

Deeper Christian Life Ministry  
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Hope for Dry Bones  
Ezekiel 37:1-12

Praise the Lord. I said, "Praise the Lord." It is a joy to be with you. I pray that this will not just be an ordinary convention...that God will touch every heart and every life and family in Jesus' name. You know, there are many people that attend meetings like this...and they just come as usual. I was there last time and there again this time, but at the end of the meeting there is perhaps nothing for them to say..."This is what I didn't have, and this is what I now have." It's a pity for such people.

You know, in a gathering like this, you have quite a mixed crowd/multitude: there are those who are still like babies and toddlers, and they do what babies do. They're used to the usual thing, the ordinary thing, and the normal thing. They go through the rigmaroles of everything. At the end, when they get back, that's all. They've gone there, acted like babies and toddlers and there is no change. Other people are there like we had last night like Hannah. She came to Shiloh, and she said, "Something is going to happen."

If something is going to happen, you're going to go beyond the ordinary. You know, you've heard me say before, perhaps, and I've read it in other places, too...I don't know where I picked it up, but I'd said it before I read about it... that *If you do what you've always done, you'll get what you've always got*. Is that true? If you travel on the same road you've always travelled, you are going to get to the same destination that you always got to.

You look at your life today, and you look at your environment today, and if what you have is not pleasing, if what you've got is not what you've bargained for, guess who gave you that? You gave it to yourself - by what you did, by what you decided, by the attitude you had. If you're going to have the same attitude and the same approach and the same kind of things that you always do, you are going to get the same thing at the end of the convention.

Then you ask yourself, "If last year is the same as this year and this year is the same as the coming year, and every year is the same as it has always been, would you be happy at the end of the journey?" You just say, "This is all I've got because I didn't make up my mind to get more." This time you're going to get more. We're going to look at a passage of Scripture. I don't know how long it's going to take us, but whatever time it takes us, you want to say, "Lord" ...let God do something.

Those of us who are here...you might be a father and you look at yourself as a father. You might be a mother...you look at yourself as a mother, and you say, "Am I happy the way I am as a father?" You might be a pastor and sometimes we pastors...I'm one of them...sometimes we get to meetings and once we've preached, we're through. But I hope the pastors here, when you preach, you're not through yet. I said, "You're not through."

Is there something God can do in the life of a pastor? In fact, if we were to just come in here...when I listened to the message last night...you know, we talked about Hannah and 1 Samuel, chapter 1. I thought about that. I said, "Of all the people in Shiloh, all the people that came to that meeting and they got this and got that...some of them got tradition, some of them got a kind of fellow-feeling...isn't it good we're here once again?" Then I thought about Hannah and the prayer she prayed. She gave a prophet to the nation, somebody greater than even Saul, because that woman prayed...I don't even know the names of all the other children that she had but just that one.

If God can do something to you, and for you, and through you, during this convention, and then you give us something in this nation, that through you things are turned around. It's going to take people who have the purpose of mind, and they say, "I want to have something...something that will impact lives and impact families and impact the church and impact the nation." Is that possible? I said, "Is that possible?"

That means, then, you have to ask yourself...I'm keeping you standing because we're just warming up...are you getting ready? I've discovered that people that go through life and there is no desire for anything...If you ask them, "What do you want in life?" In life, what do I want? They can't decide. They can't tell what they want. The place it always starts is a desire...I have a desire. I'm asking while you're still standing there...*Do you have any desire at all - as a Christian, as a preacher, as a father, as a mother, as a professional, as whatever?* Do you have a desire? When you have a desire like that, it's going set you thinking...*How do I get this desire fulfilled?*

Are there people that have gone before me and they had the same kind of desire...they reached that goal and they got that desire fulfilled? That means you enquire. That means you are asking questions. You're asking...somebody before me that did what I now want to do? Because if you don't ask such questions, and you don't know those who have gone before you...and you know what? If I climbed the same stairs that somebody ahead of me climbed, I'll get to where he got to. If I walk the same path that the person ahead of me walked in, I'll get to the same destination. That's why you're enquiring, "Is there anybody that has done what I want to do? ... that has accomplished what I want to accomplish?" It is that that makes you to start on the way.

There is a desire and enquiry...you enquire. Then you acquire. What tools did they have? What books did they read? What tapes did they listen to? What were the things they did, and what did they apply their lives and their strengths to, that made them to be what they actually were? As you look at yourself you might say, "I've not even started from number one. I've never had any desire, not to talk of enquiring after those who have done what they've done, not to think of acquiring what they did.

Do you know what? There are some people that don't like to exert themselves. If you're going to do anything - we sweat. I said, "We sweat." You know... if the student will not sweat, if the father will not sweat, if the mother will not sweat, if people will not even apply themselves...and they are kind of afraid of their sweat. Their sweat irritates them. If you're a person like that - your

sweat irritates you. You take life easy. You go slowly. You never do anything. That means, then, I say, "You must perspire...perspire."

That means you just stay in there and you say, "This time, I'm going to do something. And I'm not afraid of my sweat. I'm not going to be irritated by my sweat. I'm going to perspire." Those are the people that excel in life. But you know if we just come to the convention, and here we are in the convention, and what a jolly time, a good time we're having together. Once you feel a little bit tired...no perspiration...you are gone.

Then we find you snoring somewhere. Then we say, "Jonah, why are you here?" "I just couldn't take all that. Look at the program. You're here in the morning from 9 o'clock till 10:30, from 10:45 to 12:15, then from 12:30...then they go...who do they think we are? They want to drive us to such an extreme." It's the people that are willing to perspire...they're the people that say, "I will get something." And you'll get something.

Then you're not going to look at other people. You're not going to..."If he is resting, why am I not resting?" Because your goals are different. Your destinations are different, and your desires are different. That's why you allow him to have his liberty to sleep. You want to just get what you want to get.

I don't know where Peninnah was when Hannah was praying. I don't know where even Elkanah was when Hannah was praying. And I don't know where Hophni and Phinehas were. Hophni and Phinehas? They needed a great change in their lives, but they never cared. All those people, even Eli himself...the boss and the highest of them all...and you can tell, he was just sitting there and watching Hannah pray.

I don't like watching other people succeed; I want to get in myself and succeed. I don't want to watch other people getting happy; I want to get in myself and get happy. How about you? But Eli was just watching, and Eli even had a wrong accusation, "Would you take away your wine?" Sometimes you find here that you might find some people that...our ministers spoke about it here last night, and they always say the same thing. They always want to provoke and irritate and annoy and whatever.

