

FORGOTTEN GOD Part 4

VALLEY OF DRY BONES

*Ezekiel 37:1-14

*Ezekiel portrays the life-giving power of God's Spirit in the Valley of Dry Bones. Only the Spirit of God can put life and spirit back into a nation, such as Israel, that has passed out of existence.

*Only the Spirit of God can breathe life into a bag of bones.

*Only the spirit of God can bring something that was dead back to life.

*Only the Spirit of God can raise an army that was dead and make them ready to fight again.



FOUR KINDS OF PEOPLE

- Walker
- Wanderer
- Sleeper
- Dead

THE WALKER

*Those who have received Jesus as their Savior and Lord and are walking in the truth, being led by the Holy Spirit. Those who understand not only what God has done in them but has a pretty good idea what God wants to do through them. They are Spirit filled and Spirit led. You are walking with the Spirit.

*The mark of someone who is walking in the Spirit is fruitfulness. The result of being filled is producing fruit. One who walks in the Spirit produces fruit, John 15:1-8, Galatians 5:22-23

*We are told to be filled with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 5:18,

*The Word of God plays and equal role, Colossian 3:16,

THE WANDERER

*Those here today who have received Jesus as their Savior and Lord, have been baptized by the Holy spirit and have been filled, but because of lack of knowledge you don't understand what that means or unbelief (lack of trust)

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (NIV)

(1) The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. (2) He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. (3) He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "O Sovereign LORD, you alone know." (4) Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!' (5) This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. (6) I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.'" (7) So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. (8) I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. (9) Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" (10) So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet--a vast army. (11) Then he said to me: "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.' (12) Therefore prophesy and say to them: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. (13) Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. (14) I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.'"

Romans 8:10 (NIV)

But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

Ephesians 2:1 (NIV)

As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

Colossians 2:13 (NIV)

When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your sinful nature, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins,

*This is where the word of God and the Spirit of God are both critical to have a walk with God. Ephesians 5:18, Colossians 3:16.

*It is very important to recognize the importance of the balance between the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The Word of God is closed to our understanding and has little meaning to us apart from the illumination given by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is hindered in speaking clear and life changing truth apart from the Word of God.

THE SLEEPER

*Then there are those here today who have received Jesus as their Savior and Lord, have been baptized by the Holy spirit and have been filled, but they are living their own lives not being guided by the Holy Spirit, are waiting for heaven and doing what they want to do. There is not difference between them and those of the world other than a prayer they prayed.

*1 Corinthians 3:1-3, Ephesians 5:1-21

*But the truth is that there are those who that are not producing any fruit as proof of their walk with Jesus or that they are filled with the Holy Spirit. They have allowed the world to suck them in and put out their light.

THE SEEKER/SKEPTIC

*Then there are those here who have never responded to the gospel and are still checking this Jesus thing out. So don't check out here because what you will learn is what it means if you do become a follower of Jesus his promise of filling you with the Holy Spirit, leading you, guiding you in the direction that He has for your life.

NOTES:

John 15:8 (NIV)

(8) This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Galatians 5:22-23 (NIV)

(22) But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)

(18) Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

(16) Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (NIV)

(1) Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly--mere infants in Christ. (2) I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed, you are still not ready. (3) You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?

Ephesians 5:14 (NIV)

"Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."