



# THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of  
Ashley River Baptist Church

## HIDE 'N SEEK John 20:19-23

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

### I. THE HIDING CHURCH

The church may hide in fear of:

- Retaliation
- Rumor
- Revelation

Hiding will not stop His:

**PRESENCE:** v. 19 *"Jesus came and stood among them..."*

**PROVISION:** v. 19 *"Peace be with you!"*

### II. THE SEEKING CHURCH

**The Model:** *"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* v. 21

*"For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."* John 17:19

*"I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one."* John 17:22

**The Meaning:** His commission was for promoting and continuing His work.

*"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."* v.21

*"If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven"* v. 23

**The Method:** to use each of us

*"They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together"* Luke 24:33

**The Means:** Jesus gives power in His Spirit to accomplish His will

*"And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." V.22*

His Spirit continues His Presence and Work.

### CHALLENGE

Christ gives His presence and power that His church might not "hide" or shrink back in cowardice, compromise, complacency and confusion but instead go forward and "seek" with power and assurance to fulfill the commission for which the church has been established, called and empowered.

*You must "Receive" it.*

His power enables you to say "no" to temptation and compromise and "yes" to Christ and His will. Have you received His power and are using it for His purpose? Today He calls His church to stop hiding and go seek and save those He came to save! Come out from behind closed doors!