

## ☞ Reviving the Dry Bones

☞ **Last week: Trek to Transformation** (become a butterfly; don't remain a caterpillar)

- **We are transformed by renewing our minds.**
- **Our minds are renewed by focusing on truth.** (Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 6:14)
- **We must replace the lies of the enemy with the truth of God's word.**

☞ **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

### 1. ☞ See the Truth

v. 1-2 The Valley of Dry Bones

You may have been in a valley; you've lost your heavenly perspective; you're living at less than God's best; you're feeling down.

You may be broken and disjointed; you've been trying to go at it all alone; you feel separated from everyone else.

You may feel dead and dried up; it's been so long since you've experienced the presence and power of God that you're not sure you even can anymore.

Cf. v. 11... our hope is gone; we are cut off...

☞ **Revelation 3:1-3**

I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. **2 Wake up!** Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. **3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent.**

See the truth of your condition. Acknowledge where you really are with God.

☞ **Revive** – wake up; return to consciousness and life. Get active again.

**Reinforce** – what little remains of God's work in you must be strengthened.

**Remember** – call to mind those things that God has spoken in the past.

**Relinquish** – give up your control and surrender to God. Obey!

**Repent** – change your way of thinking! Cf. last week's message.

See the Truth!

### 2. ☞ Hear the Truth

v. 3-4 The Conversation

“Can these bones live?” Do you really want renewal? Do you really want change? Do you really want revival? Do you really want new life and more of God’s presence?

“Only God knows” – we must lean on God’s mercy; only he can bring renewal. Yes, there are things we must do, but ultimately, it all comes from God.

“Hear the word of the Lord” – listen to what God is saying; this message of renewal is popping up everywhere; it’s being preached across our nation. God is bringing renewal to those who will listen. In the OT it was “Hear, oh Israel.” In the NT it was “Hear who has ears, let him hear...”

“Hear the word of the Lord” – replace the enemy’s lies with the truth of God’s word. What is God saying? What has he already said in the Bible? Listen and obey!

Ephesians 5:26

Washing with water through the word...

☞ **Read the word. Rinse away the lies. Receive the truth...**

v. 12

This is what the Sovereign Lord says: O 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.

v. 5-6 The Vision

☞ **God’s Promise:**

New breath (Spirit) – **rebirth and renewal.**

Titus 3:5-6

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, **6** whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

God’s vision for us is rebirth and renewal. This was a prophetic word for us just a couple years ago at Regional Conference, when the minister prayed and loudly said, “Birth, birth, birth.” God doesn’t want any of us to stay in the valley of dry bones. He promises to revive us if we will hear the word of the Lord.

☞ New life – **rebuilding and resurrection.**

Ezra 9:9 ...Our God has not deserted us... He has shown us kindness... He has granted us new life to rebuild the house of our God and repair its ruins...

Romans 6:4

just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

God's vision for us is the same of that as Christ Jesus. He wants to raise us up and rebuild us. He doesn't want us to stay in the valley. He wants renewal for us even more than we want it for ourselves. Hear the word of the Lord!

### ☞ **God's Plan:**

Add to the bones...

"Tendons" – tendons and ligaments hold the skeleton and muscles together. This speaks of the **reuniting** and continued unity of **believers**. He's putting us back together.

"Flesh" – all the muscles and organs that give the body its living functions. This speaks of the various gifts and talents that God has placed in believers. We need each part ☞ **reaching its potential**. He's raising us up to reach his calling.

Ephesians 4:16

From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

"Skin" – the covering that protects all these parts. This speaks of God's anointing; he ☞ covers us with his spirit and protects us with his love and truth. **He is our refuge**. He will cover us. He will raise us up and then remain with us to keep us. He does the heavy lifting; he does all the work. Hear the word of the Lord!

Ezekiel 36:25-27

*I will* sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; *I will cleanse you* from all your impurities and from all your idols. **26** *I will give you a new heart* and *put a new spirit* in you; *I will* remove from you your heart of stone and *give you a heart of flesh*. **27** And *I will* put my Spirit in you and *move you to follow my decrees* and be careful to keep my laws.

Hear the Truth!

### 3. ☞ **Speak the Truth**

This is not just about being honest. It's about believing God's word and putting it into practice. We need to agree and align ourselves with the truth of God's word.

## v. 7-10 The Response

Ezekiel prophesied as commanded – he obeyed and simply said what God said. He

👉 **recited what he heard from God.**

👉 Partner with the Holy Spirit in believing by faith what the Bible says. **Replace lies with truth** and repeat what God says. Here are a few examples to start with. As a Christian, who does the Bible say I am?

### 👉 **I am a son...**

- John 1:12 I am God's child.
- John 15:15 I am a friend of Jesus Christ.
- Romans 5:1 I have been justified.
- 1 Corinthians 6:17 I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit.
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 I have been bought with a price and I belong to God.
- 1 Corinthians 12:27 I am a member of Christ's body.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 I am righteous.
- Ephesians 1:3-8 I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child.
- Colossians 1:13-14 I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
- Colossians 2:9-10 I am complete in Christ.
- Hebrews 4:14-16 I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ.

### 👉 **I am safe...**

- Romans 8:1 I am free from condemnation.
- Romans 8:28 I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances.
- Romans 8:31-39 I cannot be separated from the love of God.
- Colossians 3:1-4 I am hidden with Christ in God.
- Philippians 1:6 I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 I don't have a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
- 1 John 5:18 I am born of God and the evil one cannot harm me.

### 👉 **I am significant...**

- John 15:5 I am a branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life.
- John 15:16 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
- 1 Corinthians 3:16 I am God's temple.
- 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
- Ephesians 2:6 I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm.
- Ephesians 2:10 I am God's workmanship.
- Ephesians 3:12 I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- Philippians 3:20 I am a citizen of heaven.
- Philippians 4:13 I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me.

There are plenty more that tell us how we ought to think, speak and behave which are contrary to popular worldly ideals. We need to hold to the truth of God's word. We need to speak the truth! And God has spoken his personal promises to OBC as well...

More than once we've received prophetic words about continued growth.  
More than once we've received prophetic words about revival flowing from this church.  
More than once we've received prophetic words about greater things.  
So, hear the word of the Lord! And, Speak the Truth! We will grow. We will experience revival. We will see and do greater things!

☞ **When we See the Truth** (our condition), **Hear the Truth** (God's promise), **and Speak the Truth** (agree with God), **then God's word is fulfilled; there is revival and new life.**

v. 7 there was a rattling sound as the bones came together.

v. 8 tendons, flesh and skin covered the bones.

v. 10 breath entered them; they came to life; they stood up on their feet – a vast army.

Church, I hear a rattling sound; I hear a wind beginning to blow. God is bringing renewal. He is bringing new life. He is making us into a powerful army for his kingdom. See the Truth! Hear the Truth! Speak the Truth!

Prayer: Perhaps you've been in the valley; feeling dried up and dead. Perhaps you've had trouble believing God's word and promises to you. Pray!