

"CAN THESE BONES LIVE?"

Introduction

²⁴ *Then the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet. He spoke to me and said: "Go, shut yourself inside your house. ²⁵ And you, son of man, they will tie with ropes; you will be bound so that you cannot go out among the people. ²⁶ I will make your tongue stick to the roof of your mouth so that you will be silent and unable to rebuke them, though they are a rebellious house. (Ezek 3:24-26)*

¹ *The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; **it was full of bones.** (Ezek 37:1 NIV)*

It was probably a battle field...the dead, slain, bodies of warriors who have long since been forgotten were probably very strong in their time but now only scattered bones.

² *He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were **very dry.** (Ezek 37:2 NIV)*

White, bleached, brittle, even the worms wouldn't inhabit these bones now.

- Here is the life that is without God.
- Here is the life that is wasted.
- Here is the life that has no hope.
- Drugs have left it desolate.
- Alcohol has broken it to pieces.
- The improper relationship has caused it to be without hope.
- Sin has destroyed it. Far Beyond the reach of resuscitation!
- Hopelessness is all around it.
- Despair surrounds it.
- Unhappiness overwhelms it.
- Dejected by its former self.
- Depressed by its current condition
- Discouraged by its failures
- Disheartened
- Disappointed
- Destitute
- It has no hope of ever returning to its previous glory.

- **And so they're abandoned.**
- **Even the man of God would not have known where they were if God Himself would not have showed these bones to Him.**

³ *He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"*
I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." (Ezek 37:3 NIV)

- Even the preacher had no hope for these slain.
- So He says "Only you know God"!
- If they were to live, he realized that it was going to take a real move of God.

It's a wise man who realizes he needs God!
When you come to that conclusion, your half way home!

⁴ *Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' (Ezek 37:4 NIV)*

(stop listing to other voices...listen to God)
We need to get into a place where we can hear his word.

- Some people can't make it through the day with out a drink.
- Some can't make it 1 hour without a smoke.
- What makes us think that we can go one day without the word of God?
- What makes us think we can overcome this world and it's influences without His word?

¹² *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb 4:12)*

⁵ *This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: **I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life.** (Ezek 37:5 NIV)*

(only God can truly deliver from some things}

He said "I will make."

When you give your heart over to Him He goes to work on you.

- You couldn't work hard enough to get that raise...but all of a sudden God blesses you financially!
- You couldn't love enough to keep your marriage...but all of a sudden God is melting your hearts together.
- You couldn't believe enough to be healed...then all of a sudden He Heals You!!!
- You couldn't live good enough to save your self...So He dies on the tree and Saves You!
- **God said He would Do it.**
- He would Save you
- He would Heal you.
- He would Deliver you.
- He would Help you.
- ...it's when we forsake our own abilities and seek God's help that God does it!)

*⁶ 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.**''' (Ezek 37:6 NIV)*

- **This is the reason God has brought us to this place in life...That we might know Him!!!**
- The reason He has allowed us to make such a mess of our lives is so that He could show us who He is!!!
- Put your hope in the Lord. Turn your life over to Him.

*⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying (the power of the Word gives life!), **there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone.** (Ezek 37:7 NIV)*

- **{When God begins to put a life back together there is a noise.**
- **It might take some shaking up. God's presence changes things!**
- **It might take you finding yourself at the end of your rope.**

- **Or at the bottom of the pit.**
 - **“When you’ve hit rock bottom the only way to look is up!!!”**
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⁸ *I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.* (Ezek 37:8 NIV)

They looked like soldiers...but they weren't soldiers.

They looked like Christians...but in reality they were just dried up bones covered in flesh

- No life!
- No breath of God.
- No Holy Spirit.
- No Power
- No anointing

Do you know something?...Peter says that **Jesus' disciples**

“will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!” (Acts 2:38)

God gives us life!
He gives us what only He can.

⁹ *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 from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’”* (Ezek 37:9 NIV)

When real revival comes into your life it will come from all directions.

Did you hear me? ... all directions!!!

- I'm talking about a God who can heal broken marriages.
- He can heal diseased bodies.
- He can bless your finances.
- He can save your children.
- He can deliver you from addictions.
- He can bless you on your job.

- He can help you pay your bills.
- When His blessings flow..they flow from every direction.
- He said ask and it shall be given
- He said ask and ye shall receive.

We just need for God to breath on us.

We just need for the Holy Spirit to move us.

²⁸ *“And afterward,
I will pour out my Spirit on all people.
²⁹ Even on my servants, both men and women,
I will pour out my Spirit in those days. (Joel 2:28-29)*

¹⁰ *So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—**a vast army.** (Ezek 37:10 NIV)*

No one can work for God laying down.

It's time to get up and be counted...

If you don't stand for something you will stand for nothing...

It's time for we the church of the living God to get into formation - fall into ranks and rise to the occasion that has been set before us.

- **EXCEEDING GREAT ARMY!!!**

Not a wishy-washy always looking-for-the-easy-way-out-church with no spiritual back bone or holy tenacity that doesn't know how to pray and be touched by God church.

- **We are called to be an exceeding great church!!!**
- We should be a church like the world has never seen before!!!
- We should have services that are bar none.
- When someone visits our church they should have an experience with the Lord that they will never forget.

- Nothing should even slightly resemble the genuine praise and worship that goes up in this assembly!

Why, because this thing is real!

- Our God is holy; our God is awesome and awe-inspiring.
- It's not man made; it's God ordained!
- Let God be in control of our worship!
- Let's allow the presence of God to become living, breathing, and moving among us.
- If God resurrects the dry bones in a field, He resurrects people who put their faith in Christ!
- If God resurrects the dry bones in a field, He can and will resurrect your life, your health, your relationships.
- If you are not in a relationship with Christ, will trust Him to bring your bones back to life?