



MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM

SERMON NOTES | VOLUME 1

MAC HAMMOND

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PART 1: MYSTERIES

MESSAGE RECAP

Understanding life and understanding God are not prerequisites for successful living. In fact, how you handle the unknown will impact your life tremendously. Unfortunately, when some people lack understanding, they lash out against God rather than lean into Him. That's why Pastor Mac started this series entitled *Mysteries of the Kingdom*.

The kingdom of God is filled with mysteries. Thankfully, you don't have to live in the mysterious without any knowledge of what is happening. The Holy Spirit will reveal truth to you in His perfect timing as you pursue understanding and learn more about the mysteries of God.

DIVE DEEPER

How we deal with the unknown is key to our contentment. That's one reason why it is important to know that there are mysteries in God's kingdom. These mysteries are not hidden from us, but they are hidden for us. It is not God's will that we be in the dark; God wants to reveal these mysteries to us.

However, if He revealed everything to us right now, we couldn't comprehend it. In fact, if any of us knew God's full plan for our lives, we'd probably also assume we know how to fulfill His plan rather than rely on Him to lead us. God's plan comes in increments; He provides steppingstones that will help us prepare for the plan He has laid out for our future.

So, how do we understand God's mysteries? The Holy Spirit will reveal to us what we need to know. The more revelation we receive from the Holy Spirit, the more we position our own selves to have greater faith within the kingdom of God.

You see, the level of revelation we have about the mysteries of God's kingdom describes the ceiling of our faith. As we understand the mystery of redemption, the mystery of iniquity, and the mystery of God's will (to name a few), our faith life will increase.

READ MORE

Romans 16:25 KJV

Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

Mark 4:11-12 KJV

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

Ephesians 1:16-23 KJV

Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Ephesians 1:16-23 Amp.

I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers. [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him, by having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones), and [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places], far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come. And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church], which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What do you find mysterious about God's kingdom?
2. Why do you think God has mysteries in His kingdom?
3. Have you seen God reveal His plan to you in the past? What do you know about your future?
4. Have you asked the Holy Spirit to be a part of your life?

PART 2: THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

MESSAGE RECAP

A lack of understanding triggers frustration and confusion. That's one reason why it's important to learn the various mysteries inside of God's kingdom. One mystery, in particular, is fundamental to understanding all the other mysteries, for it provides the larger context within which the other mysteries are going to make sense. In order for us to understand the big picture, we must go back to the mystery of the plan of redemption, and to fully understand the need for our redemption, we need to go back to the very beginning—Genesis 1:1.

DIVE DEEPER

If you want to be frustrated less, consider learning more about the mysteries of God's kingdom, for the mysteries of God's kingdom contain truths about life on this earth that will unleash freedom and peace in your life. Too many people assume a lack of understanding is all the farther they can get in life, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Understanding the many mysteries within God's kingdom will be easier if you first understand the mystery of redemption. God's redemption of mankind is a story for the ages. From the dateless past into eternity, many mysteries will be revealed even as you learn about this one.

For starters, the story of creation many place around six thousand years ago is compatible with the carbon dating that places the earth at billions of years old. How is this true? It has to do with the original wording of Genesis 1:1 and Genesis 1:2 as well as other Old Testament Scriptures. You see, when properly interpreted, both science and the Bible will agree.

Remember, understanding the mysteries of God's kingdom are the cornerstone of your quality of life here on this earth. When you don't understand something, don't give up on God. Put it on a shelf and wait for the Lord to show you what you need to know. God wants to bring you as much revelation as you can accommodate in your life.

READ MORE

Romans 16:25 Amp.

Now to Him Who is able to strengthen you in the faith which is in accordance with my Gospel and the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ (the Messiah), according to the revelation (the unveiling) of the mystery of the plan of redemption which was kept in silence and secret for long ages,

Genesis 1:1-2 KJV

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Isaiah 45:18 KJV

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.

Ezekiel 28:11-19 KJV

Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.

Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

Jeremiah 4:23 KJV

I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.

Genesis 1:26-28 KJV

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Genesis 2:7-9, 16-18 KJV

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What do you do when you don't understand something? What do you think God wants you to do when you don't understand?
2. What should you do when someone tells you creation is not scientifically possible?
3. What are some good ways you can talk about the plan of redemption with other people?
4. How does understanding God's plan of redemption help us have a big picture of God's plan on this earth?

PART 3: THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION (CONTINUED)

MESSAGE RECAP

One of the mysteries of the kingdom of God is redemption. What is redemption? How are we redeemed and what are we redeemed unto? If answering these questions seems difficult, know that God never intended for redemption to remain a mystery. He wants you to have a revelation of His redeeming power at work in your life and your part in the timeline of redemption.

DIVE DEEPER:

After Adam sinned, humanity could not be restored back to God without the shedding of blood. This was the legal path to redemption, both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament, the blood of animals was shed; however, this wasn't a permanent restoration. The blood of man had to be shed—but not just any man. A perfect man.

That's why Jesus had to die.

Once the penalty for humanity's sin was fulfilled, God raised Jesus out of the grave. Jesus defeated death and brought the keys of the kingdom with Him. He paid our redemption in full. All we have to do is believe. Faith is our access into God's freely given redemptive work.

Now, where does that leave us in the ultimate plan of God? We are living in the end of the church age, close to the return of Jesus to earth. God has good plans ahead for His church, which include ruling and reigning with Him over the vastness of His creation. God has redeemed us for good things.

READ MORE

Hebrews 9:22 KJV

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

Hebrews 9:11-14 KJV

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once

into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Romans 3:24-25 KJV

“Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;”

Leviticus 17:11 KJV

For the life of the flesh is in the blood: and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.

