

Finding Freedom in Christ

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Sometimes you and I can look at someone and say they're never going to change because they're so messed up. It's hopeless. We must believe that God can change all people. And that is what God wanted Ezekiel to understand.

Eze 37:1-14 NLT - 1 The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. 2 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. 3 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." 4 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! 5 This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to put breath into you and make you live again! 6 I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" 7 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. 8 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. 9 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.'" 10 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. 11 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.' 12 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. 13 When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. 14 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!'"

-For Ezekiel, he may have thought it was impossible for those bones to live and yet God was asking Him- Can these bones live?

-So why was God showing Ezekiel this valley full of dry bones?

This prophetic message was to the people of Israel (God's people) who had been taken into captivity because of their disobedience and sin. - God was saying, I will restore my people and I will bring them back to life. God had told his people, if they would turn back to Him, He would restore them. He promised to give them a new heart and a new spirit. This was God reminding His people of His promises from long ago.

Isn't that what the gospel message is all about? That Jesus is God's spoken word. And you and I, like Ezekiel, are called to preach Jesus to people who are dead in their sins. God asked "Can these bones live"?

Do you think the dry bones around you can live?

A lot of times we look at people's situations and think that person will never change, that persons never going to be saved. But when God sends us as a messenger with His word, we have to believe that His word can make people come alive.

The message concerning Jesus has the power to bring life back into those things that were dead.

The message isn't a **one-time message, it's a lifetime message.**

In every situation in our life, we have to believe that people can change including ourselves.

God is calling us to speak to people who are dead in their sin, and facing hopeless situations. But how do we do that?

Here are three things we can do to help us make sure we believe that God can make the dry bones around us live:

1. We must never fall into the trap of thinking things can't change.

We must believe that God can do the impossible. God can change anyone.

***Luke 1:37** For nothing will be impossible with God. (ESV)

***2 Corinthians 4:18** So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. (NIV)

God wants us to get our eyes off of what we see happening in the physical and to focus instead on his promise.

2. We must realize that it's God's word that brings the change; not our own words.

***John 8:32** And you will know the truth and the truth will set you free. God's word is the truth. His word illuminates the areas in us that need changes. (NLT)

***Romans 10:14** But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? (NLT)

Speak the gospel over people, tell them about Jesus and what he has done for you. Give people hope in Christ and Christ alone. And by the way the message that we're called to speak to people is the message of the Gospel. The good news that Jesus died for their sins.

Only the message of Jesus can change people's lives.

3. Don't stop Speaking- Don't stop sharing.

***Ezekiel 37:4, 9, 12**

4 Then he said to me, "Speak a prophetic message to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD!

9 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.'"

12 Therefore, prophesy to them and say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says...

Did you notice in the passage that God said to Ezekiel to speak to the bones and the bones came together. Then God said now speak to the winds, and then God said, "Now prophesy to them." You see, it's not a one-time thing. There is a process. We think that just because we share Jesus with someone one time that it's done.

No! We need to keep speaking. People didn't stop sharing His word with us so we should never stop sharing it with others.

Maybe you're here today and you want to have a life full of hope, peace and freedom. It's only found in Christ.