

*Living an Inspired Life
from the Breath of God*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace Church located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from messages preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

Copyright © 1997

Grace Publications is a ministry of
Greater Grace World Outreach, Inc.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>INTRODUCTION</i>	5
---------------------------	---

<i>Chapter 1</i>	8
------------------------	---

WHERE THERE'S BREATH, THERE'S LIFE

<i>Chapter 2</i>	18
------------------------	----

BINDING THE STRONG MAN

<i>Chapter 3</i>	29
------------------------	----

THE HISTORY OF INIQUITY

<i>Chapter 4</i>	37
------------------------	----

A LIGHT AND A LAMP

<i>CONCLUSION</i>	43
-------------------------	----

INTRODUCTION

The book that we call the Word of God is a pure Book. In Proverbs 30:5, the Holy Spirit says that every word of God is pure, *every single word*.

Probably the most awesome mandate God has given us was actually addressed to Satan when Jesus declared that man must live by every word of God (Luke 4:4).

Here is the premise: If we are to live by every word of God, and *if* every word of God is pure, and *if* we cannot add anything to it nor take anything from it (Deuteronomy 4:2), and *if* we are to be sanctified by every word of God (John 17:17), *then* let *every* man be swift to hear—and slow to speak (James 1:19).

As individuals who are also sinners, we must use recovery in the process of life. We must apply the principle of recovery with integrity and proper intentions the moment the Holy Spirit convicts. That means we acknowledge our sin, name it (before God), change our minds

about it, isolate it, shake off the dust from where we've fallen, and go on. So, when an individual with integrity can look up to heaven and say, "Every word of God is pure," he won't confess how bad he is! Instead, he will confess truth: God has commanded me to live by *every* word that proceeds from His mouth. He has given me grace, and He breathes His life in me.

Breathing is a necessity for life. Without breathing, we die. Without inhaling air, we would die; and without exhaling, we would die. We also know that people can become sick and even die from breathing in polluted air. Spiritually, the analogy holds true. This booklet deals with a further aspect: What is the source of the breath we're exchanging?

Eggastrimuthous is the original breath of Satan that controls the old sin nature, the mind, the emotions, and, ultimately, the vocal cords. Mentioned by name in Isaiah 8:19, the King James Bible calls it a familiar spirit. It is shocking to know that there are Christians who live by Satan's breath.

Then we have the breath of God, *neshamah* in Hebrew and *pneuma theos* in Greek. God's breath is the Spirit of life that refreshes the weary and gives life to the faint hearted and to all those

who put their hope in God.

When you hear divine illuminations from heaven, don't be hasty to say much about it (Ecclesiastes 5:2). Be caught up with the message, meditate on its application, and be slow to speak.

Be swift to hear, because hearing—inhalng the truth—produces faith. Faith is the first thing in our lives that pleases God. Then, when we obey by faith the Word that we have heard, we will experience a revival of God's breath of life. Every time we obey the Word, we reveal that the breath of God has revived us. Each time we disobey also reveals what's happening in our soul.

Deliverance begins with definition. Let the life that came forth from the grave minister to you the importance of inhaling and exhaling the pure breath of God.

Chapter One

WHERE THERE'S BREATH, THERE'S LIFE

There are two powerful forces at work in our lives all the time: the breath of God and the breath of Satan. Both kingdoms breathe on their subjects. This is the premise.

The Word of God says in Genesis 2:7 that God breathed into man the breath of life (that's the human spirit), and man became a living soul. The human spirit came into man by the breath of God and produced a living soul. Job 32:8 says, "There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration (or the breathing) of the Almighty giveth them understanding." There is a spirit in man. In 2 Timothy 3:16, "All Scripture is given by *inspiration* of God...." It is "God-breathed," and the inspiration of God gives man experiential understanding.

In Job 33:4, the Word of God continues to teach on this subject: "The Spirit of God hath

made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.” The breath of the Almighty gives us life. So, when I inhale His breath, I inhale *life*.

In Ezekiel 37:4b: “O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.” But 37:5b says, “I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.” We know that God was addressing the nation of Israel, but the spiritual application is for us today; the biblical premise has been established.

So, now we see that the breath of God comes through hearing the Word of God, and the spirit, soul, and body of a man are preserved blameless (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Here’s an amazing principle: As long as we understand that the spirit of man is the candle of the LORD (Proverbs 20:27), and as long as that human spirit is operating, then we are living in the breath of God. We think, speak, initiate, and respond in the breath of God without self-consciousness, without insecurity, and without fleshly desires. But the moment the human spirit is not functioning, we begin to breathe in something else.

