

REVIVE CHURCH- BELIEVING GOD FOR IMPOSSIBILITIES.

A GREAT AWAKENING

We are invited to partner with the Holy Spirit and press into God's Prophetic plan for His church. We are to contend for revival in the church and an awakening in the nations in our day,

Define: Renewal as personal, church is touched and filled, presence centered, One thing, Word and Spirit emphasis.

Revival as both personal and corporate transforming homes, businesses cities, supernatural outpouring, miraculous

Awakening – national awareness, repentance transformation.

Ezekiel 36-Contains within incredible prophecy from God concerning the full restoration of Israel. Gathering back to their own land, release of blessing through forgiveness, promise of a new heart, new mind, promise of the Holy Spirit and covenant. The promise of extravagant blessing and increase! The promise of Eden, a rebuilding and replanting of the Lord. **The fullness of Ex. 36 will take place in the millennium during the earthly reign of Jesus Christ.**

- The promise was made to Israel, who were being held captive, had broken covenant, filled with idolatry and every evil thing, they were being judged by God and it was painful, but Israel had made their choice by rejecting God and choosing disobedience and rebellion.
- Jerusalem, their homeland had been sieged and destroyed! God will take extreme measures to awaken and draw His beloved.

So how do you bring restoration, healing and revival in impossible situations. God released the vision of what would be! Ezekiel went to the mountain, got caught up, heard the word of the Lord for a hopeful, beautiful future. He saw and He heard, he received the word, saw the future and now the hard part! **Go down to the valley of death!** Go release the word in its present situation, to bones which have no life!

God causes man to ascend into His presence so he can then descend to the lowest place and bring life where there is death. The prophets ascended and then were called to do the impossible. Vision and revelation prepares us for action.

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NKJV) 1 The hand of the LORD came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it [was] full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, [there were] very many in the open valley; and indeed [they were] very dry. 3 And He said to me, "**Son of man, can these bones live?**" So I answered, "O Lord GOD, You know." 4 Again He said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, **hear** the word of the LORD!' 5 'Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 "I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I [am] the LORD." ' 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but [there was] no breath in them. 9 Also He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ' 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great

army. 11 Then He said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, 'Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!' 12 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 "Then you shall know that I [am] the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14 "I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken [it] and performed [it,]" says the LORD.' "

Though this is a picture primarily of what God is going to do in Israel and we want to be careful not to replace Israel it's the church we can also see in this imagery a picture/type of what He is going to do in His church.

This is a ridiculous picture. No preacher or prophet had this kind of dramatic experience. God took Him to the boneyard. Jesus resurrected Lazarus after 4 days in a tomb but before Ezekiel there lay piles of dry bones that were not even pieced together and had completely disintegrated. Everything in front of Ezekiel was impossible!

- **The Spirit of the Lord took him to the place of death, decay and impossibility and had him stare at it.** God's call is not to do something we are capable of but to do something that only God is capable to do.
- Spirit filled, Spirit led men and women cannot be afraid to look at the present situation, even when it is seemingly impossible and believe.
- Don't forget it was the Spirit who led Jesus into the desert for 40 day prior to His ministry. Jesus came out of the dry and lonely place filled with fire and anointing to accomplish God's work. Our vision is formed in His Presence, not in our situation.
- **We must hear from God, see Him, have personal revelation and encounter and then go to the impossible places He calls us to go. Our vision will be tested in the valley of dry bones!**

You will want someone else to do it, you will desire to look away, you will feel your own weakness greatly! It is essential we don't let go and do not give up for God has spoken to you and know those seemingly irrational words of "live, awaken, breathe" that must be spoken in the face of death and decay!

