

## The Dry Bones of Grief

Ezekiel was a prophet who heard God speak to him about the people of Israel. In Ezekiel, Chapter 37:1-10, there is a description of a valley filled with dry, broken bones. In the prophesy, those bones were restored by God's command as spoken by Ezekiel. Now think for a moment of your dry bones which now seem to lay parched, motionless and broken in the deep, dry valley of grief. You may feel that you have lost the joy of living. Think about the resurrection day as seen in God's Model of Grieving - rising to new life. Perhaps you can identify with the valley of the shadow of death, in Psalms 23. God can and will transform your life. You are called, by the grace of God, to walk in contentment and peace as a survivor of grief.

And, how do you rise? You read and hear the word of the Lord.

Ezekiel 37:4-6

*Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones and say to them, O dry bones, **hear the word of the Lord.** This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin, and I will put breath in you and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the Lord."*

Psalms 23:4

*Even though **I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,** I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.*

Isaiah 43:1

*But now, this is what the Lord says - He who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: **Do not fear,** for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.*

Psalms 28:7

*The Lord is my strength and my shield; **my heart trusts in him,** and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I Give thanks to Him.*

Micah 6:8

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you but to act justly and to love mercy and to **walk humbly with your God?***

Psalms 46:10

***"Be still, and know that I am God;** I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!" The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.*

Deuteronomy 31:8

*The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. **Do not be afraid;** do not be discouraged.*

Did you hear the word of the Lord? Allow the restorative love of God, found in the Bible, to heal your broken heart and wounded soul. Rise up and glorify God for his faithfulness.

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