There are four different forms of demonic activity that relate to *eggastrimuthous*, the breath of Satan, through his demonic world:

“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against *principalities*, against *powers*, against

the *rulers of the darkness* of this world, against *spiritual wickedness* in high places” (Ephesians 6:12). If I were just carnally minded, that would be one thing. Yet, inasmuch as our wrestling is not against flesh and blood but against spiritual entities, then the moment my human spirit is not functioning, I am no longer conscious of God’s Word. I am not operating in God’s grace, loving in God’s Spirit, living in God’s Word, or obeying God’s resurrection life.

Ministering Life to Dry Bones

Perhaps you have read the book by Jim Bakker, *I Was Wrong*. In it, he tells the story of a time while he was in prison when he was particularly low. The guard announced, “You have a visitor.”

He was in terrible shape, his clothes and sneakers torn and worn out. “Who is it?” he asked.

“Billy Graham!” The guard was sarcastic.

As he went out to see the visitor, Jim Bakker thought, “Boy, I smell!” He couldn’t believe it, but it really was Billy Graham. He was used to everybody hating him. As Billy Graham went up to him, he embraced him and wept.

That’s Christianity.

Our friend, Dr. E.V. Hill, who is a wonderful pastor from California, was on a televised news panel with five other pastors discussing immorality in the church. Asked their opinions by a network news anchor who does not profess to know Christ, five ran down Jim Bakker publicly.

When he realized that one panel member hadn't spoken, the newsman asked, "Well, what do you say about this, Mr. Hill?"

"I don't agree with any one of these five," replied Dr. Hill. "The last I knew, these men were sinners."

Then E.V. Hill said, "I sinned today." Without flinching he added, "As a matter of fact, I've sinned several times today. May I ask, is there one of you who is perfect?" (You should have seen their faces.)

When the interviewer asked, "Why is it that a pastor like Jim Bakker would commit a sin like that?" E.V. Hill answered, "What are *your* favorite sins?" putting an end to that topic.

Time for an Operation

So, we have *pneuma theos*, the breath of God, versus *eggastrimuthous*, the breath of Satan's kingdom. It is so important to be aware of the angelic contest when we read verses such as Ro-

mans 8:6-7, “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.” Remember, we are talking about the motivating life of Satan being imparted to us.

We don’t wrestle against flesh and blood because our enemy is supernatural. You see, if a marriage needs to be restored, you’re not simply facing two people who have differences. You face a supernatural life in either one or both parties. It’s extremely serious.

When you deal with someone who either has a drug habit or is selling drugs, it’s more than dealing with a person who enjoys drugs; you’re dealing with Satan’s life that was shared to destroy him eventually.

Ezekiel 37:5*b* says, “I will cause my breath to enter into thee, and you will live.” Here is the correlation: “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor [a critic] of the thoughts [motives] and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

“Hear the word of the LORD, dry bones!” It takes the Word of God to separate the human

spirit from the troubled soul. God's Word is a sword that pierces, and it does its work quickly and powerfully. When allowed to operate, the Word separates the human spirit (rendered powerless by the attachment) from the human soul that's been cleaving to the dust. In the end, I can function in the inspiration of the Almighty and understand doctrine.

Eggastrimuthous is the name given to a "familiar spirit" in Isaiah 8:19: "And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that *mutter*: should not a people seek unto their God?..."

A spirit that "mutters" is engaged in at least one of five behaviors: passivity, murmuring, complaining, reacting negatively, or refusing to obey. It means to utter sounds because of close atmospheric contact with a personality from the air. When a personality in the demonic world connects with me closely, I will become familiar with people, my church, my habits, my choices. I inhale the breath of a familiar spirit that shares its life with me.

In Luke 11:24-26, after the unclean spirit was driven out and his victim's spiritual house was swept clean, the demon said, "I will go back to

my own house.” Furthermore, he took with him seven more powerful demons.” There are degrees of power in the demonic world, with varying degrees of wickedness. So, he returned to “his own” house.

God’s Body, Our Provision

Every demon has an identity and a personality of its own. They want to share that identity with us through a soul that is disconnected from the breath of God in the human spirit.

