

4Ws

ANCHORED
STANDING TRUE AGAINST THE TIDE

GOD'S WAY OF REVIVAL

JANUARY 29, 2023

WORSHIP

No Other Name, Praise Him
Forever, Anchor of Our Life,
Reliably True, Build My Life

WELCOME

What trial or challenge have
you experienced that you
thought you would never
overcome, but you did?

WORD

EZEKIEL 37:1-6 (READ THE REST OF THE CHAPTER)

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. ² He caused me to pass among them round about, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley; and lo, they were very dry. ³ He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord God, You know." ⁴ Again He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.'" ⁵ Thus says the Lord God to these bones, 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life. ⁶ I will put sinews on you, make flesh grow back on you, cover you with skin and put breath in you that you may come alive; and you will know that I am the Lord.'"

God's revival is at the heart of true discipleship. If we don't understand God's way of revival—we will never understand true discipleship. Teach discipleship and leadership in the light of spiritual warfare and the principles of revival and victory in Christ Jesus that we might mature in Him.

Spiritual warfare comes from the inner soul, the inner battle. It's a 3-dimensional warfare (**1 John 2:15-16**): lust of the flesh (money), lust of the eyes (sex), and pride of life (power). Money, sex, or power are objects— not the problem. The problem is covetousness in relation to money, lust in relation to sex, and pride in relation to power. Regarding covetousness, we need simplicity; lust, we need purity; pride, we need humility.

Ezekiel 37 is a prophetic vision—with a profound message. It gives us the keys to victory to spiritual warfare. There are three possible answers to the question, "can dry bones live?" (**v.3**). The obvious and natural answer is: "dry bones cannot live"; the seemingly spiritual answer is: "of course dry bones can live!". This is a false sense of triumphalism ---we determine what we want without asking whether it is God's desire and agenda for dry bones to live. The best answer is given by the prophet himself: "O Lord, You know". God is sovereign and we got to learn to bow to Him. Our posture determines our perspective; Ezekiel's posture was of surrender and dependence.

Revival is so important because it empowers us to live on God's truth. The problem with discipleship today is that we substitute knowledge and spiritual giftedness for true spirituality. Discipleship is not a transfer of Bible knowledge regardless of how you live. The Spirit-filled life, not the Spirit-gifted life, is the mark of spiritual maturity. A very gifted and talented Christian who's carnal is like dry bones needing revival!

There are three dimensions of God's revival:

I. THE PROMISE OF GOD FOR REVIVAL – THE WORK OF GOD (v.5)

Ezekiel 37:5 is the promise of God. Paying attention to the verbs, God says, "I will" and "you shall". The spiritual life and discipleship are not possible in our own strength. It's a work and initiative of God. When God does His work in us, we shall. Oftentimes, we reverse it to "I will" and "God shall".

The context here is the spiritual restoration of Israel but the principle is the revival of God unto His people. The key to revival is to start revival with our self. When we come in the strength of the Lord, we see Him mightily at work in our lives. We live in desperate and broken times. Satan will do anything to destroy everything you love and desire in the name of God—your ministry, your life, your purpose. He will do everything to disrupt and destroy. What is needed in a broken world is God's revival. When we surrender our lives to God, He pours forth His grace, love, and gifts to revive and strengthen us. If we come before the Lord and say, "start with me", He will start with us.

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II. THE PROSPECT OF REVIVAL – THE WAY OF GOD (v.4, 9)

We cannot try to initiate and push our own self-effort to revival without understanding the way of God.

A. Through God's Word: To prophesy (v.4) means to speak forth by faith to the dry bones by declaring to them the Word, promise, and power of God. It is the Word of God that brings life. That is why the Word of God is foundational in Christian discipleship.

The most important world you live in is the unseen world; its most precious commodity is truth found in the Word of God. It's divine revelation—not by tradition, institution, reason, or experience. Dry bones shall live by the power of His Word. To “prophesy to the bones” is the preaching of God's Word (C.H. Spurgeon).

B. Through Prayer: “Prophesy to the winds” (v.9) is prayer. The Word of God and prayer are joined together as twin engines for the spiritual life. This is revival God's way, so we ought to pray. When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.

C. Through Trials: God has a way to tutor us in the way of the Spirit. He uses circumstances to show us how He wants to sanctify and strengthen us so that we can walk in the glory, grace and power of God at work in our lives over and above all our circumstances because Jesus is victorious! The name of Jesus is powerful over all of life's circumstances. God teaches us spiritual warfare through trials. These spiritual attacks may come through a spirit of intimidation, condemnation or rejection.

Jesus is always in control, always on His throne. Whatever your pain, affliction, or circumstance, Jesus reigns over it all. Trials of life is a gift to teach us patience, sanctify us, and bring revival. God achieves His deepest work in us in our darkest days.

III. THE PURPOSE OF REVIVAL – THE WILL OF GOD (v.28)

Revival's purpose is for the nations to know there is a true and living God. In God's Presence, there is sanctification of His people so that the nations would know (v.28). When the church is revived, we have a powerful testimony before the watching world. When the church becomes like dry bones, we lose our testimony.

God's revival is a unifying revival (vv.15-17). It starts internally but once it spreads, it becomes a unifying revival. There are polarities and differences in the church and Satan masters in dividing. God wants to unify. The evidence of revival is the unity in love.

This goes back to the Abrahamic covenant; through Israel, all nations will be blessed. God is reuniting Abraham's spiritual sons again for His purposes—the nations would know Jesus is enthroned. We are victorious when Jesus; indeed, there can be joy despite circumstances, a fantastic testimony that Jesus is alive and dry bones can live!

DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

Which among the spiritual disciplines of simplicity, purity and humility do you most need to practice?

2. Setting It Right.

What will you do to immerse yourself more in God's Word and prayer this 2023?

3. Living It Out.

Who are the people in your life who need God to give them eternal life? Share Jesus to them this week!

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE
IN ACTION

Pray for revival of the spiritually dead that they may experience eternal life in Christ Jesus. Showcase simplicity, purity, and humility in your life. Be a channel of blessing to others through sharing the gospel and your testimony of personal spiritual revival in the Lord.

WEEKLY
PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- God's provision for families deeply affected by inflation.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented; escalating tension in East Asian countries to stop.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, deacons, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.

MEMORY VERSE

EZEKIEL 37:5 (ESV)

Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.