

Even though we know that God’s power is available to us, most of us still try to live most of life in our own strength. Think about your life. In what ways have you been content to live in your own power? How does that impact your sense of hope?

In what area of your life would you like to see God empower you and bring you “back to life” (Ezekiel 37:10)?

Thank God today for the power that He has given you through the Holy Spirit. Pray that you’ll be notice when you’re living life in your own power. Pray that God will breathe new life into the areas of your life where you feel hopeless.

Friday

Please read Ezekiel 37:11-14, Hebrews 10:23 & 2 Peter 1:3-4. Write down the promises God makes in Ezekiel and how those encourage you today.

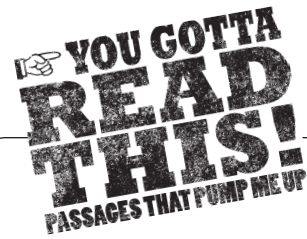
What does it mean, practically, to live life relying on God’s promises?

Thank God today for the surety of His promises. Talk to Him honestly about ways you’re struggling to believe His promises. Ask Him to grow your faith in His promises and pray that you’ll live an expectant life – believing that God will do all that He has said.

Saturday

Please read 2 Corinthians 1:20-22. This is such an amazing verse! All that God has promised is “yes” for us because of the sacrifice that Christ made on the cross. What a gift! Write down three things you know God has promised you.

As you pray today, thank God for His promises. Pray that you will be patient and live confidently knowing that He will do all He promised in the best way and the best time. Please pray for the services this weekend. Pray for Pastor Andy Lewis as he preaches and for Karen Stebbins as she leads worship. Please pray for the 50-day Hope Experience that we will do this fall. Pray that God will use the study of hope to encourage our church and our community!



Restoring Your Hope

Mark Spurlock
August 22 & 23, 2009

What robs me of hope?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

The Israelites in Ezekiel’s day experienced all these things!

“They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’” *Ezekiel 37:11 (NIV)*

What restores my hope? When I...

1. Rely on the _____

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. 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. He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “O Sovereign LORD, **you alone know.**” *Ezekiel. 37:1-3*
See also: Lamentations 3:18-23

2. Rely on the _____

- The power of _____

Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, **hear the word of the LORD!** This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. 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 37:4-6*

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. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. *Ezekiel 37:7-8*

- The power of _____

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 from the four winds, O breath, 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. *Ezekiel 37:9-10*

3. Rely on the _____

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.' 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. Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. 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.'" *Ezekiel 37:11-14*

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ... He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. *2 Corinthians 1:20-22*

What is bigger: my _____ or my _____ ?

Daily Meditations

Take a few minutes every day to read Scripture, pray, and answer some thought-provoking questions pertaining to this week's topic.

Monday

Please read Ezekiel 37:1-14. What is most striking to you in this passage?

What is one thing that stood out to you in the sermon? Why?

What is robbing you of hope right now?

Thank God today for the opportunity to study the Bible. Talk to Him about the way(s) you feel robbed of hope. Ask Him to use this study this week to help you focus on Him and restore your hope.

Tuesday

Please read Lamentations 3:18-23 & Ezekiel 37:1-3. What do these verses tell you about who God is?

What does it mean to live life **relying** on the person of God? What typically distracts you from doing that?

continued 

What do you think is the connection between relying on God and restored hope? How can you apply this to your life and sense of hope?

Thank God today for who He is, for His love, patience, forgiveness, whatever comes to your mind! Talk to Him about the things that distract you from relying on Him. Ask God to teach you to rely on Him.

Wednesday

Please read Ezekiel 37:4-8, Psalms 119:89-90 & Isaiah 40:8. One of the greatest gifts God has given us is His Word, the Bible. What an endless source of encouragement, direction, correction, hope and joy! What do today's verses tell you about God's Word?

The only way to grow in your reliance on God's Word is to know it. What practical steps are you taking to grow in your knowledge of the Bible?

What is the link between knowing God's Word and hope?

How have you seen the power of God's Word in your life recently? How has this impacted your faith?

Thank God today for the Bible. Thank Him for the opportunity to study the Bible. Ask God to help you apply what you study and really incorporate it into your daily life. Pray that you grow more reliant on the Word of God and will be a person of hope.

Thursday

Please read Ezekiel 37:9-10, Romans 15:13 & Ephesians 3:16-19. According to these verses, what impact does the Spirit have on us? How have you experienced this?



"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ. And so through him the 'Amen' is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."
2 Corinthians 1:20-22 (NIV)

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