It reminds of a preacher that went to particular meeting. They invited him to preach. He got up and he preached. He preached his heart out. He said everything that he ever knew. Then when he finished, the people lined up to just say, "Hello. Wonderful. It's good you came." And this fellow came up on the line and said, "Hi preacher. This is great. This is the worst sermon/message I ever heard in my life."

And the preacher thought, *Did I hear her right?* So the preacher just said, "Oh thank you, thank you very much." And then she went to join the queue again. So when she joined the queue again, when she got to the preacher, she said, "Hi preacher. Thank you for coming. This is the worst message I ever heard in my life." The preacher thought he got exactly what the woman was saying now.

Then she went back to the queue again the third time. Then the preacher saw her coming. Then the preacher said, "I've had it today." And eventually she came on she said, "Hi preacher. Thank you for coming, but I want to tell you something. This was the worst message I ever heard in my life." So the preacher became disturbed.

Eventually, after the whole thing...greeting all the people...then the preacher was talking to the pastor. He said, "Please, be sincere with me. You invited me to your church and I thought I did the best I could do, but a woman came and told me, 'This is the worst message I ever heard in my life.' And she came three times telling me that same thing."

And the pastor said, "Is it so-and-so?" He said, "Yes. That is the person that dressed like that." He said, "Yes. Oh, don't mind her. That's the only sentence she has in her program. Her computer doesn't have all these software. The only thing she has in her system is "*This is the worst message I ever heard in my life.*" And she says that every time.

Are there some people that are programmed like that here? That, you know, the only thing you have in your upstairs, in your computer, is "*This is the worst message I ever heard in my life.*" Your response to everything that is said, everything that is done, and all the people that you meet...you say exactly the same thing every time. I think this time we need to take that hardware, software, whatever you call it...take it out of this computer. We need to reprogram this computer of yours. What if we just reprogram you during this convention? Then you now go this direction that you never dreamt of before.

Remember what I said. You are going to start with a desire. Am I right? Then you are going to enquire. Some of us are going in that direction. You want to enquire from us if we have time to answer your questions - *How did you get to where you got to?* - so that we can lend you some of our tools. Then you want to acquire. And you want to perspire. Maybe as you go all along, somebody will look at your life and you'll inspire somebody.

Now, if you can, during this convention...it's not just that you are getting something, but you can inspire somebody by the way you carry yourself, by the things you say, by the way you live your life. And somebody can say, "I was in that convention. I listened to the preachers, but not just the preachers, I saw Brother So-and-so. I saw Sister So-and-so. And what she said, what she did, how she carried herself, inspired me. Now I'm deciding I want to be like this because of the inspiration I got from her, I got from him.

Eventually when we get on to glory and somebody says, "It was in that convention I took a decision and I decided this is what I'm going to be in life. And by the grace of God, I became what I actually was looking at every time." Then says, "Because of you I am where I am now." How you'd be glad in glory that you inspired somebody.

I want you to make up your mind that during this convention you are going to inspire somebody. Then you are going to ask yourself when there is a thought in your mind, an idea that came to you...*Act this way, talk this way, go this way, behave this way.*...you'll say, "How will that inspire other people if I did that?" If you judge your life just by that, *I want to inspire somebody.*...then you say, "That's not going to inspire them in the right direction." Because of

that, you want to change everything around, and then during this time you might want to retire so as to re-fire.

You see, if you're always in the crowd, always talking, you are going to talk yourself out of what you really desired. But if you will retire and just say...you know, somebody wants chat, chat, chat and talk, talk, talk...say, "Oh my brother, I'm sorry. This is a special time for me. There's something I've been looking for for one whole year. This is my time just to be here. I don't have time for all the chatting and all the talking and what we used to do. I used to be in the gossiping camp in every convention. But this time, because of what I have in mind, because of what I want to achieve and what I want to have, I'm retiring from all that, so that when I get back to my various locations, I'm going to re-fire." Am I talking about you? Can that happen?

Now just bow your head now, and we're going to just think through and pray and say, "Lord here am I, now." Why are you here in this convention? What's the Lord going to do? What change is He going to make? What's your desire? Are you enquiring for anything? Asking for anything? Are you willing to acquire whatever it takes? The courage and the strength, the tapes and the books, the habit, the change in your approach. Are you going to acquire whatever it will take?

Whoever agrees with you, whoever disagrees with you...are you going to be the same old Jack? The same old leaking vessel? Are you willing to perspire until you get to where you want to get to? Will your life influence anybody? Inspire anyone? Are you just going to go through life with your life not impacting anyone? Are you so used to the crowd that you cannot for some time, in solitude, retire so that the Lord can empower you? You then want to re-fire, renew strength. In Jesus' name we pray!

Heavenly Father, we do thank You at this time. We bless Your name. Thank You for this convention. Thank You, Lord, because we know You have us here for a purpose. We know that nothing happens by accident in the kingdom of God. Therefore, Lord, we know that we are not here by accident. We are just praying that word that will do something within us - that sentence, that signal, that verse of Scripture that will turn us around - give unto us in Jesus' name.

We're praying, Lord, that this convention will not be like last year's convention...like the conventions of past years. Lord, we pray there will be something new, there will be something different, there will be something You are going to impart, impute into our lives that will make us totally different in Jesus' name.

Lord, when Saul left Samuel and he turned, he became another man. We're praying, Lord, you'll turn us to be another man, another woman, another child, another boy, another girl...that Lord, something different from what we ever experienced, You'll grant unto everyone in Jesus' name. Help us, Lord, not to settle down or think we've got to the climax, as if we've seen what we'd ever see, but Lord, something new, something different, something greater, something higher than we have ever known, grant unto every one of us in Jesus' name.

Let's hear, Lord, with new ears, think with new minds, see with new eyes, that Lord, we'll be able to have new experience and do new exploits. Thank You Lord because we know You have answered. In Jesus' name we pray. And everybody said, "Amen."

You can sit down. Thank you very much. We're looking at Ezekiel, chapter 37. *Hope for Dry Bones*. We're going to read from verse 1 all through to verse 10, but I'm going to start just reading from verse 1 and then I'll go down to verse 10. We're going to make some comparison. After the comparison, then we'll see if we can read through. Verse 1: ***"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of ..."*** What? ***"...bones."*** You'll see here when we start the chapter that what Ezekiel saw...he just saw bones, dry bones.

Look at verse 2: ***"And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very..."*** What? Jump to verse 10. It says, ***"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet..."*** What? ***"...an exceeding great army."*** As we look at those beginning verses and the final verse in verse 10, you want to ask yourself, *Where did this start?* It started in the valley. It started as bones. And it started as dry, dead bones. As you look at the end, you see not bones, but you see a great army, an exceedingly great army.

