

# THE RATTLING NOISE OF HOPE

## Part 4 of Series: Better Than Normal

June 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 Pastor Kerry Shook

***“So I spoke this message, just as He told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons. Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. Then He said to me, ‘Speak a prophetic message to the winds, son of man. Speak a prophetic message and say, This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so they may live again.’ So I spoke the message as He commanded me, and breath came into their bodies. They all came to life and stood up on their feet—a great army. Then He said to me, ‘Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, ‘We have become old, dry bones—all hope is gone. Our nation is finished.’ Therefore, prophesy to them and say, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O My people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you back to the land of Israel. When this happens, O My people, you will know that I am the LORD. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live again and return home to your own land. Then you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done what I said. Yes, the LORD has spoken!’”***  
Ezekiel 37:7-14 (NLT)

**WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF HOPELESSNESS...**

### 1. HOLD ON TO GOD AND GRIEVE YOUR LOSSES

***“The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. He led me all around among the bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground and were completely dried out.”*** Ezekiel 37:1-2 (NLT)

***“You’re blessed when you feel you’ve lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.”*** Matthew 5:4 (MSG)

### 2. DARE TO DECLARE HOPE WHEN THINGS FEEL HOPELESS

***“Then He asked me, ‘Son of man, can these bones become living people again?’ ‘O Sovereign LORD,’ I replied, ‘You alone know the answer to that.’”*** Ezekiel 37:3 (NLT)

***“Then He said to me, ‘Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again!’”*** Ezekiel 37:4-5 (NLT)

***“I will never forget this awful time, as I grieve over my loss. Yet I still dare to hope when I remember this: The faithful love of the LORD never ends! His mercies never cease. Great is His faithfulness;***

***His mercies begin afresh each morning. I say to myself, 'The LORD is my inheritance; therefore, I will hope in Him!'" Lamentations 3:20-24 (NLT)***

### **3. ASK GOD TO BREATHE LIFE INTO THE BROKEN PLACES**

***"I will put My breath in them, bring them back to life, and let them live in their own land. Then they will know that I am the LORD. I have promised that I would do this — and I will. I, the LORD, have spoken." Ezekiel 37:14 (GNT)***

***"So I spoke this message, just as He told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as complete skeletons." Ezekiel 37:7 (NLT)***

***"I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in Him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13 (NLT)***