

I. The Uncomfortable Leading Of The Lord (1-3)

- A. How God was leading Ezekiel (1a) - *“The hand of the LORD was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD...”*
- B. Where God was leading Ezekiel (1b-2) - *“...and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. 2 And He led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry.”*
- C. Why God was leading Ezekiel (3) - *“And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” And I answered, “O Lord GOD, You know.”*

God intentionally led Ezekiel into a dry place, characterized by defeat, offering little hope to test the level of Ezekiel’s faith.

II. The Unusual Process From The Lord (4-8)

- A. Illogical instructions for the believer (4) - *“Then He said to me, “Prophesy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.”*
- B. Sovereign assurance from God (5-6) - *“Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”*
- C. Fruitful obedience from the servant (7-8) - *“So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. 8 And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them.”*

III. The Undeniable Encounter With The Lord (9-14)

- A. The one essential of encounter (9) - *“Then 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.”*

An encounter with God is only validated if what is put together on the outside is empowered by the Holy Spirit on the inside.

- B. The climactic moment of encounter (10) - *“So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.”*
- C. The fresh understanding from encounter (11-13) - *“Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.’ 12 Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O My people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. 13 And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O My people.”*
- D. The enduring lesson from encounter (14) - *“And **I will** put My Spirit within you, and **you shall** live, and **I will** place you in your own land. Then **you shall** know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”*

Personal encounter with God in impossible situations is the only means by which you can gain confidence that He is as great as He declares Himself to be.