Then you're asking yourself...if you started in verse 1, what does it take to come to verse 10? And you're not just looking at Israel as a nation. You're not looking at Judah as those two feeble tribes. You're looking at yourself because it says, "Whatsoever things were written afore time..." that is written in the Old Covenant, in the Old Testament...they're "written for our learning upon whom the ends of the world are come." Am I reading something here about Israel? Yes. Am I reading something about Judah? Yes, but they're written for me.

How can I move from what I see in verse 1, dry dead bones...and then by the end of the convention, I'm not just a dry bone like we started because some people are just like that no matter what program they go through, what convention they go through, what meetings they go through. And no matter how many preachers preach, where they were in verse 1...by the time they get to verse 10, which is the end of the convention time, they still remain like they were in verse 1.

But as you look at the mighty change and you look at the dramatic change here from just dry bones in the beginning verses to a great, mighty army in verse 10, then you are asking, "Can we think about what they did and how they did it, how they became what they became?" Just as I said before, if you look at people ahead of you and they're going to a particular place where you want to get to (and they have gotten there), then you can say, "If I take the steps they take, if I walk the paths they walked, if I go through the stairs they went through, then I'll be able to get to the same place." So we're going to look at those verses from verse 1 all through to verse 10. We're going to see what it takes when we say, *"There is hope for dry bones"*.

Before I go back to verse 1, let's look at verse 11: ***"Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say..."*** Behold they say ***"...Our bones are dried..."*** That's in verse 1...and then they said in verse 11, ***"...our hope is..."*** What? It's ***"...lost."*** There are people that give up. You know, you won't be buried until you give up the ghost. It's suddenly when you give up hope...nobody is going to touch your life and nobody is going to forget about you. Nobody is going to write you off until you give up. The people gave



up. They said, "***Our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.***" "***Therefore...***" in verse 12: "***...prophesy and say unto them, 'Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves.'***" He said, "I will. I will."

Sometimes when you feel "nothing else can be done and I cannot make any progress anymore", and sometimes the people around us...I think some of us talk too fast and we talk too quickly and we talk too soon, and we write off people who are struggling. Once you get to verse 1, you get to verse 2 and see that these are bones...they are dead and they are dried. You have trained yourself to always pass negative comment. You want to tell them, "Do you still have hope? I want to tell you that this situation is very, very bad."

The way we talk...we bury them before they die. You want to be careful that during this time of the convention, if you cannot say something good to somebody then shut up. Let them sort out themselves. If you cannot say something good, something encouraging, something uplifting, something that will make the person feel *There is hope. I can do something. I can still become something*, then shut up. Don't even talk to their friends. Don't talk to their relatives. Don't talk to anybody at all. Talk to them. Because some of us...the way we talk and the way we...I want to comment about Mr. A...and we don't want to talk to him directly, therefore we go to Mr. J. Then we say, "J, have you seen A for sometime?" "Not really?" "Well, he's a never-do-well. He cannot make it and this and that"...because you're sure that Jay is going to tell A that this is what they said about you. Some of those people...it's only what we put in their computer, in their program...that's what they walk by. But if you can just restrain yourself at this time - you have a lot things on your own plate by yourself. The things you need to do and the things you need to turn around in your life...that we don't worry about A, B, or C or D or E or F or about anybody...just about me.

As I'm standing here, I'm thinking about myself, the programs ahead of me and the challenges ahead of me and the things I need to, the things I need to plan that I don't have time thinking about other people and talking about other people. If you just say, "What do I desire? What am I enquiring? What do I want to acquire? In which way do I want to perspire, to be able to do and to be able to have what I want to have? Who do I want to inspire in my life? How do I want to retire from the crowd so I can re-fire?" I have something to do that I don't have time to be thinking and talking about other people.

Here God said in verse 12: "***Therefore, prophesy and say unto them, 'Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people'...***" Oh my people. Oh my people. That is, the Lord God was talking to Ezekiel and said, "These people, no matter their condition, they are still my people." How could God say that? Because He was looking at the future rather than at the present. Many times when you look at people, you look at their present situation, and their present predicament, and their present weakness, and their present whatever. And you speak in the present and say, "This is what they are," because in your own mind, because the way your own programming is done, you think that tomorrow will be like today. You think that next week will be like today. You think that next year will be like today. It's not going to be so because there is a God on the throne. There is a God on the throne who is going to make a change, and because of that, He called them *My people*.

And then He said, ***"I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel. And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves, And shall put my spirit..."*** Where? ***"...in you."*** They will not be dry bones anymore. Then He says, ***"...and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it,' saith the LORD."***

We're talking about *Hope for Dry Bones...Hope for Dry Bones*. I'm going to just go through from verse 1 all through to verse 10, but as we go through what do we see?

1. *God's People in a Hopeless State*. Now, they shouldn't have been in that condition, but they were in that condition. Ezekiel was brought to the valley, and he saw them just like that.
2. *God's Power for Helpless Souls*.
3. *God's Promise to a Spiritual Heritage*.

We're looking at number one. I'm reading now from verse 1, Ezekiel, chapter 37. ***"The hand of the LORD was upon me."*** ***"The hand of the LORD was upon me."*** Can you just stop for a moment there? Ezekiel was faced with a kind of great challenge. He was to minister to the people of Israel. If you look at Ezekiel (you don't have time to look at that now), Ezekiel chapter 3: ***"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of..."*** What? ***"...Israel."*** That is the calling he had. He had no assistant. He had no membership of the council. He had nobody else, just himself. "Son of Man, you are the one I have called, and you don't have anybody you are going to lean on, anybody you are going to depend upon. You are going to do this because this is your ministry."

Then the Lord showed him a picture of the people to whom he was supposed to minister. These were people that were dead bones and dry bones. Then he said, ***"The hand of the LORD was upon me."*** The hand of the Lord...that's the anointing of the Lord, the power of the Lord, the strength of the Lord. "The unction from above is on me." Isn't that what we need? If we are going to do something that others have not done, if you have a dream...you want to reach out to a dying nation, you want to reach out to backslidden people, you want to reach out to people that were like dry bones and dead bones...you better have the hand of the Lord, the Spirit of the Lord, the finger of the Lord, the unction of the Lord, the power of the Holy Ghost upon your life.

