

RUNNING WITH THE WIND

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Truly, truly, I say to you, Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit... 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.

Genesis 2:7 And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. 8 And Jehovah God planted a garden eastward in Eden. And there He put the man whom He had formed.

- This morning, I want to talk to you on the subject matter **RUNNING WITH THE WIND**. How many people here run or jog or cycle as a hobby.
- Any seasoned athlete will tell you that when you are running or cycling, the wind is either your friend or your enemy.
- You must find a way of working with the wind, instead of fighting against it. Depending on the direction of the wind, if the wind is blowing in such a way that it propels you forward, you will have a better chance of running your personal best (PB).
- Now, many armatures will run directly into the wind, only to realise that they are not getting anywhere. If running in a bunch, they don't know how to shield themselves from the wind and find a spot where the wind will work for them or will have the least negative impact on their performance.
- Did you know that you are called to run with the wind and not fight against it. The Holy Spirit is also translated as wind and the breath of God – that is ruach or pneuma.
- In Genesis 1:2 ... And the Spirit (ruach) of God moved upon the face of the waters.
- When Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, He spoke about the difference between that which is of the flesh and that which is of the spirit.
- He says, *unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*
- It means that unless you are infused by the Holy Spirit, you will not experience the kingdom of God.
- Yes, you are born again but how have you been running your race.

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- When God formed Adam, the Bible says he was formed from the dust of the earth and for a moment, his body was there motionless.
- Something was missing in that body – Adam’s body got animated by the breath of God, the ruach of God.
- That which was of the earth needed something of heaven to make it alive.
- Listen to me, your activities will remain lifeless without the wind of God working in them.
- Adam would have remained dead and lifeless had God not breathed His wind, His pneuma, His ruach in him.
- Anything that is born of the flesh is flesh and anything that is born of the spirit is spirit.
- The wind has an effect, and if you would just take your hand and blow on it for a second, you can feel it and so is the wind of the holy spirit.
- You might not perceive the wind of God, but its evidence is visible. We don’t know how it works, but we see the impact of God’s spirit in and around us.
- The church is trying to move on the earth with that which is earthy and not heavenly.
- Its interesting that God did not just put perpetual breath in Adam, but He made it necessary for him to constantly breath.
- Seated here, if I say stop breathing for a minute, half of us here will pass out, in 2 minutes of not breathing most of us will be dead and in another 5 minutes of not breathing, all of us will be dead.
- This was to remind Adam that he is dead without the wind of God.
- People of God, when you don’t run with the wind, your dreams, callings and passions will die premature deaths.
- Now, the Bible says we are the body of Christ.
Colossians 1:18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.
- Could it be that the body of Christ has stopped to breath and is currently on life support or nearly dead.

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- A beautiful picture of the impact of the wind is found in the book of Ezekiel and I want us to look at it allegorically, of course without violating the principles of Bible interpretation.

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

- The prophet starts with this profound statement: ***The hand of the Lord was on me.***
- Any project, any church service, any ministry, any worship session that does not start with the hand of the Lord was on me will only be a performance without effect.
- When the hand of the Lord is upon you, you will not debate with God, you will not appease your own ego, but you will be led by His hand.
- We have many people who are in the performance business, instead of being an extension of God's hand.
- As we fast this week, we are going to fast for the hand of God to be upon us and to enable us to be effective ministers.

Ezekiel 37:1 The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

- The prophet was pulled by God's hand and was brought out in the middle of a valley, which was full of dry bones.
- God is positioning His prophets strategically; you are a prophet that the Lord has called out for Himself.
- You need to understand that God has called you into something bigger than you, but can you perceive it right now.
- Ezekiel was placed in a valley of dry bones – let me tell you something, God did not design life to be lived on the mountain top but rather in the valley.
- The mountain top experience is only momentarily, we don't always live on the high. Life happens down in the valley.
- Stop looking elsewhere, thinking that God is just causing you to pass by there. Your neighbourhood, your work environment, your boss, your school, your college, your current church is the place of your calling.

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- Our church is rightly positioned, and you are rightly positioned – it is time that we take ownership of our place of calling.
- Until when shall we continue being in the waiting room. People don't build permanent structures whilst being in transition.
- The church of Jesus Christ must run with the wind and forcefully advance across the nations of the earth.

Ezekiel 37: 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.

- The prophet was caused to walk back and forth among the dry bones. As he was walking in and around them, he saw that they were not just bones, but they were extremely dry.
- In other words, it was a hopeless situation. The valley was full of dry bones. You cannot deal with an extreme situation from a distance.
- Do you know your valley and what is the state of the bones. Those who run with the wind will explore, study and seek to understand the nature of the dry bones that are before them.
- Listen, we have so many dry bones around here in Pretoria East – our kids are on drugs, there are plenty of dysfunctional families, the scourge of racism is real, poverty and unemployment are rife and above all, many people are religious without the true knowledge of Jesus.
- The bones are so many and there is no need for ministries and churches to compete against each other.

Ezekiel 37: 3 He asked me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

- The prophet was standing before a desperate situation and God was out to check his level of faith.
- God is asking you and I whether the dry bones around us can live. As a pastor do I have faith that this church will impact this generation, or I am ready to give up.
- The prophet was mature and knew how to answer. He opened a door for God to work by acknowledging that it was only God who knew how to deal with the impossible.

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Ezekiel 37: 3 He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?” I said, “Sovereign Lord, you alone know.”

- Do we have people who can trust God to do the impossible for them? People who run with the wind know how to access God’s supernatural power.
- The way he answered, prompted God to provide a solution.

Ezekiel 37: 4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 This is what the Sovereign Lord says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life... 7 So 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.

- God commanded the prophet to prophesy to the dry bones. Let me tell you something, dry bones don’t need entertainment, they need the breath of God.
- Dry bones don’t need personal agendas, they need the breath of God.
- Dry bones only respond to the commands of God and not man commands.
- People who run with the wind can facilitate the breath of God to awaken dry bones.
- Without running with the wind, the prophet would not have seen the result that came out of this situation.
- What was the result – *Ezekiel 37: 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.*
- If you need the breath of God, then stay where the breath is needed. Stay where the need is and not running to some comfortable place elsewhere.