

## **The Breath of God**

**Text: Ezekiel 37:1-12** The hand of the LORD was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones, <sup>2</sup> And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. <sup>4</sup> Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live: <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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. <sup>9</sup> Then said he unto me, Prophesy 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. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

**John 20:21-22** Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.<sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he **breathed on them**, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

### **I. Introduction: Man was created by God to be a 3-Fold Being: Body, Soul, Spirit**

**Genesis 1: 26-28** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. <sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

**Genesis 2:7** And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.**

### **Basic Truth of the Bible—Man Has a Body, a Soul, And a Spirit—**

- Body--Obvious and uncontroversial
- Soul and Spirit--**Hebs 4:12** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **II. Man is Small and Inconsequential Compared to God---**

**Trust not in Man---Psalms 146:3-4** Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.<sup>4</sup> His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

**Isaiah 2:22** Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?

**GOD---Compared to Man----Job 40:6-7,9-14** <sup>6</sup> Then answered the LORD unto Job out of the whirlwind, and said, <sup>7</sup> Gird up thy loins now like a man: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me. <sup>9</sup> Hast thou an arm like God? or canst thou thunder with a voice like him? <sup>10</sup> Deck thyself now with majesty and excellency; and array thyself with glory and beauty. <sup>11</sup> Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. <sup>12</sup> Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. <sup>13</sup> Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. <sup>14</sup> Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.

### **III. Another Basic Truth of the Bible—The Fall of Man**

**Genesis 2:16-17** <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:<sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof **thou shalt surely die.**

#### **IV. A Third Fundamental Truth of the Bible---Jesus Brought Redemption and New Life Back to Fallen Mankind.**

**II Corinthians 5:17-18** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.<sup>18</sup> And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ...

**I Peter 1:23** Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

**I John 5:12** He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

#### **V. The Breath of Life Within the Believer**

**Ephesians 2: 1-7** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; <sup>2</sup> Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: <sup>3</sup> Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.<sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, <sup>5</sup> Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) <sup>6</sup> And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: <sup>7</sup> That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

#### **V1. The Spirit of God with the Believer has a 2-Fold Purpose:**

- **Our Earthly Journey, Our Placement into the Body of Christ, and Our Christian Service**  
**We Need the Breath of God for our Earthly Work**

**Acts 2:1-4** And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- **Our Eternal and Endless Future with God**

**Ephesians 2: 7** That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.