***"The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD."***

"Carried me out." He made him go and see what he had never seen. If you don't see what you've never seen, you'll never do what you've never done. If you see people today the way you saw them yesterday, and you think that *Sure, they're still the same. What need do they have? What special necessity do we need to think about?* Then it says, ***"...and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of..."*** What? ***"...full of bones."*** That means *skeletons*. They were just skeletons, and some of them were even dismembered and disjointed and one bone here, one bone here.



**"...And caused me to pass by them round about." "...And caused me to pass by them round about."** Ezekiel, don't preach yet, just observe. Don't talk yet, just observe. Sometimes we are too quick to want to help people. You don't know the whole story. You don't have the whole deal. You just see them. The moment you see them...this is my time. Don't talk, just pass around. Just look around. Just observe...observe the people. Here is what the Lord was telling Ezekiel. He was saying, "Ezekiel, it's not the first moment you see somebody when you just begin to preach. And the first moment you have contact with somebody, you just begin to talk." He says, "No. Look around." That means there are times you are just quiet, and you listen, and you observe.

Those of us who are leaders and preachers in particular, especially if you have been studying the Bible...you know so much of the Bible like a few of us...you just feel, *I want to dish out something. I want to say something.* Why don't we just know that what you want to give out is what the people actually need?

We have a lot of things stored up in our minds, in our brain, in our heart, that you might just be giving the wrong thing to the wrong person, and you're not really doing anybody any good. But you keep quiet. You observe. You see like Ezekiel was told...that he went around, he was thinking around...and then it said, **"...and, behold, there were very many."** See the size of the problem first. See the depths of the problem and the deadness in the place.

Then it says in verse 2: **"...behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very..."** What? **"...dry. And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live?" "Son of man, can these bones live?"** Now we need to listen to the Lord intelligently. Sometimes you think the Lord is calling you into to a council. Sometimes you think the Lord is putting the decision in your hand. Sometimes you think the Lord is telling you..."These bones now...tell me Ezekiel...can they live?...and I'll go by whatever you say." Some of us feel that...you see a man, you see a woman, you see a boy, you see a girl, you see a young person, and then you're almost telling God, "God, write him off. God, write her off."

The Lord was not asking Ezekiel because the Lord did know what to do. He wanted to know the level of faith that Ezekiel had. Do you say you serve a mighty God? Let me ask you a question: Can these bones live? Do you say you're serving the God of heaven and earth? Let me ask you a question: Can these bones live? Do you say you are serving a God who is full of love and compassion and mercy and faith, and that with Him all things are possible...that He made the whole world out of nothing? Do you believe that that God is just the same..."I'm God, I change not"? I'm going to ask you a question, then. This will reveal your own faith or your own unbelief and your own understanding and your own relationship with the people. "Ezekiel, tell me, can these bones live?"

What an answer he gave! When God asks you a question, we need wisdom to be able to answer. It says in verse 3: **"And I answered..."** Tell me the rest. **"...O Lord GOD, thou knowest."** What do I know? What do I know? How can I size up Your power? How I can I tell what You will do and what You will not do? The only thing I can say is "O Lord, thou knowest." Would you push the decision back to God, when He is asking you a question about yourself, about your child, about your wife, about your husband, about the members of your church?

Can anything change? Can God turn anything around? Can these bones live? Can there be a revival? Can God touch this mission? Can the Lord move everything that a mighty army will come at last? If you don't know the answer, why don't you tell God, "O Lord God, thou knowest"?

Let's look at the hopelessness of these people that are the nation of Israel. Number one, they were like bones that were dry. And then, the last number...they were dead. From being dry to being dead, we're going to fill in the space. That is, we're going to look at these people, and then you look at your own condition and you say, "How am I? How would I describe myself if I were among these ones?" And then see what the Lord did eventually. Let's see their condition, the hopeless state.

Number one, they were dry. Number two, they were defiled. They were in the open valley. There was no protection on them. All the elements of the air just rubbed on them...the defilement was there. They were deceived. As you look at the whole of Ezekiel and Jeremiah talking about the children of Israel, their false prophets deceived them. In fact, that's what sent them to captivity. That's why they came to the condition in which they were...dry.

Not only were they dry, they were defiled. As you look at chapter 36. Look at Ezekiel 36, and we're looking at verse 24: "***For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.***" Verse 25 now: "***Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be...***" What? "***...clean.***" And it says in verse 25: "***from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.***"

That tells us, then, as Ezekiel looked at them and the information, the revelation the Lord had given him concerning these people...they were dry, they were defiled and they were deceived and they were also disunited. You sometimes come to a congregation of people, and it's like one bone is there, the other bone is there...there is disunity. You wonder, *Can God do anything in this situation?* Because there is strength in unity. There is power in unity.

When we're able to plan together, we are able to move together, able to go together, able to go in the same direction, what strength we have. "If two of you shall agree as touching anything that you ask, I'll do it for you." But now these people were just scattered bones, disunited. They were dispersed, just thrown here and there. It's in that condition that Ezekiel saw them.

I want to ask you a question. If you are a pastor and you are transferred to a new location...and when you get to that location, the first Sunday you spent with them - they did their Sunday Scripture, they asked all their questions - and you can sense, *These people are dry. There is no freshness in them at all.* Then they looked defiled. Just looking around, you can see that there is defilement all around you...their language, their behavior, their interaction.

You're just a new pastor there. How would you feel? What would you think you would do? Then you see that somebody is asking a question, and you say, "They're so deceived. The place I'm coming from, nobody asks a question like that. We have enough knowledge even in the primary level that they will know that is not alright." They're deceived.

The Lord is now sending you to these people. This is something you can do. He's asking you, "Now you've had your first meeting, your first worship service in that place. What do you think will happen here? Can you take this church from where they are now to where the Lord wants them to be?" Most of the people would say, "Lord, take me out and let me go to another church."

But He wants the Gospel preached to every creature. He wants revival, renewal everywhere. So if every one of us is checking out from among the people that are problematic people, who is going to minister to them? I think God wants to raise up some Ezekiels here that will be able to stay in that valley. Then, by the time you minister to them, they're not going to remain in the valley experience; they're going to go to the mountain top experience in Jesus' name.

Then I said these people, they were dispersed; and they were desolate. If you read Ezekiel from 34, 35, 36, you'll see their desolation. These people were deprived. When last did they hear something great, something happening from heaven and coming upon them? Eventually they were dead bones. Here is what the Lord is telling us. He's saying this is the condition of the people, and yet the Lord is sending us, He's saying, "Something is going to happen." I said, "Something is going to happen."

