

# Breath Of Life

John 20:19-23

In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because of their fear of the Jews. Then Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" Having said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." After saying this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

John 20:19-23

## THE BREAKING IN

In the evening of that first day of the week, the disciples were gathered together with the doors locked because of their fear of the Jews.

-John 20:19

Then Jesus came, stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” Having said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you!

-John 20:19-20

## THE FILLING UP

After saying this, He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."  
-John 20:22

“A tiny streak of gold began to run along his white marble back-then it spread-then the color seemed to lick all over him as the flame licks all over a bit of paper-then, while his hindquarters were still obviously stone, the lion shook his mane and all the heavy, stone folds rippled into living hair. Then he opened his great red mouth, warm and living, and gave a prodigious yawn.

Everywhere the statues were coming to life. The courtyard looked no longer like a museum; it looked more like a zoo. And instead of the deadly silence the whole place rang with the sound of happy roarings, brayings, yelpings, brakings, squealings, cooings, neighings, stampings, shouts, hurrahs, songs, and laughter.”

-The Chronicles of Narnia, C.S. Lewis

It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment

-John 16:7

As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.” If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”  
-John 20:21, 23

Spiritual formation is the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of the world.  
-Robert Mulholland

## BEHOLD THE WOUNDS OF GOD

Having said this, He showed them His hands and His side. So the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

-John 20:20

“We wanted to find someone who would stand up there and bleed with us.” -Frederich Buechner

Forgiveness flounders because I exclude the enemy from the community of humans even as I exclude myself from the community of sinners. But no one can be in the presence of the God of the crucified Messiah for long without overcoming this double exclusion...When one knows that the torturer will not eternally triumph over the victim, one is free to rediscover that person's humanity and imitate God's love for him. And when one knows that God's love is greater than all sin, one is free to see oneself . . . and so rediscover one's own sinfulness.

-Miroslav Volf (Exclusion & Embrace)