Now with our Bibles opened to Ezekiel 37, I want to take us to a valley full of dry bones. We are going to see today what God showed the prophet Ezekiel so long ago, that spiritual awakening is within our reach!

And of course I’m talking about the vision God gave Ezekiel concerning the nation of Israel. They had become so discouraged, so down, so defeated that we’re going to hear them say in verse 11, “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!”

Their passion for God and for the things of God was gone. Their hope was lost! Through their compromise of the Word of God, they had cut themselves off from the favor of God. “Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!”

Like many of us, they felt they were at the end of the road; that there was no future for them. No wonder they had lost hope! It’s hard to have hope when you cannot see a future.

What a sad picture! They once had vitality and vigor. They were once filled with expectancy and enthusiasm. God’s presence and power was all over them. But somewhere along the way, they took their focus off of God and God took His favor off of them.

What those dry bones needed is what our lives need today: a touch from God! Through spiritual awakening:

*Dry bones are revived!
*Lost hope is rediscovered!
*Those who have cut themselves off are restored!

And to every dry bone, to you who have lost hope and to you who have cut yourselves off from the favor of God, I want to tell you something that I learned as a child:
*Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones.
Now hear the word of the Lord.

Second verse:
*Dem bones, dem bones gonna rise again.
Dem bones, dem bones gonna rise again.
Dem bones, dem bones gonna rise again.

Third verse:
*Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.
Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.
Dem bones, dem bones gonna walk around.
Now hear the word of the Lord.”

I have good news today for dry bones: God is still in the reviving business! So, how does He do it? How does God revive dry bones? How does God revive OUR dry bones and restore OUR hope? That’s what I want to talk to about today.

How To Revive Dry Bones
Ezekiel 37.1-14

“The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.” 4 Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.”’”

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones
came together, bone to bone. 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

9 Also 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.”’” 10 So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.

11 Then He said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They indeed say, ‘Our bones are dry, our hope is lost, and we ourselves are cut off!’ 12 Therefore prophesy and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “Behold, O My people, I will open your graves and cause you to come up from your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. 13 Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O My people, and brought you up from your graves. 14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.”

So, what’s required for reviving dry bones? Well, to revive dry bones, there must be …

(1) The PRESENCE of the LIVING GOD.

Whose Hand was upon Ezekiel and set him down “in the midst of the valley ..” The Living God, that’s who! Don’t you love it when God shows up and shows off? God showed up that day and ..

- showed him those dry bones.

Verse 2, “Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry.” God gave Ezekiel a guided tour of this valley full of dry bones. And the more God showed him, the more he realized how hopeless things had become. There was no sign of life, only a reminder of better
They weren’t always like that! There was a day when their life was filled with purpose and praise to God. There was a day that they were excited about God and about the things of God.

Do you remember when you were first saved?
Do you remember when you anticipated getting into God’s word each day?
Do you remember when gathering for worship with the people of God took precedence over every thing else?

But look at us now! What’s happened to us? Where is our passion? Where is the fire?

When David realized his sin with Bathsheba, he came to God saying in Psalm 51.1-2, “Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the multitude of Your tender mercies, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.”

When the Prodigal son sinned against God the bible says that “he came to himself” and sought forgiveness and restoration.

It’s easier to blame the music, blame the choir, blame the deacons, blame the staff, blame the pastor than it is to face the reality that it’s OUR BONES that are dry and in need of spiritual awakening!

The more Ezekiel saw, the more convinced he became that their only hope was for God to intervene. Without a touch of God, those dry bones would remain dry. Without a touch of God, those dry ones would remain dead. As your pastor …

I cannot meet the greatest need of our church.
I can provide leadership and lead you.
I can produce messages and preach them.
But I cannot put into your heart a passion for holiness.
I cannot put into your heart a desire to live godly in
Christ Jesus.
I cannot put into your heart a hunger for the word of God and a priority for the worship of God.
I cannot revive dry bones! It’s not in my gift set!
What is needed is only what God can do and that is to send a spiritual awakening into our lives. God can do more in a moment than I could ever do in a lifetime.
God showed up and showed him those dry bones. God also showed up that day and …

**-spoke to him about those dry bones.**

Verse 3, “And He said to me, ‘Son of man, can these bones live?’ So I answered, ‘O LORD God, You know.’”

Ezekiel knew that He didn’t have the answers; that only God did! He set aside his pride and ego. He didn’t say, “I can make this happen,” “I can figure this out.” “I’ve got a plan to revive those dry bones.” No! He did what King Jehoshaphat did when facing defeat in 2 Chronicles 20.12b, “For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; NOR DO WE KNOW WHAT TO DO, but our eyes are upon You.”