Then look at your own life. As you look inward...if you are totally satisfied, you have not been looking in the right direction. You look at your prayer life, you look at your personal family life, you look at your professional life, you look at everything around you, and you ask yourself, *How am I? What am I? What can I see today?* You'll see that your condition almost wants to depress you. You say, "This is what I didn't know...that things were this low; things were this bad."

But the Lord is taking you from verse 1...He wants to take you to verse 10, where at the end you'll just say, "Something is going to happen. Whatever is going to happen, I'm going to let God have His way. I'm not going to think and act as if I know what to do. I know where to be. I know how to pray. I know how to talk. I'm just going to allow God to do what He wants to do."

Look at Psalm 141. We're looking at verse 7 here. It's still talking about the condition of the children of Israel, and this may paint a picture in your own heart, in your own life, as to what God thinks or knows about you. ***"Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth, as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth."*** Here is David looking at the people he was ruling over, because if you look at the title of Psalm 141, you'll see *A Psalm of David*.

As David the king looked at his subjects at this particular time, all they could conclude is ***"Our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth."*** I call upon you if you are a leader in the church or a worker in the church, and you are a leader among a particular section...you look at the people if you've been listening to their stories and you've been interacting with them. The things you hear...you sit back and say, "What do these people look like?" ...Like David was looking at their condition.

As we come to our national convention at this time and as we interact and we try to see...because out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaketh. We see the things that are coming out from our mouths, and we say, "Look at the condition of our people. Look at the

spiritual condition, look at the place where we are..." The thoughts that come to your mind, because those thoughts...they say quite a lot about the direction your life is going.

You come to the conclusion that David came to...that our bones are scattered at the grave's mouth. Then it says, **"...as when one cutteth and cleaveth wood upon the earth."** But in this case, the Lord is still asking the question, "Can these bones live?" The answer is, "Oh Lord, thou knowest." And whatever He needs to do, He will do because He's the God of all power, the God of all might. That means, then, we have to really manifest faith as well as hope.

We're looking at Romans chapter 4. I'm reading from verse 21. Let's back up to verse 18. **"Who against hope believed in hope."** **"Who against hope believed in hope."** You find yourself in the valley. You look at your life. You look at where you're coming from. You look at your own family...all the children as well as daddy and mommy. You look at the church, the members of the church. When you look at the whole condition, you say, "It looks like we need a divine touch, a divine impartation upon our lives." Then, even when the case appears hopeless, it says, "He hoped against hope **...that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak...**" How? **"...not weak in faith."** ...Not weak in faith.

This is not talking about what I can do, what we can do. It's talking about what God can do. It's not faith in himself. It's not faith in Sarah. It's not faith in the condition at that time. It's faith in God. **"...being not weak in faith."** ...Faith in God. You may not have confidence in yourself, but you can have confidence in God. Do you know that God is higher than you are, greater than you are, mightier than you are, and He is more powerful than you are? Even when you've lost hope in yourself, you don't lose hope in God. Even when you've lost trust and confidence and faith in yourself, you don't lose faith or confidence in God. He was not looking at himself; he was looking at the Almighty God.

That's why it says, **"And being not weak in faith, he considered..."** What? **"...not his own body."** If you keep on considering who you are - this is the way I've always been, what I've always done. I've always failed. I've always not been able to make it. I've always been in the same pit, in this same valley. If you look at yourself, there is nothing to pick you up. You cannot pick up yourself by your bootstraps.

But it is when you are looking at God...**"And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body..."** because he considered God who is spirit. When you are considering God who is spirit, you are not considering your own body that is now dead...**"neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through..."** What? **"...unbelief."** Unbelief makes us stagger like drunken people.

Then it says in verse 21: **"And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform."** He can do it...whatever it is. You look at yourself today and you look at your problems, whatever problems you have...whether it's spiritual or material or physical...there's no place you find yourself now that somebody has not been before you. They prayed and God answered their prayers. If God answered them, and God is no respecter of persons, He will answer your prayers, too.

That's number one: *God's People in a Hopeless State.*

We're looking at point number two. What's point number two? *God's Power for Helpless Souls...* God's power. Let's look at Ezekiel chapter 37, in verse 4: ***"Again he said unto me, 'Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; 'Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.'" So I prophesied as I was commanded."*** Let's stop there for a moment.

Now you find the congregation of Ezekiel...you find that they were dry, they were defiled, they were dispersed, they were deceived. These were people that were just here and there...disunited. What does the average preacher, pastor, minister do? When you see situations like that, do you know what we do? One, we complain: "How could you be like this? How did you get yourself in a condition like this?" Not only that we complain...two, we condemn.

We say, "This is bad; I never saw a terrible crowd like this before." But Ezekiel never did any of those things. It looks like we who are preachers and we who are ministers...if the hand of the Lord is upon us, then the voice of the Lord will come through us because the things that Ezekiel did not do...and we need to ask ourselves...I'll come back to that sentence I gave you originally. If we do what we have always done, we're going to get what we have always got.

Now, I've been a minister now for a number of years. I should be asking myself whenever I find my congregation in this condition I didn't expect, "What did I do in the past?" Did I complain? Did I condemn? Did I criticize? If that's what I did, I need to ask myself, "What result did I have?" Did my criticism change the people? If you have some experience, the answer is no. Did my condemnation turn the people around? If you have some experience, you'll find the answer is no. Did my complaint, casting them away, and saying, "Get out of my sight. You'll never do well." Did that change anybody? No. It just provoked them, made the people angry. "You say we are bad. Yes we are bad. We're scattered? Yes, we are scattered. We're defiled? Yes, we're defiled. We're never-do-well people? Yes, we're never-do-well people."

Do you know what Ezekiel did not do? Ezekiel did not do what the average minister does today. If we're going to have the same kind of revival, and if we're going to have what we see in Ezekiel chapter 37, God will begin with us. We have to change before our families would change. We have to change before our congregations would change. We have to change before our friends, our neighbors, would change...because if we always say what we've always said, we're going to get the same reaction from the people. If we always preach the way we have always preached, we're going to same end result from the people. If always cast away and condemn and criticize and kind of pounce upon the people, we are going to get the same result. If we are not happy with the results we are getting, let's change our method. We can change. I said, "We can change."

So what did he do then? Number one, he preached. He preached. He proclaimed. "Hear the word of the Lord." Just the word...just the word...not my ideas about the people, not my feelings about the people, not because I'm unhappy, I'm provoked, I'm angry...and because I'm angry I'm



telling them what I want them to hear. Just hear the word of the Lord. What was the Lord saying to these dry bones, these dead bones, these dispersed bones, these defiled bones?

