

Breathe On Me, Breath Of God: Edwin Hatch (1878):¹

Visualisation: Theodirectional 3 request

Analysis: As request to the spirit, this is misdirected, and the idea of the spirit as God's breath is doubtful. While we can look widely (eg *Genesis*), the exact phrase is only in *Job* (4:9; 27:3; 37:10), but, following Hebrew parallelism, if he is so defined in 4:9, he is also defined there as *God's anger* in the same breath. Poetry in motion. Jhn.20:22 (Jesus breathed) merely carries the prophetic word that Pentecost was around the corner—the spirit was not breathed out into the disciples.² Admittedly the Bible has anthropomorphic & anthropopathic expressions, yet if God literally had breath would he not be mortal, ie if ever without breath, dead? So, it is not literal, perhaps not biblical, but for some it may be useful. However, there is much that seems to overlook the already of conversion: decontextualising. Are Christians by definition not filled with the new life? If we may talk of God (or Christ) breathing on us as human beings, it is rather the act of conversion (holiness 1), not ongoing sanctification (holiness 2). *So shall I never die* suggests that less holy Christians will die in a sense that others won't—not a biblical idea. There is much archaism: eg thy/thine. There is a distinction between eternity for the uncreated, and for the created, in that time & space is in the uncreated, but the created is within time & space and has beginning but not end. Thus we cannot exactly life with the spirit the same kind of life, though we can live with him eternally in its rich sense of joy unending.

The big plusses are that this song treats seriously the Holy Spirit as a part of our spiritual lives, and encourages us to yearn for, and thus enjoy, the deeper spirituality of level 2 holiness. The main downside is who is asked, secondly of what is asked.

Suggestions: Nurture me, father, God / since I have life with you / help me to love, what you do love / and do well what I should do // ... / May all my thoughts, be pure / Help me to bow, my newborn will / ... // ... / I would be wholly yours / I would that every part of me / glows with your fire divine // ... / I who shall never die / but live with you the perfect life / the life of eternity.

BAG	A	B	C	D	E	F	G ^{1,2}	H ^{1,2}	I	J ^{1,2,3}	K	L	M	Total	Grade
	-	-	8	-	-	-	-	-	12	-	-	8	-	72	B-

¹ http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Breathe_on_Me_Breath_of_God

² <http://dewsburnnazarene.org/sunodiajhn.html>

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A = Mixed Themes (-4); B = Incompleteness (-4); C = Archaism (-8);

D = Blessing God (-4); E = Buddy or Boyfriend (-4); F = Polytheism (-8); G = Voxeism: Soft (-24), Hard (-48);

H = Unitarianism: Soft (-60), Hard (-72); I = Misdirection (-12); J = Misvisualisation: Soft (-12), Mid (-24),

Hard (-36); K = Boasting (-8); L = Decontextualising (-8); M = Hermit Harakiri (-12)