

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Ezekiel 37:1-10

In the Valley

### Ezekiel 37:1-3

37 The hand of the LORD was on 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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" I said, "Sovereign Lord, you alone know."

### Ezekiel 37:4-6

<sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! <sup>5</sup> This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath[0] 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."

### Ezekiel 37:7-8

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>8</sup>I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

### Ezekiel 37:9-10

<sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, breath, from the four winds 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.

To make a difference in our world, God has to first make a difference in your heart.



# 1. Put God First "The hand of the Lord was on me... He brought me... He led me..."

- Ezk 37:1-2

### Matthew 5: 13 - 15

13 "You are the <u>salt of the earth</u>. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

14 "You are the <u>light of the world</u>. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

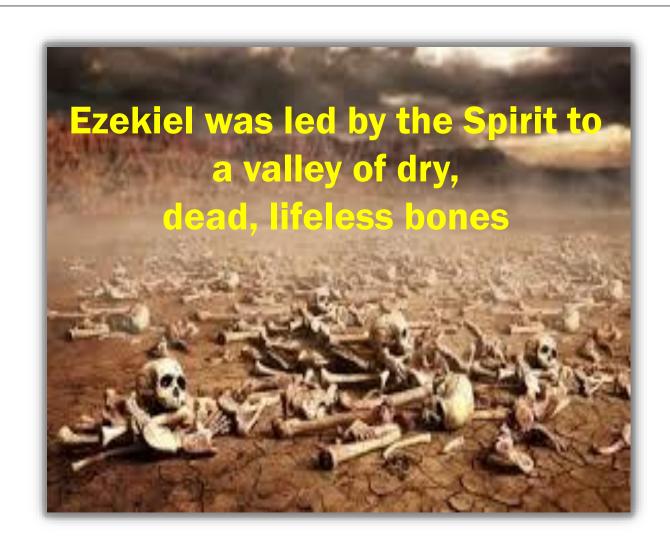
# For God to do something great in your life, He has to first do something deep in your life.



#### 1. Put God First



- ✓ Put SpiritualMedia firstbefore SocialMedia
- ✓ Worship before Work
- ✓ Word before Worry
- ✓ Practise the Presence of God



### 2. See the Possibilities

He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

- Ezk 37:3

#### What do you see?

- 12 Spies Giants or Giant Slayer?
- Shoe Company Problems or Possibilities?
- Dry Bones or Vast Army?



### 2. See the Possibilities

With God all things are possible"

- Matt 19:26b







# **Prophecy is simply** speaking God's word to and into the situation

### 3. Take a Step of Obedience

So I prophesied as I was commanded – Ezk 37:7

- Operating from a "Maybe"
- Don't just talk about the bones (problem), speak to the bones e.g. Jesus speaks to the storm
- Say it (God's word and promises) till you feel it and till you see it e.g. my mum's salvation

## They that call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved – Acts 2:21

### JEHOVAH-JIREH

"The Lord will provide a sacrifice"
Gen. 22:13

### JEHOVAH-RAPHA

"The Lord that healeth thee"
Exo. 15:26

### JEHOVAH-SHAMMAH

"The Lord is present"
Ezek. 48:35

### JEHOVAH-SHALOM

"The Lord our peace"
Jud. 6:24

### JEHOVAH-NISSI

"The Lord our banner" Exo. 17:8,15

### JEHOVAH-RAAH

"The Lord my Shepherd"
Psalm 23

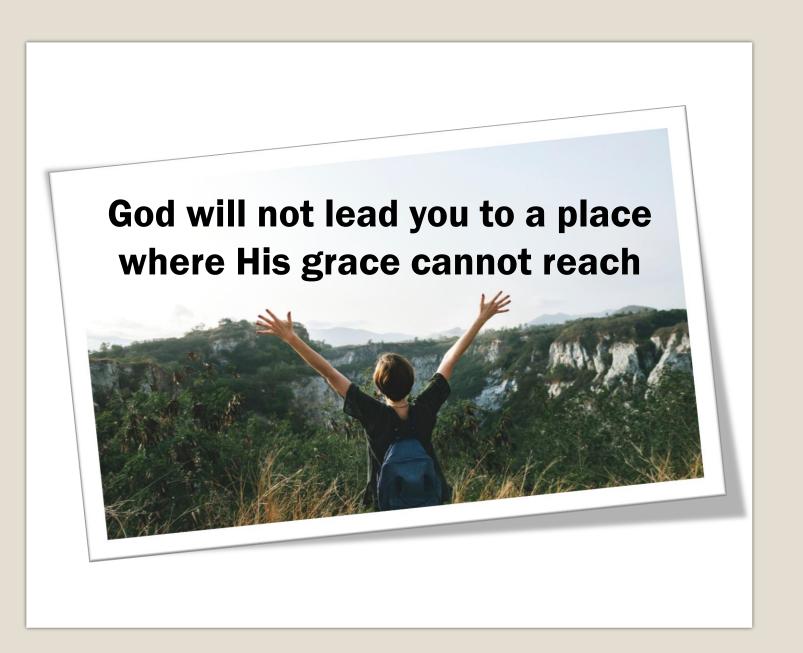
### JEHOVAH-TSIDKENU

"The Lord our righteousness"

Jer. 23:6



- 3. Take a Step of Obedience
  - Boy with 5 loaves & 2 fishes
  - Bro Nigel & Sis Rachel
  - Sharing the Gospel
  - Giving to the Lord



3. Take a Step of Obedience

Nothing great ever happens till we take the first step!

# There was still no life till the Wind of the Spirit breathed life into the bodies



## 4. Invite the Wind (Spirit of God)

but there was no life in them. <sup>9</sup>Then he said to me, "Prophesy and say: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet a vast army.

- Ezk 37:8-10



Without the Spirit, we have no life.

Because only life can

give birth to life.

## 4. Invite the Wind (Spirit of God)

We need structures, programs, planning but more than ever, we need the Wind (Spirit) of God

- Car without petrol can go downhill but not uphill
- Luke 4:18 Jesus had to be Sprit-filled before He started his ministry
- Acts 1:8 Peter who had denied Jesus three times stood up to preach and 3000 got saved

### Zechariah 4:6b

6 "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty.

E.g. Boy in the Christian School