That's what I want to tell the people. If we do that in this convention and just say what the Lord would have said to the people if the Lord were here, there's going to be a mighty revival. There's going to be a shaking and a bone coming to the other bone. We're going to have a great army in Jesus' name.

Not only that...the promise. Number one is the preaching; number two is the promise. Look at verses 5 and 6. ***"Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will."*** I will...when the Lord says, "I will," He's making a promise. Number one, you are preaching. And you're preaching just the word of the Lord, the word of the Lord. Then it gives us the promise: ***"I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live."***

In verse 6: ***"And I will lay sinews upon you..."*** That's the promise. We give the people the promises of God. Whatever the conditions are...that's what will turn the congregation around. That's what will bring the revival. That's what will bring the hope. It's not just that we say there is going to be hope, there is going to be joy in the camp, and there is joy in the land. We must give the promises of the Lord that God Himself said He is going to fulfill. Then verse 6 says, ***"I will...cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the LORD."*** We'll know that He is Lord.

Then, number three: there is perception. We perceive. We perceive. You see God at work. Don't touch it. Don't turn it around. Don't try to...like Uzzah did when the ark was shaking. Then he put forth his finger. Don't do that. Let God do everything so that the Lord can take the glory when He has finished. In verse 7 it says, ***"So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold..."*** Look at it, behold, and gaze upon it, perceive. There was perception here, and a shaking. The bones came together, bone to his bone.

I want you to look up for a moment. Now, we're talking about the whole nation. As we're talking about the whole nation, these were like spiritually dead people. The Lord showed Ezekiel the picture of dead people. The flesh is already kind of rotten and dried up. All that remains are bones. Not only that...the bones were dismembered...that is, kind of dispersed and thrown here and there. I want you to think about it.

If Ezekiel in his own strength, in his own wisdom was to go pick this bone, join it to this bone...pick this one, join it to this...it would be literally impossible. If you have even a hundred people and they were dead, and you have just bones and the bones were all scattered...for you to be able to put everything together, bone to his bone, that would be difficult.

So there are things in the Christian faith, in the church, that we don't try to do by ourselves because we just cannot. We let go and let God. Just leave it in the hands of God and see what God can do. God can do it. When you think about what He's going to do at the end of time. Of all the people who have died...some died in the ocean. Some were burned and some were buried in their graves. All the atoms and the molecules that the scientists are talking about...all those things are all scattered here and there.



God is going to pick up every molecule and every atom and is going to assemble the man back together. He's not going to misplace somebody's arm to another person's arm. He's going to put everything together. If the almighty God is able to do that on the day of resurrection, he can join anything together today...husband and wife disunited or divorced, one is there and one is there...He can bring everything together. ...Parents and children all scattered and you don't know where to find one another...He can bring everything together.

Then some of our relatives who feel that we're nuts or we're fanatics, and they're here and there. You're saying, "Can they come together?" He can bring everyone together. Think about members of our church here. Look at the church here. Some of them are not here. They have scattered to that place and that place, and now we're having a convention. Some of them might be around. Then, when you see them, the temptation is to say, "Okay. You are here. Uh-huh. Because you heard that the GS [General Superintendent] is coming, now you came. Welcome. I hope that..." Stop.

Remember, Ezekiel was not to say what he wanted to say. You can drive those people back into the valley again with those negative comments you are about to make. Let go and let God. They're in the hands of God. They came. You didn't bring them. And as they have come on their own, now, let God work on them. Let us suspend some of these comments and some of these jabs we give to people that just put a dagger in their hearts. And they say, "So the church is still like that: They have doctrine, they don't have love. They have doctrine, they don't have compassion. They have doctrine, they're not considerate. They don't think about how people feel. See the way this man is talking to me. I summed up courage to come to this convention. I knew somebody was going to pick me out and is going to tell me something like this. Once I finish this, I'll never step in that place again." You'll drive them back to the valley.

Why don't you just, "Hello. How are you? Welcome. Praise God you came." And that's all. Leave the rest in the hands of God. God knows how to bring one bone to his bone. If we would do that in our local churches, our churches will grow. And the people that are scattered here and there, God will bring them together. Then you control yourself and not say what you used to say, because if we say what we have always said, we're going to have the same result we have always seen. Therefore things are going to change, and our churches will grow in Jesus' name.

I come to verse 8: ***"And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them."*** God was working. One message may not do it all. Another message will still have to come. One item of prayer...prayer requests may not do it all. Another prayer time, prayer period may have to come. Then in verse 9: ***"Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind."*** Do you see here that Ezekiel was not involved with the people? He was only involved with God, and God told him what to do. If we're going to have revival, we must have this spiritual discipline.

The involvement we used to have with the people - correcting them, criticizing them, condemning them, and putting things straight, and thinking that we are the people to get the people saved, we are the people to make them repent, we are the people to make them act this way and act that way - you cannot save any soul; you cannot make anybody repent. We can do

whatever we want to do. Repentance comes from God. Salvation comes from God. Except God gives that grace to repent and to be born again, all that we do or we say will never be able to do it.

You know sometimes you find in some congregation – I heard a particular minister...he came to the congregation. Then, he wanted to pray. He didn't know what to say, and he just said, "Oh God." People broke down and started repenting, coming to know the Lord. In another place, the choir was singing. They were singing *Salvation is Full and Free*, and somebody broke down and began to cry, began to repent, and came to know the Lord.

When you leave things in the hands of God, He knows where to tap the string and He knows where to produce the music. He knows what to touch in everybody's heart, that the person would be drawn to the Lord. Let's allow God to do what He wants to do, and revival will come in Jesus' name. So Ezekiel gave God the chance to work. As we give God the chance to work during this time, during this convention, mighty things are going to take place.

Let's look at verse 9: ***"Then said he unto me, 'Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, 'Thus saith the Lord GOD; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied..."*** Tell me the next words. ***"...as he commanded me."*** Not like I wanted, not like I'm I used to, "this is my normal, regular thing," no! "...As he commanded me." That's how the blessing comes. That's how the revival comes. That's why a great thing, that's how a great thing actually happens.

Now I come to point number three. In point number three, we're looking at *God's Promise to a Spiritual Heritage*. We're looking at 37, verse 10: ***"So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them."*** That's talking about the Spirit of God coming into the people. It's the Spirit of God that brings conviction. It's the Spirit of God that brings conversion. It's the Spirit of God that makes a person to be able to stand on conviction to say, "Yes. This is what I now believe. I'm going to walk in the direction of righteousness."

