

Something's Coming
Ezekiel 37:1-14, Matthew 3:1-11
February 8, 2015

My cardiologist told me to lose weight. Talk about a one note Johnny!

I know I've preached about revival before, an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit.

My doctor is right. I need to lose weight.

And I am right. God is going to send revival. Pour out His Holy Spirit in ways that are beyond all we could ask or imagine.

1. We need revival.

Ezekiel 37:2-3 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."* ... 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.'*

- There are dry bones in our lives.
- Friends and family members who don't believe
- Recurring sin patterns or habits you really want to quit but can't
- Ineffective prayer life. (Prayers for healing.)
- Broken relationships. Shallow relationships.

- There are dry bones at Woodbury.
- Hybels' graphic.
- Spiritually we are in an incline!
 - People's faith. Taking risks.
 - ECO.
 - Prayer gathering last Sunday night, we stepped into a flowing current of Holy Spirit

- But institutionally we are clearly in decline.
 - Money. (Cut \$30k, on schedule for being \$50k short.)
 - Attendance.
 - Sunday School.

- God did not bring us through these trials to let us fade into irrelevance. Impotency.
- We've got to light a fire somehow! Ignite.

The problem is we can't light the fire, not by ourselves.

2. The Holy Spirit brings revival.

Ezekiel 37:5-6, 14 ⁵*This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath (רוח = wind, breath, Spirit) 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.' " ... ¹⁴I 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.'* "**

- So when there is an out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, we will have a greater experience of the four basic works of the Holy Spirit.

2.1 The Holy Spirit brings people to saving faith.

I Corinthians 12:3 ***Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.***

John 3:5 ***Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.***

- People we love will come to faith. People we don't know will come to faith and we will love them. Even people we don't like.

2.2 The Holy Spirit grows Christ-like character in us.

II Corinthians 3:18 ***And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.***

Galatians 5:22-23 ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.***

- The fruit of the Spirit will grow succulent and sweet in us. Love, joy, peace. We won't work at these things as goals. They'll grow. We will produce them.

2.3 The Holy Spirit empowers us for ministry.

Acts 1:8 ***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."***

- We will be empowered for ministry.

Especially healing.

Demons that plague people will be defeated and cast out.

The ability to minister to people in the love of Christ will multiply exponentially.

And we will witness with power.

When we tell people about Jesus, they will put their faith in Him!

2.4 The Holy Spirit creates a loving community.

Romans 5:5 ***And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.***

- Sweet fellowship. If you think we are a loving church now, just wait. We haven't scratched the surface!

This isn't new.

This is a convergence of what God has been telling us and doing among us for years. God has been putting the materials and people together for just the right time.

3. God has sent messengers calling us to prepare His way.

Matthew 3:3, 11 ***³This is He who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for Him.' " ... ¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."***

- Epicenter of Revival
- Many words and visions to Session in corporate listening prayer.
- Light from Heaven
- Radiant Gold People Touching Drab Gray People
- Pastor Nick TeBordo: Ignite. (Eric will read)
(Should have used 4 touchstones of discernment. Do it? Does it come true?)

4. Remember, God's Word creates reality.

Isaiah 55:11 ***So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.***

Exekiel 37:7-11 ***⁷So 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. ⁸I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then 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.' " ¹⁰So I prophesied as He commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet--a vast army.***

Exekiel 37:14b ... ***"Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD."***

- When Ezekiel prophesied (spoke God's Word) to the bones, things happened!
- He was also told to prophesy to the wind/Spirit!
- When told to, we invoke the Holy Spirit.

- Example: "I will give you all the resources you need to do everything I call you to do." ... "Do you accept tithes from non-members?"
- These messages have been creating the reality.
- The time is getting close.
- Pastor Nick didn't say ignition was going to come with the Ignite event, but it sure seems like a good opportunity.

Pat and the Gator. We have a part to play.

5. We prepare the Lord's way through faith.

John 11:40 *Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"*

Do we focus on our problems or God's promises? (How do you suppose the Israelites responded to the promises in Ezekiel's vision?)

We need to address the problems in light of the promises and not the other way around.

➔ It matters where you put your "but."

■ Did the paralyzed man say, "Jesus said to take up my pallet and walk, BUT I've been paralyzed for a long time"

Or

"I've been paralyzed for a long time, BUT Jesus said to take up my pallet and walk?"

■ Jesus said, "Ask and you shall receive" but it feels like my prayers keep bouncing off the ceiling

OR

Sometimes it feels like my prayer are just bouncing off the ceiling, BUT Jesus said "Ask and you shall receive."

■ Jesus said to go and make disciples of all nations, BUT whenever I have the courage to share my faith no one responds.

OR

It threatens me to share my faith, and when I do it seems no one ever responds, BUT Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all nations ... and I am with you."

■ God promised to provide us with all the resources we need to do everything He calls us to do, BUT we had to cut \$30k from the budget and collections are down,

Or,

We had to cut \$30k from the budget and collections are down, BUT God has promised to provide ...

■ Our elders have seen visions of children streaming into our church BUT attendance at Sunday school is low

Or

Attendance at Sunday School is late, BUT God has shown our elders visions of children streaming into the building and playing in the yard. ...

■ Rev Nick spoke a powerful word about ignition being now, BUT Rod has been talking about an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for decades and so far all we've seen is a trickle

Or

Rod has been talking about an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for decades and so far all we've seen is a trickle, BUT last Sunday Rev. Nick brought us a powerful, anointed Word from The Lord saying "ignition is now!"

It matters where you put your but! And if your but is on the wrong place you're liable to miss out on the blessings of God!

- I had been tempted to say "if we don't have 80 people from Woodbury come to Ignite, I give up. They don't want to go where I feel led to lead. (The Spirit-filled life.) But that would be to ignore the promises.

6. We prepare the Lord's way through prayer.

Luke 11: 13 ***If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"***

I/we have been like people at the beach. For a while we look at the beauty of the ocean. Then we walk along the shore and get our feet wet from time to time. Then we wade out up to our knees, an occasionally get splashed up to or chest. (That's where I am.) But now it's time to dive in head first. Dive into the Holy Spirit.

A Word given through Pastor Nick TeBordo

I know that I always preface what I say as acknowledgement that I'm a sinner saved by grace, and I know that the Lord is speaking to this congregation. And I pray that everything I say right now might bring Him the glory, but if anything is not from the Lord that you be protected from it.

From Isaiah 43, "Do not fear I have redeemed you, I have summoned you by name and you are mine. ... *You have passed through the waters and I have been with you. You have passed through the rivers and they have not swept over you. You have walked through the fire and you have not been burned.* ... I am the Lord your God. Forget the former things. Don't dwell on the past, the way it used to be. "I am doing a new thing It springs up among you, I am making a way through the wilderness, through the streams and wasteland." I will not fail you.

I told Pastor Rod that when I saw the word "Ignite," I believe ignition is happening right now. I believe God is sparking a great ignition. And as you humble yourself before the Lord I've seen that your pastor is scarred and worn but battle proven. I've seen that he has been equipped for such a time as this. And Im very very excited to tell you that I believe God has spoken directly into my heart that ignition is now!

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