- **Romans 10:17 (NKJV) So then faith [comes] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God** Word=rhema **No spoken word of God will be void of power, every spoken word of God contains in it the power for its own fulfillment.** *When we receive a word from God it imparts faith. In turn, our faith unlocks the miracle working power of God contained in the word.* **Hear this when you are faithless. Faith comes by hearing. It comes, it is ushered in** (Derek Prince)..
- **Faith COMES! And I would argue fear comes by hearing**

The world is waiting for a demonstration of the Gospel through men and women of God who have been with Jesus! Dry bones don't just need a good message, a power point presentation, sound doctrines, they need the power of God, breath, life! They don't need comforted; they need raised from the dead. Who will loose the chains of death and offer real life?

Ravenhill **“a sober church never does any good. At this hour we need men drunk with the Holy Ghost. Ezekiel was a man of God who stood in the gap between God and man. His foundation and inheritance was in heaven so he was not afraid to enter into hell! “The last great outpouring of revival, Holy Ghost born and operated, will be new wine bursting the skins of dried-up sectarianism.”**

We are told under the new covenant that God is going to do a work within His church that seems inconceivable. We are told:

Ephesians 4:13 (NKJV) till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

Ephesians 5:27 (NKJV) that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Ephesians is the New Testament picture of God miraculously putting the body of Christ back together in such a way that it fully resembles the Son and is fully empowered by the Holy Spirit of God!

We can look at the church and talk about all the problems, issues the death and decay or we can begin to pray prophetically into the purposes of God.

We have a strong Invitation to stand in the gap. This will require us going upward in order for us to enter the valley. Ezekiel 22:30 (NKJV) "So I sought for a man among them who would make a wall, and stand in the gap before Me on behalf of the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found no one.

- Elijah was Spirit led to stare at death and impossibility Where Only heaven and hell were spectators
- **God asked Ezekiel the question. Can these bones live? Keep in mind God never asks questions that He doesn't know the answer too. He asks questions to test us. Ezekiel responds “Oh Lord God, you know”.**
- **Against all odds and all common sense (God doesn't need our common sense). He prophesied as he was commanded, he was a fool for God. He was commanded “prophesy to the bones” “oh dry bones hear the word of the Lord”**
- **He commanded something with no ears to hear. The prophetic word of the Lord calls things that are not as though they were.(Rom.4:17) The word moves beyond the condition to how it should be. The word from the Lord released in faith ushers in the resources of heaven that are hidden from the natural eye.**
- **The bones heard and that caused a great noise. Chain reaction that begins and ends with obeying the voice of the Lord. Many Christians would believe that is enough but “we are not to mistake commotion for creation, action for unction nor rattle for revival” (Ravenhill)**

There would be many operations that took place from the word of God. There are stages to reviving dead bones so we must be patient, diligent and unrelenting in our pursuit for His full measure.

1. Bones came together, bone to bone. No more mountains of bones. **Skeletons were formed.**
2. Tendons and flesh, then skin. Now there is an army of corpses still of no use to God. Eyes with no sight, ears with no hearing

3. Ezekiel prophesied again! He held on, prophesied breath and God brought them to life. Adam didn't come to life until God breathed in his nostrils.
4. God used the prophet to release the word and sent the wind, breath of God. **He will use a praying, worshipping prophetic people to speak life into death, to call those things that are not as though they were and stand in the gap between God and man, heaven and hell.**

How does faith come? Let's review this process once more as we close this message. Here are the three steps ensuring that faith comes.

- **Step one:** Faith comes by hearing the word which God speaks to you.
 - **Step two:** The Holy Spirit makes this word individual and personal to you.
 - **Step three:** If you will receive this word, it will impart faith to you.
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- What is the final result of these steps? Your response of faith then releases the power that is in God's word to accomplish what He promises.

Home group questions

Discuss this statement- God causes man to ascend into His presence so he can then descend to the lowest place and bring life where there is death.

Discuss how faith comes from Romans 10:17. How can you put this into practice when feeling faithless?

What are the lessons you take from the valley of dry bones?

What impossibilities does God want you to have faith for?

Discuss- **The bones heard and that caused a great noise. Chain reaction that begins and ends with obeying the voice of the Lord. Many Christians would believe that is enough** but **“we are not to mistake commotion for creation, action for unction nor rattle for revival”** (Ravenhill)