

SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

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Ezek 37:1-14

37:1 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; prophecy, 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 prophecy 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.'"

NIV

To be dry is to be without moisture. To be dry is to be without water. It is to be lifeless. Dryness is the absence of sweetness - the absence of what makes for sweetness. Spiritual dryness is a state of uninteresting, dull and unexciting Christian life. The word of God is the water of life. A lack of fellowship with the word of God causes dryness.

When a Christian is spiritually dry, he becomes lazy in the things of God:

- (a)** Reading the Bible becomes boring and a struggle.
- (b)** To pray is like to climb a high mountain.
- (c)** Before, it used to be "I was glad when they said unto me let us go to the house of the LORD" Now, it is "I don't think I can go to church today."
- (d)** Other things begin to crowd your time for God.
- (e)** God is no longer number one in your life.
- (f)** Christianity becomes uninteresting to you. The excitement you once knew is no more there. The sweetness you once experienced is no more there. Now, it is like a bitter pill.

DOES EVERYBODY EXPERIENCE IT?

Spiritual dryness can be experienced by anybody who is not watchful and determined to be on fire always.

Spiritual dryness is in degrees, and it's an attack the enemy launches against every believer with the ultimate aim of turning the person to his own kingdom. Anybody can experience it. In fact, almost everybody experiences it at various degrees. This is the reason why God encourages fellowship with one another in order to deal with this problem.

Heb 10:25

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NIV

CAUSES OF SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

1. Lack of commitment to the word of God.
2. Entertaining the spirit of disobedience - rebelling against the word of God.
3. Lack of separation from the world - attachment to the things of this world.
4. Keeping the wrong company leading to wrong counsel.

1 Cor 15:33-34

33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."

NIV

5. Having other things come before God.
6. Pursuing your career at the expense of your time and fellowship with God.
7. No longer giving your quiet time the quality attention, time and commitment it needs.
8. Laziness towards fasting and prayers.
9. Possessing "it doesn't matter attitude".
10. A lack of the consciousness of God's presence.
11. Imbibing much worldly garbage through the two doorways into man - The eyes and the ears. This is done through the Television, radio and print materials, thereby, distorting the thoughts of the believer, leading to change of opinions and values. It is always garbage in garbage out.

Prov 23:7

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:

KJV

Prov 27:19

19 "For as in water face answers to face, so the mind of a man reflects the man".

RSV

12. Entertaining the spirit of pride.

James 4:6

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

KJV

13. Problems – Trials.

Prov 13:12

12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

KJV

PREVENTION OF SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

There is a saying, that prevention is better than cure. To prevent a problem is better than having to struggle to solve the problem.

To prevent spiritual dryness, the following suggestions will help a great deal.

1. Keep your quiet time alive.

Guide it jealously. Make it as qualitative as possible. Love it. Get closer to God through it.

1 Kings 17:1

17 And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word.

KJV

Mark 1:35

35 And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

KJV

Mark 6:30-31

30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

KJV

Mark 6:45-46

45 And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people.

46 And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.
KJV

2. Develop a strong reading culture.

Read your Bible daily with great interest. Read Christian books that are sound in doctrine.

Josh 1:8

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

KJV

Dan 9:1-3

9 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;

2 In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplication, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

KJV

2 Tim 4:13

13 The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments.

KJV

3. Give your ears to the word of God.

Buy teaching tapes and listen to the word of God over and over again until the message contained in it sink into your spirit.

Prov 23:23

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

KJV

Rom 10:17

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

KJV

4. Fellowship with God's people regularly.

Don't stay away from fellowship for anything. Pray for every fellowship or service you want to attend that it will bring blessing to your life.

Fellowship brings encouragement and strength. It is the place you get instruction from God's word.

The church is a filling station, as well as a hospital where you get refilled in the spirit and cured of all ailments whether spiritual, mental, emotional, physical, financial, material, social and academic.

Heb 10:25

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

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The gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant for the edification and encouragement of the body of believers. Read 1 Cor. 12:7-11.

5. Engage in fasting from time to time.

Fast, at least once a week. It will help you to keep fit spiritually.

Matt 6:16-18

16 Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

17 But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face;

18 That thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father which is in secret: and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly.

KJV

6. Change your circle of friends.

Keep godly friends. Keep company with those who will encourage you in your journey to heaven.

1 Cor 15:33

33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

KJV

7. Watch the right programs; listen to the right programs and music. Read the right things.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

KJV

8. Be heavenly minded.

Col 3:1-3

3 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

KJV

9. Get busy for God.

Acts 1:8

8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

KJV

OVERCOMING SPIRITUAL DRYNESS

If you are experiencing spiritual dryness right now, you are to do the following to come alive again.

1. Make up your mind to come out of it and never to fall a victim again.

James 4:7-8

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

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If you can't submit yourself to God, you can't resist the devil. Agree with God to remain on fire for him.

2. Pray fervently about it.

1 Thess 5:17

17 Pray without ceasing.

KJV

3. Take a day to three days fast and deal with the matter.

Mark 6:30-31

30 And the apostles gathered themselves together unto Jesus, and told him all things, both what they had done, and what they had taught.

31 And he said unto them, Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while: for there were many coming and going, and they had no leisure so much as to eat.

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During this period of fast, read the word of God aggressively.

4. Prophecy the word of God on yourself.

Ezek 37:4-8

4 Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

6 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.

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

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.

KJV

Locate the right scriptures that soothe your situation, and prophecy it on yourself. Speak the word of God on yourself, and you will come alive.

5. Pray for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit upon your life.

Ezek 37:9-10

9 Then said he unto me, Prophecy 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.

10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

KJV

Ezek 37:14

14 And shall put my spirit in you, 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.

KJV

6. Stir up yourself to attend fellowship regularly.

Heb 10:25

25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

NIV

7. Go for counseling and prayers if there is no improvement after you have done all I suggested.

Prov 11:14

14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

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Matt 18:19

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

KJV

CONCLUSION

Every child of God is expected to be on fire for God continuously. The devil however, will want to quench this fire. But, it is your responsibility child of God to fight off the enemy and remain on fire.

You must bubble for the LORD. Maintain your vigor in God. Be alive in him. Be truly alive. Remain excited about serving God. Be filled always with the Spirit. Any time you notice you are getting weak in the spirit. Fast and pray, and do all I have instructed in this teaching, and it will be well with you. Enjoy your relationship with God.