

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; 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.'"

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. Any body 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.

"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." (Heb. 10:25)

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.

"Do not be misled, bad company corrupts good character". (1 Cor. 15:33)

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.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he." (Prov. 23:7 KJV)

"For as in water face answers to face, so the mind of a man reflects the man". (Prov. 27:19 RSV.)

12. Entertaining the spirit of pride.

"But he gives us more grace. That is why scripture says; 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble'". (James 4:6)

13. Problems – Trials.

"Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life". (Prov. 13:12)

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.

“Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, ‘As the LORD, the God of Israel lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word’.” (1 Kings 17:1)

“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.” (Mk. 1:35)

“The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them. Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest..... Immediately Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to Bethsaida, while he dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, he went up on a mountain side to pray.” (Mk. 6:30,31,45,46)

2. **Develop a strong reading culture.**

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

“ Do not let this book of the law depart from your mouth, meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful”. (Josh. 1:8) Read also Dan. 9:1-3, 2Tim. 4:13.

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.

“Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.” (Prov. 23:23)

“Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word of Christ.” (Rom. 10:17)

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.

"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." (Heb. 10:25)

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.

"When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen, and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you." (Matt.6:16-18)

6. Change your circle of friends.

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

"Do not be misled: Bad company corrupts good character." (1 Cor. 15:33)

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

"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world - the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does - comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever." (1 Jn.2:15-17)

8. Be heavenly minded.

"Since then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." (Col. 3:1-3)

9. Get busy for God.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

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.

“Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (James 4:7,8)

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.

“Pray continually”. (1 The.5:17)

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

“The apostles gathered round Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, ‘come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” (Mk. 6:30,31)

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

4. Prophecy the word of God on yourself.

“Then he said to me, Prophecy 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’. 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”. (Ezek. 37:4-8)

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.

“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,’ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them: they came to life and stood up on their feet - a vast army..... 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”. (Ezek.37: 9,10,14)

6. Stir up yourself to attend fellowship regularly.

*“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.”
(Heb.10:25)*

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

*“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisors make victory sure.
(Prov.11: 14).*

“Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my father in heaven. (Mt.18: 19)

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.