In view of this strategy, the Word says that God gave some to be apostles, and prophets, and evangelists, and pastor-teachers, “for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

God has a provision for our helplessness. As God breathed on the disconnected bones in the valley, each joint was supplied with the sinew, the necessary connective tissue, that would cause dead men to rise up and walk.

The pastor-teacher is a gift to the Body for the purpose of communicating the Word, building up the Body, leading believers into godly maturity, and doing the work of the ministry, “Till we all come to the unity of the faith, and

the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:13-14).

Notice a key phrase here: “they lie in wait to deceive.” What are “they” (speaking of a category of demons) waiting for? They are waiting to share their life with us—for us to give them a *place* (Ephesians 4:27), a marked off area where our lives are dysfunctional. Usually, people live in denial regarding the area of their dysfunction.

“But,” the Word of God says, “speaking the truth in love, [we] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ” because, “the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16). That means that as we share the life and breath of God, the Body of Christ increases itself through evangelism.

The Redeemed Need to be Renewed

“This I say therefore,...walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity [emptiness] of their mind” (Ephesians 4:17). The Holy Spirit wants us to understand that those people are alienated from the life of God through their ignorance *because of the blindness of their hearts*, “Who being past feeling have given themselves over to lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness” (Ephesians 4:19).

But then He says, “ye have not so learned Christ; If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind*; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness” (Ephesians 4:20-24).

In these verses, Scripture reveals the inhaling and the exhaling of God’s life versus inhaling Satan’s thoughts, accusations, and condemnation. We stop inhaling the devil’s defense mechanisms. We stop inhaling his life from the dark world, and we start inhaling God’s life through the Word. Through God breathing upon us, the

Word and Spirit become life (John 6:63). As we inhale God's life, we begin to exhale His life. Then, all of a sudden, we realize we have put on this 'new man'.

“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind...” (Ephesians 4:23) is a very unusual construction. *Be renewed* is an intransitive verb, which means it doesn't have an object. Instead, the verb is followed by an instrumental dative case with two agencies of help. The first agent is *the spirit*, referring to the human spirit. The second agent is *your mind*, referring to the mind of God (“Let this mind be in you...” Philippians 2:5). The grammar indicates that the spirit and the mind are the instruments being used to bring about a renewal.

Through the human spirit we inhale the breath of God by His Word. The effect is that we have love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, and temperance. Having the fruit of the Holy Spirit causes us to live in purity—free from drugs, lust, gossip, and lying. Free, we live as a new creation. Our human spirit is quickened by the Word, we take on the mind of Christ, and we are renewed. This is what happens when we begin to inhale the Word of God.

Chapter Two

BINDING THE STRONG MAN

The Pharisees accused Jesus of doing everything by Beelzebub, the prince of demons (Luke 11:15). Isaiah 29:4 relates to familiar spirits that speak out of the dust. *Bathos* is the name given to the head demon of the dust. In Matthew 16:22, this demon overcame Peter and controlled his vocal cords. Peter tried to say something “good” by speaking out against the Cross. “Don’t go there, Jesus! Be it far from thee, Lord.”

Here is the picture: We have the Lord Jesus Christ casting out demons by the Spirit of God (Matthew 12:28). To His accusers, Jesus said, “If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then [you know] the kingdom of God is come unto you.” The kingdom of God is the plan of the Father, the operation of the Finished Work by the Son, and the power of the Holy Spirit, with the definition of the Word of God. It is the Trinity with the Word in categorical doctrine operating freely

inside believers. So, what happens?

Jesus continued, “But if I cast out devils by the spirit of Beelzebub, that would mean that Satan’s house is divided against itself. How shall it stand?” That is the principle in Matthew 12:25-27.

Spoiling the House

Then Jesus said a very wonderful thing, “Or else how can one enter into a strong man’s house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and *then* he will spoil his house” (Matthew 12:29). He said, “First you have to bind the strong man, and then you spoil his house.”

Many people are troubled by demons constantly. To be free, their old behavior and habits must be destroyed. And do you know how that’s done? We bind Satan, “the strong man.”

How do you bind him? By keeping your human spirit open, allowing the Word of God to enter freely into your spirit, hearing the Word of God, and letting God *breathe* on you. Your soul will become a living soul as Christ shares His Resurrection power. Then, with your vocal cords, speak the truth in a godly confession *regardless of how you feel*. This action binds that supernatural strong man. We are to spoil his *goods*, which is our body—our hands, our feet, our eyes, and

our faculties. We *spoil* his goods by taking back by force what had been his possession and giving it back to God.

