



02 | God's Promise Gives Life

By: Steve Ellis | July 2026

Introduction

The Bible often uses *wind* and *breath* as pictures of God's Spirit.

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" ([John 3:8](#)).

The word for wind, as used here, is [pneuma](#) in Greek. A word that can mean "*wind*," "*breath*," or "*spirit*."

Creation

In the creation narrative, we see "**the Spirit of God**" hovering over the waters ([Genesis 1:2](#)). From what was formless and empty, God brought order, life, and abundance.

As the story narrows from the creation of the world to the creation of humanity. God forms mankind from the dust of the ground ([Genesis 2:7](#)). But humanity does not become

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alive until God **"breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being"** ([Genesis 2:7](#)).

Whether Scripture speaks of God's Spirit or God's breath, life begins with God.

Exile

From creation, our journey now takes us to a valley of dry bones. If Genesis shows us where life begins, Ezekiel shows us what happens when God's people find themselves in exile, longing for life once again.

Israel was far from home, wondering if their story had come to an end. Later in this vision, the people would describe themselves with these words: **"Our bones are dried up, and our hope is gone; we are cut off"** ([Ezekiel 37:11](#)).

"[T]he hand of the Lord was on" Ezekiel. The Spirit of the Lord carried him to the middle of a valley covered with dry bones ([Ezekiel 37:1-2](#)). Then the Lord asked a question that must have seemed impossible: **"Son of man, can these bones live?"**

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord" ([Ezekiel 37:5-6](#)).

The valley came alive with the sound of rattling bones. Bones joined together. Tendons appeared. Flesh covered them. Skin stretched over them. But then Ezekiel makes an important observation: **"But there was no breath in them"** ([Ezekiel 37:8](#)).

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“Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath; prophecy, 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.’ ” So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.” (Ezekiel 37:9–10)

The God who gives life at creation is the same God who restores life in exile.

This vision was not simply about bones. It was about hope.

New Life In The Spirit

Last week, we stood with the disciples in Jerusalem as the promised Spirit was poured out on God's people. As they waited together, **"a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2)**. God's promised presence was no longer a promise. It had come.

In [Romans 8](#), Paul shows us that the gift of the Spirit is not simply an event to remember. **It is a life to live**. He records, **"The mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace" (Romans 8:6)**.

Then Paul reminds us: **“And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.” (Romans 8:11)**

Think about the journey we have taken.

- In Genesis, God breathed life into humanity.
- In Ezekiel, God breathed life into a valley of dry bones, giving hope to a people who believed their story was over.
- At Pentecost, the wind of God's Spirit rushed through Jerusalem as His promised presence was poured out.
- Now Paul declares that this same Spirit lives within everyone who belongs to Christ.

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The wind that moved over the waters, filled the valley of dry bones, and rushed through Jerusalem is still at work today, moving the people of God.

Continuing The Journey

One Final Thought:

“The Spirit is moving all around us. If we pay attention, we will perceive the undeniable effects of his presence.”¹

Wes McAdams, *Empowered By The Spirit*

Where the Spirit is, there is life.

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Scripture Acknowledgement

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Footnotes

1. Wes McAdams, *Empowered by the Spirit: God's Gift to Strengthen His People and Transform the World* (2026), 13.

For Additional Study

[Empowered By The Spirit: God's Gift to Strengthen His People and Transform the World](#), Wes McAdams

[Who Is the Holy Spirit](#): BibleProject Guide

[What Role Does the Holy Spirit Play in Christian Life?](#), N.T. Wright Online (video)