and be found and come alive again. What is Alive? Alive is:

- At Home with Father
- Eating with Father
- Connected to Father
- United with Father
- Walking with Father
- Speaking to Father
- Listening to Father
- Enjoying Father
- Serving Father's instructions
- Loving Father and His Family

How?

Joh 20:31 (ESV)

"...but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

You come alive again by returning and staying at home with Father, turning around from going your own way and doing your own will and believing in His son Jesus Christ.

'We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father,
we too might walk in newness of life.'

Romans 6:3-4

TPT puts it this way:

'We have been co-resurrected with him so that we could be empowered to **walk in the freshness of new life.**' Romans 6:4

We get re-created, made ALIVE, resurrected so we can walk in the freshness of new life.¹³ The freshness of new life is a walk with God constantly in and aware of His Presence in us. His Presence makes us glow and shine and releases a sweet aroma and fragrance.

And as we walk in our homes, neighbourhoods and cities, we host the presence of God and “through our yielded lives spread the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go.”¹⁴

Watch Amos Video and Pray: <https://deidoxfilms.org/programs/fighting-for-amos?categoryId=87868>

¹³ This walk is a walk with God like Enoch who joined God on his walk. The freshness of new life “raises the possibility for us of a more consistent experience of God’s presence.” “It seems important that we are told, not that God joined in with Enoch’s walk, but that it was Enoch who joined God on his walk. He walked with God, rather than God walking with him. This may seem a subtle distinction, but it is an important one. While we often ask God to join in with and bless whatever we may be doing, ‘to join our walk’, Enoch in contrast, joined God’s walk. The psalmist hints at a similar dynamic when he wrote, ‘Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths’ (Psalm 25: 4). Enoch’s life and walk with God raises the possibility for us of a more consistent experience of God’s presence.”

— Cultivating God’s Presence: Renewing Ancient Practices for Today’s Church by Richard J Roberts
<https://amzn.eu/9szww8f>

¹⁴ ‘God always makes his grace visible in Christ, who includes us as partners of his endless triumph. Through our yielded lives he spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere we go. We have become the unmistakable aroma of the victory of the Anointed One to God—a perfume of life to those being saved and the odor of death to those who are perishing.’ 2 Corinthians 2:14-15