There are people who for years have been hooked on drugs and alcohol—their bodies are a house for habits and behaviors that Satan uses to bring them down through self-destruction. We bind that strong man by Jesus Christ's words that minister to the human spirit, by what we hear from the pastor-teacher, and then by functioning in our priesthood. When we bind him, we bind *eggastrimuthous*. We bind the breath of Satan, the life of Satan, the plan of Satan.

Satanic Strategy

Demons have a plan. They evaluate. They think. They travel freely. They consider some houses as their own. They recognize *degrees of* wickedness. Specific demons identify with specific categories of sin. For example, there are demons that identify with sex, drugs, lust, slander, gossip, accusations, anger, fear, insecurity, or reaction. The demons for each category have separate identities. Not only does Satan want them to share their separate identities with the soul when the human spirit isn't functioning, but also he wants them to hypnotize our minds.

He wants to bewitch (hypnotize) the memory center (Galatians 3:1). Once he successfully hypnotizes the mind, he doesn't have to keep sending his spirits back. If he can use hypnosis, a person can go around for years confessing, "I don't like myself. I'm no good. I will only fail again!" These are confessions from a memory hypnotized by *eggastrimuthous*, the breath of a supernatural personality, muttering and speaking from the dust.

In Mark 5:9, these demons love to combine their forces to cause confusion. When Jesus asked one, "What is your name?" the reply was, "My name is Legion: for we are many."

Counter Attack: Even Your Faith

I want to show you an effective way to overcome the demons. "Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world....and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even our faith*" (1 John 4:4 and 5:4). We overcome Satan's world system by faith.

This is how you do it: Confuse the enemy! *We have the mind of Jesus Christ*. When demons come against us, they often combine forces by using family members, former friends, or a spouse. In their complicity, the goal of the attack

is to confuse us, attack our self-image, and by any means possible to cause us to self-destruct. But when they attack, *bind them!*

In binding the strong man, we spoil his goods. No longer can he have my eyes, my tongue, my hands, or my feet. We spoil his house and take back what is God's.

When the enemy comes in like a flood, Jesus Christ tells us clearly that "Greater is he that is in you." But, the Lord must be operating as our Head (Ephesians 4:15) through the life of the Body—the fullness of Him on earth (Ephesians 1:23). When we have His mind and He is not only our 'head' but our very life, then we bind the enemy as we operate through the Resurrection power of God (Colossians 2:12).

Once the strong man is bound, *he flees!* Satan *flees*. We bind him, he flees! Don't you love it? In James 4:7, we resist the devil and he flees. Here we are in the midst of terrible trials, confounding the enemy with our positive confession (Revelation 12:10)—sinners saved by grace and functioning in grace—and the accuser of the brethren is cast down.

Think It Not Strange...

Have you ever wondered why Jesus' public

ministry only lasted three years? It is because he was persecuted so heavily. He didn't start preaching until he was thirty; and even then, He didn't want anyone to know about His miracles. Knowing that Satan's kingdom was with the Pharisees, Jesus knew they would try to kill Him.

Why do we think it's strange when we come under attack? Jesus Christ was crucified after only three years. The apostle Paul spent a good part of his life in prison. So, why is it so surprising when we hear of persecution? It's to be expected! (Not that we go looking for it. It will find us!)

Isaiah 44:25*b* says that the Lord who formed us turns wise men backward and their knowledge into foolishness. That means they may have received doctrine, but it is merely *gnosis* (doctrine stored in the left side of the brain, the perception and awareness area), instead of *epignosis* (experiential knowledge applied to the human soul by transference through the heart.)* Their knowledge of doctrine is turned into foolishness. Once wise because they knew doctrine, now they have turned away backward. As they go backward, the breath of *eggastrimuthous*, the breath of Satan, is activated to motivate, energize, and reinforce them in their decisions. When I see

this happening, I need to guard my heart so I don't become self-righteous toward those who have turned backward.

Jesus said, "They are either for me, or they are against me." When Saul of Tarsus was persecuting the Christians, Jesus said, "Why do you persecute Me?" Then He added, "It's hard to kick against the pricks" (see Acts 9:1-5).

Anyone who persecutes any pastor or any church is in danger of persecuting Jesus Christ, the One who delegated the office and who is that pastor's head. What's more, anyone who *listens* to a verbal attack against another believer is as guilty as the one who said it. (When a person receives an evil report, even passively, he is receiving cockatrice' eggs—serpents' eggs.) If the eggs do not hatch immediately, they stay until they are either crushed or hatched (Isaiah 59:1-5), "...They hatch cockatrice' eggs and weave the spider's web: he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper."

