

MARCH DEVOTIONAL: *Shake, Rattle And Roll*

A phrase we remember well from the '50s is "Shake, Rattle and Roll." You may say, "I'm way too old for that now!" But hey, we can still shake, rattle and roll with the best of them ...

Our hands shake, our bones rattle, and we have to roll out of bed every morning!

All joking aside, the Bible actually gives us a remarkable picture of rattling bones—and what God can do when something seems beyond hope.

In Ezekiel 37, God takes the prophet Ezekiel to a valley filled with bones. And these weren't recently buried bones. Scripture makes a point of telling us that they were very dry.

There was no sign of life. No movement. No reason to believe anything was ever going to change.

Then God asked Ezekiel a question:

"Son of man, can these bones live?" —Ezekiel 37:3 NIV

What a question! Ezekiel was looking at something that, from a human point of view, was absolutely impossible. He could have answered, "Of course not. They're bones!"

Instead, Ezekiel answered:

"Sovereign Lord, you alone know." —Ezekiel 37:3 NIV

In other words, Lord, I don't see how—but You know what I don't know.

Maybe that's a good answer for us too.

As we get older, we accumulate some "dry bones" of our own.

There may be dreams that didn't turn out the way we expected. People we dearly loved who are no longer sitting beside us. Relationships that changed. Doors that closed. Bodies that don't work quite like they used to.

Sometimes the world around us can even feel like a valley of dry bones. We look at our families, our communities, or the next generation and wonder, Lord, can anything change? Can something good still come from this?

And perhaps God's answer to us is the same lesson He gave Ezekiel:

Don't decide what God can do by looking only at what you can see.

God told Ezekiel to speak the words He gave him. Ezekiel obeyed.

And suddenly there was a noise.

A rattling!

Bones began joining together. Bodies began taking shape. What had been scattered and lifeless was being put back together.

But even then, something was missing.

They had bodies—but they didn't have life.

Then God sent breath into them.

And they lived.

That is the part of this story I don't want us to miss.

Ezekiel spoke. Ezekiel obeyed. But God gave the life.

The miracle didn't depend on Ezekiel having enough strength, enough wisdom, or enough power. His responsibility was simply to trust God and do what God told him to do.

And that's good news for us.

We may not be able to fix everything that feels broken. We can't turn back the clock. We can't bring back yesterday. We can't control what tomorrow will bring.

But we serve the God who still brings life into places that look hopeless.

Maybe there's an area of your life that feels a little dry right now. Maybe your enthusiasm isn't what it once was. Maybe you've wondered whether God still has something for you to do.

He does.

As long as God gives us breath, He can still use our lives.

We can pray.

We can encourage someone.

We can share what God has taught us.

We can serve.

We can love people.

We can tell the next generation about the faithfulness of God.

And sometimes, we may simply need to stand in front of our own valley of dry bones and say:

"Lord, I don't know what You're going to do here—but I know You're not finished."

The same God who brought life to a valley filled with dry bones is still the God of life, hope, restoration, and new beginnings.

So whatever feels a little dry today, place it in His hands.

Then keep trusting.

Keep praying.

Keep serving.

Keep living.

And when those old bones start rattling, remember Ezekiel.

It's definitely not time to quit!

Instead, it's time to...

SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL!

Closing Prayer: Father, thank You for reminding us that You are the God who brings life to dry bones. Thank You for the years You have given us, the lessons You have taught us, and the ways You have used our lives.

Help us never to believe that our best days of serving You are behind us. Show us where You still want to use us. Give us courage to speak hope, share wisdom, encourage others, and serve wherever You open the door. Thank You for not being finished with us yet. Amen.