

Dare to Dance Again ***Spirit Poured Out***

So many of us are just plain tired. The pandemic has taken its toll on all of us and for many, it's drained us of our spiritual energy. We're not just tired, we feel defeated and spiritually dead. For some, there's a hope that going back to the building will fill us up. But for others, the thought of going back to what was is terrifying – not because of the pandemic, but because they remember all too well those days and they want nothing to do with them. What we all need is something none of us can manufacture – we need a fresh breath from the Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 37:1–14

1. When your spiritual life suffers, your _____
suffers.
2. Just knowing the _____ and _____
of being a Christian isn't enough.
3. The Holy Spirit will not come until we change _____
and become _____.

My Count Me In! Commitment

- I'm online and ready to go deeper with Directions
- I'm a Directions grad and I'll invite at least one of my friends/acquaintances to join me in Directions
- I've never taken Directions and I'm ready to start

Additional Notes

Digging Deeper

Week of May 23, 2021

Dare to Dance Again: Shout It Out!

Scripture: Ezekiel 1:1–14

Introduction: Life can be pretty discouraging – even in the best of times! But fifteen months into a pandemic, it can be hard to bear. During these months, many have lost connection with the church. Some have lost connection with their spirituality. And a few have lost connection with their soul. When the kingdom of Babylon routed Israel in about 597 BC, the Temple was destroyed and so went the heart of worship for the nation. Add to that the deportation of the elite and the intelligentsia for seventy years, and you have a recipe for discouragement that saps the soul.

1. Read Ezekiel 1:1–8. In the vision, Ezekiel’s first “sermon” to the bones brought them to their feet, but the bones and bodies still had no life. Why do you think Ezekiel had to keep preaching to them?
2. Dr. Bill said that you could almost hear Ezekiel’s discouragement in his response to God: “Sovereign God, you know,” since he’d been preaching for over twenty years to the Israelites. Why do you think he was discouraged?
3. Read 1:9–14. The second “sermon” Ezekiel preached was to the wind (or to the breath or to the Spirit). Why do you think God had him stop preaching to the “bones”?
4. Why do you think God allowed Israel to be sacked by the Babylonians?
5. Why do you think it was seventy years before God “rescued” them and allowed the Israelites to return to Jerusalem?
6. Dr. Bill pointed out that when the Israelites were allowed to return, many chose to remain where they were. Why do you think some chose to remain in Babylon? How might this be a metaphor for the Raytown Christian Church’s “return to building” plans?
7. What does it take to unleash the power of the Holy Spirit within us? What are you doing to ensure you’re able to receive that Spirit?