That's why you should never hear a word against a believer. Refuse to be a party to that kind of attack. Rather, if you have a problem with a person, go to him alone (Matthew 18:15). Go in meekness and brokenness, considering

your own frailty. Galatians 6:1-2 is God's way of correcting a pastor.

Mark them that speak from the dust, and avoid them (Romans 16:17). Don't allow the breath of Satan to control your vocal cords. On the other hand, thank God for the people who open their mouths to edify, ministering grace to the hearer.

The reason Jesus Christ only had a three-year ministry was that He represented grace. The Pharisees and Satan hated grace—the Pharisees because they could not perform it, and Satan because he could not have it. In Matthew 20:1-15, Jesus gave an unusual illustration to explain the nature of grace. The laborers who worked one hour received the same amount as those who had been working nine hours. When the ones who had been there all day saw it, they reacted. But the householder answered them, saying: "I gave you the amount I agreed to give—a penny."

"But you're giving *them* a penny. Lord, they only worked an hour!"

"That's right. It's what we agreed upon. That is my privilege."

In other words, Jesus was saying, "Everybody here gets grace. You received it, and they

received it,” and the Pharisees and the devil hate the fact that Jesus gives people something they don’t deserve! *That’s* why they crucified Him. That’s why He asked people not to tell when He performed miracles (or else, He wouldn’t have even made it three years!).

Satan flees when we bind him with categorical doctrine functioning in the human spirit in the kingdom of God. With the Father, Son, and Spirit, and the Word working together in us, we can bind the strong man.

We have authority! It is the authority of Resurrection, the authority of Ascension, the authority of a victory, the authority of the Finished Work. We have an Intercessor, and don’t you forget it. Satan knows it! Let’s use this authority from God. Get bold in your prayers.

Seated Far Above

Ephesians 4:9-10 says that He who descended into the lower parts of the earth (speaking of death and burial), also ascended far above all the heavens to fill all things. Isn’t it good? Jesus Christ descended into the grave, and Satan thought he had finished Him; he thought he had the victory.

Then, by the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ was

resurrected (Romans 1:4).

Christ ascended far above principalities (Ephesians 1:21), far above powers, far above Satan. He now sits on a throne of mercy, allowing all born-again believers to be seated with Him in their position. While we are seated above, we are living on earth; so, let's exercise our authority from above.

We are not merely Christians on the earth; we have been resurrected. We are not only resurrected, but we have ascended. And we have not just ascended, we are seated.

We are seated far above Satan, and we should declare it. Hid with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3) we have a bold confession: "We have ascended far above you, Satan. We have decided to exercise our authority over some of your projects and the things you're doing to people. Are you ready for us? We are going to bind things in earth, and loosen things from heaven, because Matthew 16:19 tells us that we have that authority. If you want to accuse us, just remember: We are the *grace* children. You couldn't accuse Joshua, and you can't accuse us because the Blood of Jesus has paid every debt."

Thank God that we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us. Thank God

that He always causes us to triumph in Christ.

The key is to inhale the breath of God through the Word of God. The breath of God brings deliverance from the breath of Satan.

**The Hearing Heart, Grace Publications, 1996, describes the effect of the Word and the Holy Spirit upon the human mind in the process of transformation.*

Chapter Three

THE HISTORY OF INIQUITY

“And thou shalt be brought down, and shalt speak out of the ground, and thy speech shall be low out of the dust, and thy voice shall be, as of one that hath a familiar spirit, out of the ground, and thy speech shall whisper out of the dust” (Isaiah 29:4). This unusual verse describes the experience of multitudes of Christians.

Eggastrimuthous—a familiar spirit that speaks from the dust—had its origin when God found iniquity in Lucifer (Ezekiel 28:12, 15). Until then, Lucifer was “full of wisdom, perfect in beauty,” perfect in all his ways. But as he was lifted up in his own beauty, a familiar spirit was born in him—the first familiar spirit in angelic history.

That spirit went from Satan into one-third of all the angels.

From there, it went into the entire human race. Conceived in iniquity, mankind became fa-

miliar with their Creator and familiar with the air they breathed, with the sunshine, the rain, the food, the shelter, and everything that God provides for His creation. They became familiar with relationships, with vows, and with honor.