Not knowing what to do, King Jehoshaphat, “… set himself to seek the LORD, proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah (2 Chron 20.3); and then in verse 4, “…and asked help from the LORD.”

Like Ezekiel, he knew that he didn’t have the answers, but he did know that God did! To revive dry bones, there must be …

1. **The PRESENCE of the LIVING GOD.**
   No plan of man can revive dry bones! Reviving dry bones requires the presence of the living God. To revive dry bones, there must also be:

2. **The POWER of the WORD OF GOD.**
   Verses 4-6, “Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Surely I will …
cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the LORD.”

God created everything that was created with a word! God spoke and it was so!

God said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light. God said, “Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear,” and it was so. Things happen when God speaks!

The only hope for reviving dry bones and for renewing lost hope is the Word of God! If you want to live again and have your hope renewed and have a future: then you must hear the word of God!

Verse 4, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD!”

Daily in your private times; weekly in our Bible Study times and in our Worship times: “hear the word of the Lord.” Hem in your days with God’s Word. Hem in your weeks with God’s word. Hem in your family with God’s word. For your bones will remain dry and your hope will remain lost until you “hear the word of the Lord,” day after day, week after week!

2 Timothy 3.16-17, “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

Hebrews 4.12, “For the word of God is living and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

God’s word gives life! God’s word gives hope! God’s word connects us with God. If you want to be alive, you
must hear the word of God!

To revive dry bones there must be …
(1) The PRESENCE of the LIVING GOD.
(2) The POWER of the WORD OF GOD.

(3) The PREACHING of the WORD of GOD.

Verse 4, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’” God tells Ezekiel to prophesy or to preach to a pile of bones! Seriously? How silly he must have felt preaching to dry bones. Bones! That’s a harder assignment than preaching to Baptists!

What a strange command! But is it? Is it really a strange command? Ezekiel preaching to dead bones is no different that you telling somebody without Christ, who is spiritually dead, the difference He’s made in your life.

Learn this: God’s word penetrates darkness and it penetrates death! No wonder the Apostle Paul told young Timothy to “Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching” (2 Tim 4.2).

Isaiah 55.11, “So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to me void, But it shall accomplish what I please. And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”

Yes, dry bones must RECEIVE God’s Word, but in order to live again, they must then RESPOND to God’s Word.

Verse 7, “So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise.” Now wait a minute. How could there be a noise! There wasn’t any life in that valley; only dead, dry bones!

All right. So what was the noise he heard? Verse 7, “… and suddenly a rattling ..” A rattling noise! “… and the bones came together, bone to bone.” What a sight and sound! “The toe bone connected to the foot bone. The foot bone connected to the heel bone.
The ankle bone connected to the shin bone.
The shin bone connected to the knee bone.
The knee bone connected to the thigh bone.
The thigh bone connected to the hip bone.
The hip bone connected to the back bone.
The back bone connected to the shoulder bone.
The shoulder bone connected to the neck bone.
The neck bone connected to the head bone.

Now hear the word of the LORD!

Verse 7, “. . . and the bones came together, bone to bone.” The bones got connected as they responded to the Word of God! Has it ever occurred to you that one hundred pianos all tuned to the same fork are automatically tuned to each other? They are of one accord by being tuned, not to each other, but to the standard to which they all yield. We come together by getting in tune, not with a fork, but with the Father!

There is power in the Word of God! Even dead bones come alive and come together when they hear and respond to the word of God.

Now don’t miss this! Reviving dry bones requires not only …
(1) The PRESENCE of the LIVING GOD.
(2) The POWER of the WORD OF GOD.
(3) The PREACHING of the WORD OF GOD.

(4) The PROMISE of the SPIRIT OF GOD.

“8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.” Now they moved from merely being dry bones to dead corpses! He now sees form and unity but no life! What good is a body without breath?

9 Also 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.”’” 10 So I prophesied as
He commanded me, and breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great army.”

14 I will put My Spirit in you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken it and performed it,” says the Lord.”

They were the same bones but with a new spirit! Jesus tells us in John 14.15-17, “If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”

Acts 1.8, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Ephesians 5.18, “… be filled with the Spirit.”

Do you know what those dry bones forgot? The promises of God! For back in chapter 36.26-27, “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

You may be saying today, “Ernest, my bones are dry, my hope is lost, and I am cut off.” By taking your focus off of God, God takes His favor off of you.

But know this: our God revives dry bones!

*Dry bones can be revived!

*Lost hope can be rediscovered!

*Those who have cut themselves off can be restored!