The Spirit came into them ***"...and they lived."*** We will live. That means resurrection power came upon them. I believe that whatever is dead within us, resurrection power can come upon us even this moment in Jesus' name. Not only resurrection, restoration came. You see, the life they had lost was now restored unto them.

Number one is resurrection: that the Lord raised up the things that were dead, the things that were dry. Now things turned around, and now restoration. Number three: redemption came unto them. They were now again the redeemed people of the Lord. Things were totally turned around. Where they started in verse 1, verse 2, verse 3...everything now changed. You can see that these were the redeemed people of the Lord. Reconciliation...You see the bones came to his bone.

Let's say I'm a pastor and somebody has done something against me that I really felt he shouldn't have done. Then I have the chance...because I hold the microphone and have the pulpit...and then I want to hammer it in. "Do you know what the Bible says? When you offend people, you have to repent and make restitution.

Restitution means that...for example, you have been slandering...it may be your pastor, it may be a Christian worker"...and really I'm talking about myself...and I'm trying to pass the message across and the fellow said, "I know what you're saying. I'll never say sorry to you. Preach all you want to. I'm just the way I am." There'll be no reconciliation. But when you leave it in the hands of God, and just say what the Lord wants you to say, and just preach what the Lord wants you to preach, you'll be surprised that even things you didn't speak about...people coming to say, "We're sorry about this. We know that this is not the right thing; this is not the right direction...." There will be reconciliation.

I pray that this time, we'll not just be deceiving ourselves...just singing together, and clapping together, and smiling and laughing together...and yet we know we are not really together. That our heart with one another - sometimes it's in the home, husband and wife...sometimes between fathers and mothers and children, and sometimes between members of the church...sometimes between the workers and the region overseer. We know that we're just managing, but we're not going to manage anymore.

There will be, number one, resurrection. Number two, there is going to be restoration. Number three, there is going to be redemption. Number four, there is reconciliation: "bone to his bone." Then we rise up, a great army, a mighty army. We now know we are fighting just one enemy. We're not fighting ourselves anymore. There has been regeneration, a new life coming into them. Of course, there is righteousness as well.

It says, "An exceeding great army." ...If all of us here can allow God to do what He wants to do. He wants to do it. I said, "He wants to do it." I know that He can do it. If we will allow God to do what He wants to do, and we're going to accept with the Lord, "I'm not where I ought to be yet. I'm not perfect yet. This is what I want. I don't want to be in the valley anymore. I want to rise up as a mighty soldier. I want to be part of the mighty army of the Lord."

The Lord will do it. It says, "He will restore to us the years that all the cankerworms have eaten." What does that mean? I move around a lot, and as I move around I see a lot of people that would say, "Pastor." Then I say, "Where did we meet?" "Oh, I got born-again in Deeper Life, in such and such a place." I say, "Where are you now?" He says, "I'm in this other place." I say, "But why? Since you got born-again in Deeper Life, why are you not with us anymore?" He says, "Pastor, it's a long, long story. When I left home and I came to my present place...I got to that church, and even though there is a Deeper Life sign board, I saw what I never saw, I heard what I never heard, and I just felt, *It's enough; I can't take any more*. That's why I had to leave and go to another place." You know, the things that have happened...much water that has gone under the bridge. If we would just allow the Lord and say, "Lord, this is an opportunity for us to just let go and let God." Then, where we need to repent, we repent. Where we need to reconcile, we reconcile. Where we need to say, "God, let the bones join together again and raise up a mighty army".

I would think (conservatively) that in this country, the United States of America, we have as many people outside Deeper Life (who are ex-Deeper Life) as people who are inside. Wouldn't you think so? What's keeping them outside? Why are these bones so scattered here and there? Can we allow God to do something, within us to start with, and allow Him to raise up a mighty

army? No struggling and no fighting, no criticism, no laying blame on anybody...just to allow God to be God, and then we take our place as men, and not try to do the work for God, but allow God to do the work with us. I believe that that thing can start right now. This convention can be a different kind of convention when we allow God to be God, then we take our place, and then we submit totally in His hand: a mighty army will rise up.

Now, before you rise up to pray, remember once again: if you pray the way you've always prayed, you'll get what you have always got. If you act like a baby, like a toddler, like somebody whose kind of prayer way or prayer system is programmed, then your computer just rolls it out – it's like you scroll it, and then it comes out the same way it always did. If you don't feed this computer with a kind of new information, you are going to be getting the same output that you always got. Garbage in and garbage out. But if you'd say, "A new programming, Lord...take hold of me. Let something come out today that was never there. Bring revival and bring refreshing. Bring something new in my life, in my spiritual life. Something new will come up in Jesus' name.

We're going to rise up now. We're going to talk to the Lord in a new way...not saying what we always said, and not doing what we always did. We're going to allow God to really work. Whatever God is saying or laying upon your heart, and He's saying, "Here is the way to go. Here is what you do. Here is the direction to move." You want to move in that direction.

Say, "Oh Lord, here am I. Have Your way in my life." What a chance we have at this time. What a privilege we have...for us to know that we have not arrived...that you'll be like Ezekiel...to surrender your heart, your life, your will totally unto the Lord. Remember, if you pray the way you always prayed, you'll get only the results you've always got. If you think the same thoughts you always thought...you're going to have the same action and the same outcome you always had. But if you'd allow God to be God, and let Him do what He specializes in doing...revival, renewal, making a change...a change within that produces a change in the congregation.

Look at your condition. Do you have any desire at all to be different from who you are now? Any desire? Are you willing to acquire a new habit, a new attitude, a new disposition? Do you need to go in a new direction? Are you willing to know the truth about yourself? Are you willing to know your true spiritual condition? Are you willing for God to be who He is and to do what He wants to do? Dry bones can live again. Dead bones can live again. Defiled bones can be pure again. Deceived souls can be well instructed again. Dispersed bones can be united again: your family, the church, the ministry. You see how God used Ezekiel: he refused to criticize, he refused to condemn, he refused to comment on the conditions of those dead, dry, scattered bones.

If complaining is your habit, tell the Lord to take that away. Complaint is not going to change people. Criticism provokes people to be antagonistic: it doesn't soften people's hearts. Condemning people just makes them to raise up a barrier, a shield, between you and them: it doesn't bring people to repentance and regeneration. Condemnation kills. Criticism kills. It doesn't make alive. Casting people away - that just destroys people.

Tell the Lord you'll do only what He wants you to do. What He wants you to say you'll say. How He wants you to preach, you'll preach...not to please yourself, not to defend yourself. "I

prophesied as He commanded me." Say what He wants you to say...positive message, positive promise. Hold onto those promises. He'll do what He has said He will do. Give Him a chance to work.