Stop Your Whispering!

Jesus Christ came, God incarnate, revealing Himself in a hypostatic union for the first time. He was unique because He was both God *and* man, yet He always depended upon God the Father to deal with *eggastrimuthous*, the familiar spirit that controls the mind and often controls the vocal cords. Repeatedly, Jesus was faced with people who murmured and muttered and spoke from the dust. “Get thee behind me, Satan. Stop using Peter’s vocal cords.” They always confess either negativity or angel of light “goodness” from the Tree of Knowledge.

“Oh, I’m going through so much. What am I going to do?”

Brought down low, they speak out of the ground; they speak from the dust.

“Thy speech shall *whisper* out of the dust....” The Hebrew word for ‘whisper’, *tsaphaph*, describes “the peep of the wizard, the chatter of ungodly spirits. This portion shows a person

conquered by the lower nature through an impartation from the dust.

When Isaiah 29:4 says, “thy speech shall be low, out of the dust” it speaks of someone who goes from person to person with their lower nature controlling their vocal cords through the impartation of a familiar spirit (*eggastri-muthous*).

“Thou shalt be on thy belly, and thou shalt eat dust all the days of thy life” (Genesis 3:14b). The word for “dust” is *aphar*, meaning dry earth, dust, ashes, rubbish—serpents’ food! The only thing Satan can eat now is dust.

This is why the psalmist said in 119:25, “My soul cleaves to the dust....” He said, I’m eating serpents’ food while I suffer unimaginable torment at the hands of my captors. I’m eating the food of familiar spirits. “...*Quicken me according to thy word.*”

When you hear a fresh message, be very slow to speak. Be solemn. It’s more than “hi” and “bye.” Don’t be casual with the moment, but be swift to hear so the Word of God can become residential through *theantric action*, which simply means through God’s government of grace (the Father, Son, and Spirit, by the Word) controlling the soul of man. As mentioned before, however, those who refuse to come under

God's government will be ruled from the dust. God turns their wisdom and knowledge into non-thinking foolishness (Isaiah 44:25b).

Often, the breath of Satan controls the souls of men. When this happens, a man becomes a soul mate with Satan, sharing his life in his thinking, his emotions, and his speech. We can become his soul mates as believers. In Jeremiah 17:5-6, this type of person doesn't see the good when it comes. Under pressure he becomes like a scrub in the desert, dried up and barely alive. When Satan breathes on a soul's lower nature, *eggastri-muthous* controls that person's vocal cords and behavior, establishing ungodly habits.

The Breath of Life

In John 20:21-22, before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, Jesus *breathed* on the disciples. In Genesis 2:7, God breathed into man "the breath of life; and man became a living soul." God's breath, the breath of life, the breath of God: More than 170 times in Scripture, *pneuma theos* is mentioned in some form—the breath of God.

"But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding" (Job 32:8). The *breath* of the Almighty gives

understanding. When God breathes through the human spirit, Paul said, “I pray God, that your spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless until the coming of Christ” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Here is God, through His Word and through His Holy Spirit, breathing into man, breaking familiar spirits, breaking negativity, breaking passivity, and breaking a pattern of murmuring. The inspiration of God’s breath breaks down negative reactions and presumption (the great transgression, Psalm 19:13). God is breathing. The woman, the man, the child, the teenager, or whomever He breathes on, begins to have understanding. It’s a wonderful thing.

Then Job 33:4 says, “The Spirit [or, the breath of God] hath made me, and the breath of God has given me life.” *Life!*

“The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD” (Proverbs 20:27). That spirit (Hebrew, *neshamah*) is the breath of God. The breath of God becomes the life of the human spirit, which controls the soul. When we receive the breath of God, we are no longer soul mates to Satan. When we are renewed in the spirit of our mind, we begin to inhale, and we put on the new man, which is created in righteousness and holiness after the manner of God (Ephesians 4:23-24).

This is the experience for many believers, but it is God's desire for *all* of us. You are inhaling God. You're inhaling His mind, His thoughts, and His nature. When Christ dwells in our hearts by faith, we become rooted and grounded in love. We begin to "comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge..." (Ephesians 3:18-20). Filled with all His fullness, He gives us beyond what we ask or think. So then, we exhale what we have inhaled, and we're giving out the breath of God.

Is it any wonder that in the valley, the dry bones were able to rise up and live? God breathed into them, and they lived.

