

Thursday 21 January 2021

Gen.2,7: *"Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."*

3Jn.2: John writes to Gaius: *"Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, just as you are progressing spiritually."*

Here is not an answer to the scientific question of human origin, but the answer to the more fundamental and far-reaching question of how we become a *living being*. Do you know? There is a past in which this question was answered – by God breathing into man *the breath of life*: in other words, by a spiritual principle in man living by and dependent on his/her God-connectedness.

This past did not become the future, however, as sin entered the world disrupting this connection and its life-giving quality.

How *now* does man become a *living being* as opposed to a dying, and indeed dead, one? Again, by divine breathing, Jn.20,21 (the risen Jesus appearing to the disciples and saying): *"Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.'* And with that he breathed on them and said, *'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.'*" That is, by Word and Spirit.

*Lord, breathe on us; send out those who preach your word faithfully and fearlessly and let the Spirit follow in our hearing.*