

Today begins DAY FIFTEEN of our 21 DOP and as we move into this final week I really want to encourage you to press in over these next 7 days.

I have to be honest, these 21 days have really been a challenge. It has been filled with lots of distractions. Everything from sickness to winter storms. We have had it all. I mean ever since we kicked off our 21 days three Sundays ago it has been one thing after another.

- 1) Our pastoral staff has been under physical attack dealing with sickness (and not just COVID related sickness either).
- 2) Our service plans for the last two Sundays have been riddled with our speakers having to cancel due to either sickness or travel issue caused by winter storms

It really has been unprecedented and I don't think it is a coincidence that it has come during our 21 DOP. And so I want us all to use this last week to really reset our hearts.

- 1) Whether you are one of those who have been distracted over the course of the last two weeks. Don't throw in the towel just yet. Reset, and press in.
- 2) Maybe you are one of those that didn't even get started at all. I want you to start now. Reset your heart and press in.
- 3) If you are one of those who have had a great fast and haven't been distracted at all but have experienced breakthroughs in your relationship with God. I want to encourage you to finish strong. Reset your heart and press in

And next Sunday we will close out our 21 DOP by celebrating God's faithfulness at all of our locations as we complete our Dry Bones Revival series. Now, let me pray for us and then I want to share a quick devotion with you from our prayer devotional to kind of set the tone for this last week. **(PRAY)**

Lord, we know Satan is the author of distraction. And while we don't understand everything You do. You have shown me that sometimes You use these distractions to test us and to see if what we really long for is You. As Christians we oftentimes get caught up in experiences and feelings. And when things get tough or uncomfortable we tend to bail out. But what we need is You! And you are found in YOUR WORD. If we have nothing else we have all we need in Your word for it is the BREAD OF LIFE. Help us hunger for YOU above all else and may we long to meet You this week no matter what comes against us!

In Week 1 our theme was **"DRY BONES"**. Why were the bones dry? Or maybe in your personal life, why are you experiencing dry bones? The answer, because of SIN. But if we want to get more specific. Dry Bones are the result of what happens when God's people (you and I) turn to other alternatives for answers, for worship, for satisfaction and for fulfillment. We look everywhere else but to GOD.

Last week our theme was “**HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD**”. We need to understand that there is POWER in GOD’s WORD. The kind of power that brings dead things to life. It is what God did in my life when I heard His word. It took a dead heart and spoke life into me. The problem is we either don’t believe it or we neglect it and it is why we don’t see its power in our lives.

And that brings us to our theme for this final week. “COME ALIVE”!

Ezekiel 37:7-14 (NIV)

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

9 Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” 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.

11 Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign Lord says: My people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. 13 Then you, my people, will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 14 I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the Lord have spoken, and I have done it, declares the Lord.”

No matter where you are and no matter what your condition may be God wants to speak life into your dead situation. A lifeless marriage, a ship wrecked life, a hopeless financial situation, a health crisis or a valley full of dry bones. He wants you to come alive. He wants to redeem your dead situation for His glory.

I want you to see how the power to come alive is released! There are two key elements we need. In fact, these key elements need to be in our prayers. (Btw, do you realize that prayer is nothing more than you calling out to God and prophesying over dry bones situations!)

Here are the two elements that must be present in our prayers:

ELEMENT #1 - WE NEED TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD OVER OUR DRY BONES SITUATION!

- We tell our situation what we want. We need to tell it what God wants and that is found in His word.

- Sometimes we don't know what to say. We need God's perspective and word on the matter

ELEMENT #2 - WE NEED A HEART ATTITUDE THAT LONGS FOR GOD TO SHOW US WHO HE IS

- In other words we want God to be glorified more than we want what we want. Notice the result of what God wants to do here in Ezekiel vs. 13 & 14
- The end game for God is always that His people, the world, the unbeliever would know that He is the LORD. Yahweh the covenant keeping God who is gracious and merciful. Always faithful. That those who don't know Him would find salvation in Him. This has to be our heart when we pray and prophesy over our dead dry bones!

What is an area in your life that needs to come alive? Do you believe God has the power to speak life over it? Do you believe God wants to redeem it for your good and His glory? Will you pray like that this week?

Personal Prayer Challenge: Ask God to show you some dry bone situations in your life or in the lives of others and begin praying for God to show us His glory.

Prayer Prompts for Today: Pray for Christians to have a greater passion to share Jesus with those in their sphere of influence.