Whatever is wrong with God's people, it can all be changed when individuals allow the breath of God to control the human spirit.

Degrees of Love

We have so many different degrees of love. They all could come under *agape*, the unconditional love of God. Sometimes they do, but most of the time, they are detached.

Philaguria is the love of money or material things.

Philoteknos is the love of children, which is wonderful, but often they are loved more than God.

Philandros is the love a wife has for her husband—and she should—but some women love their husbands more than God.

Philanthropia is a love of mankind, an attitude of humanitarian good will.

Philagathos is the love of good men.

Ethelo is a fondness for people that can break down if the wrong words are said.

Phileo is a mutual love found between good friends. If I do you well, you do me well.

Eros today applies to sexual love. Even *eros* can come under *agape*, and it should. God desires that the sexual union in marriage would be totally fulfilling and pleasurable for the husband *and* the wife. Yet, most of the time it becomes detached from God's unconditional love because of Satan breathing out sensuality and familiarity in sexual exchange in marriage and before marriage.

Love for God is Supreme

If you have *philoteknos*, everyone will think you are a wonderful person. You may show unusual care for your children, which is not wrong

in itself. Or, if you have *philandros* or *philanthropia*—and you display an extraordinary love for mankind, people would say, “There’s a *good* person.” But if your love for people and things is above your love for the Lord, it is out of order.

On the other hand, when the *agape* love of God fills our hearts, we say, “God, I don’t trust myself. I don’t trust my own goodness. You are first in my life. Breathe upon me. Breathe upon my prayer today. Breathe upon my relationships, my thinking, my words, my vocal cords.” Oh, I want to live in *God’s* breath. It means that “Thy word is a lamp unto my *feet* [the human spirit] and a light unto my *path* [the Word of God reflected in preciseness]” (Psalm 119:105).

Chapter Four

A LIGHT AND A LAMP

The Word of God is a lamp unto my feet. It's what I breathe in, through my human spirit. The Word is a light unto my pathway, and it illuminates my behavior.

As we begin to understand that for all the days of his life, Satan will eat dust (Genesis 3:14), what do you think he wants the children of God to do? Of course, he wants us to eat degrees of dust through the light he provides for our lower nature. Satan breathes through the familiar spirit of a closely knit demon that works in us as a *soul mate*. He uses combinations of demons in a diversity of tactics.

One person may feed on drugs, and another may feed upon lust outside of love, or alcohol, or gossip, or negativity. In every case, they are feeding on the serpents' food. As Satan shares his life (Isaiah 59:5), serpents' eggs get into the memory center to hatch later on.

Is it any wonder that the Bible says in Isaiah 44:20, “He feedeth upon ashes: a deceived heart [referring to Satan] has turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his [own] soul, nor say, is there not a lie in my right hand?”—the “right hand,” speaking of approval.

The problem is that we feed on the food prepared for us by Satan instead of feasting on the Lamb. Many Christians are eating dust instead of eating the Bread from heaven (John 6:35). We need to eat Jesus Christ’s flesh (His word and substance), and drink His blood (the New Covenant of His grace, mercy, forgiveness, and love—John 6:53).

Think of the provision you have. At any moment, you can receive the breath of God upon you, causing you to live above and beyond, to live with every facet of His power.*

Just think of the power of God coming in. The beautiful work of the Holy Spirit transfers the Word of God into your memory center. As the six kinds of power take over our life and the breath of God reigns, we are no longer in bondage to addictions, to pornography, to passivity, or to prayerlessness.

As we begin to realize that the Holy Spirit controls our vocal cords, our old sin nature can’t

control us. Because we're under grace, sin doesn't have dominion. Christ fulfilled the law (Romans 6:14), and we understand that the strength of sin is in the law. When God fulfilled the law, He fulfilled that which condemns and judges us every moment we live. He fulfilled the demands of the Law: It is *finished!*

And then the grace of God comes in. Grace always comes as a teacher, and it always comes with the breath of God, with mercy rejoicing against judgment. Grace always comes ready to impart, ready to initiate, ready to help, ready to pick us up.

The Comforter Has Come

One of the greatest expressions in all the Bible is when Jesus refers to the Holy Spirit as "the Comforter" (Greek, *parakletos*—John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7). He is the One who picks us up when we fall and stands by our side. The most precious thing about the Comforter is that when we fall down, He picks us up with the breath of God, and He brings into our soul a life from above. Now we can stand as a brand-new creation with the Word of God for a standard. When the enemy comes in like a flood, God raises up the standard against him. The Word

brings our human spirit into right thinking with God as it brings in the precious filling of the Holy Spirit. The Word brings life and light into our soul. The moment this happens, we enjoy faith rest in love.

