

Hello everyone! And welcome to our Wednesday Word devotion for today, February 24, 2021. Thank you so much for tuning in and for taking this time out of your day to focus on God and focus on your faith.

As I mentioned earlier, our devotions will look a little different, and be a little bit shorter through the season of Lent. The way I'll structure these devotions is by reading some scripture, and asking a reflection question or two after the reading for your own prayer or journaling practice. Then we will end in a moment of prayer. I hope that these questions and focusing on the Word in this season of Lent will help deepen your relationship with God and remind you that even in your human fragileness, you are deeply loved by God, and nothing will ever separate you from that deep love.

So for today's scripture, we will hear words from the prophet Ezekiel, in chapter 37:

*The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord."*

*So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.*

*Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord."*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Our reflection questions for this week: What dry bones in your life are most in need of God's life-giving power? Where do you need God's breath of life, the Holy Spirit?

And now let us pray:

*Lord God, creator of the universe, for your life-saving breath of life, the Holy Spirit, we give you thanks. May your Spirit fill us, guide us, and empower us to truly live, to love one another and love you, and bring new life in our valleys of dry bones. Help us not to be afraid of our fragile human lives, but instead to see them as a gift, your gift of deep and enduring love for us. We lift to you all the prayers we carry in our hearts, minds, and spirits, and pray for the healing power of your Holy Spirit in all the ways we need your healing and your love. In Jesus' name and united with the Holy Spirit we pray, Amen.*

Go in peace, dear friends, have a blessed rest of your day. Amen.