



## Breathe on Me, Breath of God



**"Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew;  
that I may love what Thou dost love  
and do what Thou wouldst do.**

**"Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure;  
until with Thee I will one will - to do and to endure.**

**"Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am wholly Thine;  
till all this earthly part of me glows with Thy fire divine.**

**"Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I never die;  
but live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity."**

**"As the earth can produce nothing unless it is fertilized by the sun, so we can do nothing worthwhile for God without the energizing Holy Spirit's power operating in our lives."- Unknown**

**"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."- Matthew. 5:8**

**"Jesus said to them again, 'As the Father has sent Me, I am sending you.' And with that He breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit'." - John 20:21-22**

**"By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."- 1 John 4:13**

**"Breathe on Me, Breath of God" was written by Edwin Hatch, an Anglican minister, widely known for his scholarship and lectures in early church history. Despite his scholarly accomplishments, he was said to possess a faith "as simple and unaffected as a child's." At the end of the day, that is what faith looks like. All of our intellectual capacities will not lead us to the place where we receive the gift of God's grace that our hearts desperately need. And it is the Spirit of God who leads us into all truth and enables us to find that place where our faith can rest.**

**We sang this hymn often as I grew up in Grove Reformed Church, but we don't hear it much today. I love its simplicity as Edwin shares what our desires should look like as we walk with the Savior, day by day through our earthly life, looking toward the day when we will live with Him "the perfect life of Thine eternity."**

It causes us to question ourselves whether we truly care about the things that God cares about, love what He loves, and desire to do only those things that He would do with pure hearts.

When a person becomes a Christian, he or she receives the Holy Spirit within. Although the Spirit resides within them, He may not have complete control of their life. We must be filled with the Holy Spirit if we are to overcome the temptations of Satan, and his lies that cause us to grieve the Spirit of God.

Paul had much to say about this in his epistles as he urged the early Christians to cling to the truth they had found in Jesus. He told them simply in Galatians 5:16, "Walk in the Spirit and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh." The form of the Greek verb translated "walk" indicates continuing action, or a habitual lifestyle. Walking also implies progress; as a believer submits to the Spirit's control - responding in obedience to the clear commands of Scripture - he or she grows in their spiritual life. This strengthens us to resist the temptations of the flesh, which include the mind, our will, and our emotions, which all tend to lead us toward sin and away from the light of God.

In Ephesians 4:17-19, Paul describes the futile walk of the unbeliever as being "darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts." They suffer from hardness of heart, darkness of mind and deadness of spirit, having become callous to the destructive effects of their sin.

Then Paul turns a corner saying, "But you did not learn Christ in this way, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus." And in verses 25-32 he tells us what walking with Jesus should look like, lest we grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Paul warns us about lying, unwholesome talk, or allowing anger to fester within us against another person. The Christian should never steal, but do an honest day's work in order to have something to share with those in need.

Paul sums up this list of warnings in verse 32 by saying, "Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you." This is what purity of heart looks like when the Spirit of God breathes on us and we are convicted and cleansed of our sinful behaviors. It is only then that we are ready to serve the Master, being led by His Spirit each step of the way. For as Hudson Taylor once said,

"I used to ask God to help me. Then I asked if I might help Him. I ended up asking Him to do His work through me."