“The LORD thy God in the midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing” (Zephaniah 3:17). We enjoy faith that rests in love. It means that we are breathing in as God breathes on us. We are constantly inhaling—we’re inhaling heaven, provisions, and purity. We just keep on inhaling.

Spiritually, just as much as physically, we need to breathe to live. We inhale God’s life, and we exhale God’s life. We receive God’s life, and we give God’s life. His life controls us, and we end up with abundant life (John 10:10b).

In Isaiah 30:28, the Word of God says that the breath of the LORD brings us an overflowing or overwhelming stream into our souls. His breath caused the frost to be (Job 37:10).

Job said in 27:3, “When I was bitter, when I was complaining, when I was mourning, the Spirit of God was upon me.” In other words, “Here I am, bitter and complaining, and the breath of God is in my nostrils—but instead of

inhaling God's breath, I'm inhaling something else."

In Psalm 27:12, the Word of God speaks of enemies who "breathe out cruelty." They exhale cruelty. In Acts 9:1, Saul of Tarsus breathed out threatenings as he wanted to kill the disciples of the Lord.

Today, people everywhere are breathing demonic thoughts, exhaling demonic words. But before we ever breathe out demonic words, first we have to feast on serpents' food—accusations—and allow a deceived heart to turn us aside.

When you lay down this booklet, you will continue breathing in and out spiritually, regardless of whether you are conscious of it or not.

God said that He would cause His breath to enter into us, and we would live. There is a spirit in man, and it gives understanding. The breath of God gives life. He is saying, "I formed Adam out of the dust. I created Adam and Eve with a human spirit. I gave them My *breath* and they became living souls."

Revival

What is revival? Revival is when the truth breaks us and we are preoccupied with truth as

we're occupied with Christ. Revival is when the Word quickens us (Isaiah 57:15) and revives us again and again.

John said, "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth" (3 John 4). We are able to *walk* in truth because we know the truth, and the truth has made us free (John 8:32, 36). And as we walk, we inhale the Word, inhaling and exhaling God's breath.

We don't preach ourselves; we preach Christ. You have heard the Word of God and you have a choice: You can have a familiar spirit (*eggastri-muthous*), which controls most governments and many relationships, even with various degrees of love; or, you can have *pneuma theos*, the breath of God.

Allow the Lord to breathe upon you and with His breath sweep you up with His river of life. Let the springs of God flow up to heaven through your soul, and the river of life to flow out as the breath of God conquers you.

**For more about the six forms of power the believer possesses, read Having a Heavenly Vision, Grace Publications, 1997.*

CONCLUSION

Satan wants people to inhale his breath. He wants us to make a vain show in the flesh (Galatians 6:12), and to argue our cause (Job 6:24). Arguing proves nothing, but Satan wants us to argue our cause, debate our case, fight back, and react with hatred.

The Lord, however, wants us to enter into His *agape* love, and with that, allow the various degrees of love to rule every part of our lives. God wants us to enter into His life, which is derived through a Cross, in Resurrection power, and operates from the viewpoint of Ascension.

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34); He will take over anyone who asks. A man's weaknesses cannot begin to resist the grace of God's love if he will give in through the Cross. When Jesus Christ breathes upon individuals in a congregation, He breathes upon our relationships, our thoughts, our emotions, and our volition. The most precious thing that I know of is

Jesus Christ breathing into a human spirit.

Do not live as *tsaphaph*, as someone conquered who continually speaks in their lower nature through the breath of a demon, obsessed with the dust through hypnotism. The Bible describes that person as a “whisperer,” but it’s more than that. It is having one’s vocal cords controlled by Satan in the name of the natural man.

Make decisions. More than just passively agreeing, let the breath of God transform you. Begin to inhale and exhale in a new dimension. Breathe in God’s provision. Let the life of God control your spirit, soul, and body.

Heavenly Father, we worship you, praise you, and thank you. You didn’t say we are more than conquerors for nothing. You said it because we are. Cover and protect us from making wrong decisions. Keep us from any negativity in our thinking, speaking, reactions, and feelings. Bless us spiritually, physically, and financially, in every realm as we take in the breath of Life. We ask it in Jesus’ precious name, Amen.