When you find yourself almost starting to walk in the same path you walked before, say, "No. That will not be. If I walk the same path I've always walked, I'm going to reach the same destination. I don't want that."

When you find yourself thinking and feeling the way you always thought and the way you always felt, say, "No. That cannot be." ...Change in my thinking pattern...change in my speaking style. That's what is going to bring the revival. That's what will bring the renewal. That's what will bring the reconciliation. Let go and let God. Let Him work. Whatsoever He says unto you, do it. That's what brings the resurrection life...a re-creative life.

Ask the Lord to do something new, something different...make you a really, really new creature...a different personality. He has all the power; He can change us, He can transform our lives, He can make us live victorious, He can make us pure, He can take away all those inconsistencies in our lives, He can raise us up as a mighty, great, unconquerable army. Take away all the weakness and take away all the defeat. Give us the victory...mighty, formidable, unconquerable army of the Lord. Let Him do it.

What is God going to do for you during this convention? Can He do something that you've not seen Him do for the last seven years? ...Put His Spirit within you, transform your life, transform your very personality, make you the person you've always dreamt to be...a loving person, a compassionate person, a merciful person, a considerate person - energized within in the power of the Spirit of God.

Why don't you make this time that time of appointment with the Almighty God, and let Him do what He has promised to do. His promises are *Yes* and *Amen* in Christ. He has promised to restore. He has promised to renew our strengths. He has promised to empower us. He has promised to take all of the spiritual weaknesses away and give us a kind of spiritual strength we never experienced before. ...New love, new passion, new zeal, new confidence, new trust in the Lord, renewed strength and spiritual energy.

Yes He's able. Yes He's able. He's able to change your personality...that where you were timid and fearful before, a new kind of energy and boldness and enthusiasm comes into you...part of a new, dynamic, victorious army. Let go and let God. Let go and let God.

Whatever He says unto you, do it. ...To repent? Go ahead and repent. ...To reconcile with your brother, with your sister? Be humble. Go ahead and do it. ...To make restitution? Come down; go ahead and do it. ...To retire? Withdraw from the crowd and let a new zeal, a new fire, a new spirit come within you; go ahead and do it. He wants to put Pentecostal fire inside every one of us, so that this becomes a new kind, a different kind, of convention. Let go and let God.

Don't complain. Don't condemn. Don't criticize.

Stop looking at the people... "looking unto Jesus, the Author and the Finisher of your faith." ...Not considering your body now dead, but considering the promise of God, the power of God, and what He said He will do. Fix your eyes on God, your mind on God. Let God be God. Let Him do what He decides He wants to do in His own house. He has enough power to do and to accomplish everything He has promised. He will empower you, energize you. He'll make you who He has promised to make you. Let this be the time. Let this be the day. Let this be the convention that gets His plan, His purpose, fulfilled in your life. In Jesus' name we pray. In Jesus' name we pray.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for the depths of your Word...inexhaustible, unchangeable. You have spoken to us again. Our prayer is that we will listen because there is a difference between just hearing a message and applying it to our lives. I believe this is the message you have given the man of God here, and he has declared it unto us. Lord, our prayer is that this message will do its work in each and every one of our lives in Jesus' name.

The leaders and the members...I ask that this Word spoken to us today...it will bear fruit; it will do us good. Even for Your church here in the United States...Lord how we pray...a lot of instructions have been given to us. Many times we are just struggling in the arms of the flesh. We are very quick to comment on things we don't know. We look at situations and we judge them in the physical. The Bible tells us...and we know that very well...but knowing is different from applying.

It says, "We walk by faith and not by sight." How many times do we walk by sight? We just comment on things not allowing the agenda of God to be fulfilled. We think we know everything. In these areas, oh Lord, we pray you will forgive us. We look at churches and we make quick comments. In these areas, oh Lord, forgive us in Jesus' name.

We look at lives of members, and we make quick comments. In these areas, oh Lord, we are asking, "Forgive us in Jesus' name." Things are not moving at the pace that we want it to be. In these areas we comment very quickly. We are very quick to criticize. We are very quick to condemn. Lord, in all these areas...all we are asking at this time is *Forgive us in Jesus' name*.

No wonder the Bible says, "Who is blind like My Servant whom I have sent?" We, the servants of the Lord, we are not seeing the way our Lord is seeing. Our God is seeing, "Yes, the bones are very dry. Yes, they are disjointed. Yes, they are dispersed. Yet these bones can live." Lord, we agree with You. Lord, we align our will with You. Our Father, we are asking that Your will be done in Jesus' name.

All those who are in the valley right now, all the congregations that are in the valley right now, the individuals who are in the valley right now, Lord, we believe according to Your Word, they will all live in Jesus' name. All the families that are dispersed right now...the mother is here, the father is there. The children are somewhere. Lord, we know by Your Word, they will live in Jesus' name. The one who is able to bring the dispersed of the house of Israel will bring all His people together again. You can join us together as a mighty congregation, an exceeding great army for the purpose and the program of God for us in this generation in Jesus' name.



There is hope for our generation. There is hope for our family. There is hope for this church. This church like a mighty army will continue to march in Jesus' name. Lord, we thank you for our father in the Lord. If every one of us can see like he's seeing...that when men are saying there is a casting down, he's saying there is a lifting up. Oh God, how we pray...give us the Spirit in Jesus' name...that we see things the way they are, not the way we think they were. Lord I pray it shall be so with us in Jesus' name.

There is still a lot for us to get in this convention. Lord, because there is hope, it's never too late. It's never too late for this church to begin again. It's never too late for these families to begin again, even as a believer, as a minister, as a pastor; whoever we are in this congregation today...it's never too late for us to begin. This day we are beginning again in Jesus' name. By Your power we will arise. By Your Spirit, oh Lord, we will march on. Lord, Your grace...because we are told in this passage our father has taught us from, the Lord breathed upon the bones, and there rose up a great, mighty army. Breathe upon us during this weekend. Breathe upon Your congregation during this weekend. Lift us up again to do your work in Jesus' name.

Thank you for the answer. Lord, we are still asking for all our preachers, leaders who are going to minister to us here. Oh God, how we pray...speak through them. Lord, I pray also for us, we will listen to them in Jesus' name. At the end of this convention there will be a great change. Our hope will not be forsaken. Thank you Everlasting Father. Please keep us awake. Keep us alert. Keep us afresh. Keep us strong, so that all these things you are sending to us, we will receive them in Jesus' name. We give You all the glory. In Jesus' mighty name we have prayed.