Daily Devotion #116

Dry Bones Can Live Again

*Ezekiel 37:5 – “Thus says the Lord God to these bones, ‘Behold, I will cause breath to enter you that you may come to life’.”*

My family and I are huge fans of the old Christmas story about George Bailey in “It’s A Wonderful Life”. If you have never seen the movie, you should make sure you do. It is a classic and timeless in its message. George, played by Jimmy Stewart, is a young man growing up in a small town during the height of the Great Depression. In spite of that terrible time, George had always wanted to travel the world and get out of the crummy little town, as he puts it. But as the pressures of life build, George wishes he had never been born if he only had his “going nowhere” life to live. So God sends and angel, Clarance, to help George see what life would be like if he had not been born. But to George’s surprise, he learns that his life had truly made a difference. And the one line in the movie representing his turnaround is a prayer. He prays, “God, I want to live again; I want to live again”.

The glory of knowing Christ Jesus is that we can live again. No matter what life is like or what it once was, God has a way of making what was once dead and giving it life. He is very good and fixing what is broken.

Ezekiel is writing from captivity after the Jews had been taken captive to Babylon. And even though many false prophets had said the people would soon return to their homeland, God raised Ezekiel to be a prophet of truth, telling the people that Jerusalem would certainly be destroyed. As you can imagine, that left God’s people in a state of great depression and anxiety. So in a series of visions, God gives to Ezekiel this particular one of him standing in a valley of dry and dead bones. God asks Ezekiel if he believes God can give life to them again? To which God does. That message was to encourage the Hebrew people. To let them know that God is able to do the impossible. He can make whatever is dead come alive once again.

Many people have made a mess of their lives. I have known quite a few over the years. In fact, just recently my wife and I had the wonderful opportunity to speak with someone about their past life. This person had, for all intents and purposes, ruined everything through drugs and alcohol. Their life over the past decade and longer had been one of destruction, physically, emotionally and even to the point of losing family. But words cannot express the joy we had in sharing the Gospel with them and watching as they let go of their past and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

How joyful it was to be able to say, with confidence, the truth that Jesus came to this earth to rescue all who have come to the place where they see their lives completely undone and caught in the snare of Satan’s evil works. (Colossians 1:13) How special it was to be able to say to this person that God doesn’t need or want you to fix everything from your past, but simply surrender your heart to Him and let go of all the dead weight you have carried all your life. Then the icing on the cake was to lead them in a prayer of surrender to Jesus and watch them relax as if the most enormous weight had just been lifted.

If you could have been there, you would have seen how, at the end of our conversation, the deep breath of relief and the different expression on this person’s face told the story of years of pain and anguish that Jesus had now taken upon Himself. Beautiful! It was absolutely beautiful!

The truth is, God is in the business of giving life to what was once dead. Not just physical life, but spiritual life. He can take the coldest, deadest spirit and breathe life into it and give it meaning and purpose. This is the message the world needs to hear. And you and I are the vehicles of that message. Share it with someone today, won’t you? They may just fine the rest they need.