Ephesians 4:8 KJV

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What does faith in God mean to you?
2. How does understanding the work of Jesus increase your faith? How does it increase your understanding of God’s love for you?
3. How does understanding the mystery of redemption set you up to better understand other mysteries in God’s kingdom?
4. What can you do today to spread the good news about the redemptive work of Jesus for all of humanity?

PART 4: CHRIST IN YOU THE HOPE OF GLORY

MESSAGE RECAP

The moment you enter into God's kingdom, you receive "Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). What exactly does that mean? "Glory" refers to the manifestation of God. Since God is nothing but good and He is the King of glory, the most succinct definition of God's glory is the manifestation of God's goodness.

When we enter into God's kingdom, we receive "Christ in us, the hope of God's manifested goodness." That means we can walk through every day, hoping—or you could say, confidently expecting—God's goodness will be manifested in our lives. It may not always appear that way, but that's where faith comes into action. Dare to believe that God's goodness is ready to change the temporal truth you are facing and align it with the spiritual reality of God's goodness.

DIVE DEEPER

A lot of Christians don't experience the goodness of God on a regular basis; as a result, they may struggle to expect that God will be good to them. What they may not realize is that we all have this same challenge: to come to a point of believing what the Word says is true, even when it can't be empirically validated. This isn't easy, but this is where faith is put into action.

If you want to increase your faith in God's goodness, start by reading your Bible, praying, and attending church. These regular spiritual disciplines don't make you good. They remind you that God is good. They bring your mental thought patterns into alignment with the truth that God is ready to pour out His goodness in your life. As you increasingly think about God's goodness, you'll increasingly expect to see His goodness manifest.

Now, the more you realize that Christ is in you, the more you move yourself to be "in Christ." You begin to identify yourself as a child of God, the source of God's glory and manifested goodness in this earth for others to see. You'll begin to see your days as an opportunity for God's goodness to be manifest to you and through you to others.

READ MORE

Colossians 1:27 KJV

Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

Colossians 1:27 TPT

Living within you is the Christ who floods you with the expectation of glory! This mystery of Christ, embedded within us, becomes a heavenly treasure chest of hope filled with the riches of glory for his people, and God wants everyone to know it!

2 Corinthians 3:18 KJV

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 3:18 TPT

We can all draw close to him with the veil removed from our faces. And with no veil we all become like mirrors who brightly reflect the glory of the Lord Jesus. We are being transfigured into his very image as we move from one brighter level of glory to another. And this glorious transfiguration comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

Romans 12:2 KJV

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. How have you seen God's goodness manifested to you today? over this past week? over this past year?
2. How have you seen God manifest His goodness through you to others today? this past week? this past year?
3. What are the biggest detractors to our ability to display God's goodness to others? How can we point people back to Jesus without coming across as overly spiritual?
4. How can we become more aware of helping others in our daily lives? What is your favorite way to bless others?

PART 5: GODLINESS

MESSAGE RECAP

Some people assume God's protection over godly people means that suffering should not be a part of godly people's lives. However, that is not the case. Godliness is a mystery and it does involve suffering. Jesus exemplified this mystery by leaving heaven to come to earth and display both God's royalty and majesty, as the people praised Him for on Palm Sunday, as well as the suffering that enabled Him to mature into His calling: our Redeemer. Suffering is a part of the godly life, and we must understand how to handle the suffering life brings.

DIVE DEEPER

Why do bad things happen to good people? It's a question that has been prevalent for centuries. People have trouble reconciling the idea that God is a loving God who takes care of His people and God allows suffering to happen—but just because it's hard to understand doesn't mean that it is true.

You see, suffering is one of the mysteries of godliness. Suffering involves pain, but it is what will make you mature. Just as suffering matured Jesus into His calling as our Redeemer, we too will mature into God's calling on our lives through suffering.

Suffering should never be attributed to the judgment or chastisement of the Lord. Suffering is not something God inflicts, but it is something He allows. It is His permissive will. Put it this way: God made you an overcomer, not so you can float along on a puffy faith cloud unharmed by life. God made you an overcomer so you could overcome whatever comes your way! Your faith will be tested through suffering, but praise God, your faith can grow stronger and become better on the other side of what you're going through.

READ MORE:

1 Timothy 3:16 KJV

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 Timothy 3:16 Msg.

This Christian life is a great mystery, far exceeding our understanding, but some things are clear enough: He appeared in a human body, was proved right by the invisible Spirit, was seen by angels. He was proclaimed among all kinds of peoples, believed in all over the world, taken up into heavenly glory.

Matthew 21:6-10 KJV

And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon. And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way. And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest. And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

Matthew 21:10 Msg.

As he made his entrance into Jerusalem, the whole city was shaken. Unnerved, people were asking, "What's going on here? Who is this?"

Hebrews 5:8-9 KJV

Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; and being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

1 Peter 5:10 KJV

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

1 Corinthians 10:13 KJV

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 KJV

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. How do our choices create or eliminate the suffering we face?
2. How should we handle adversity we can't control, such as adversity we're in because of our families or adversity that is created by our leaders?
3. When have you seen God show you a way of escape out of adversity?
4. What's one way you can endure suffering well? Do you know someone who is a good role model in this area?
5. How does joy play a part in dealing with adversity? How can you be joyful when you're facing a sad situation? What does God's joy look like in the middle of adversity?

PART 6: RESURRECTION

MESSAGE RECAP

Your life as a Christian wouldn't be the same if Jesus hadn't risen from the dead. His resurrection is what makes Christianity come alive. That's what we celebrate every Easter: Jesus' victory over death.

Jesus' sacrifice has redeemed us from life as usual. We've been redeemed unto resurrection power. This power can touch our lives in every area. We've been given victory over the touch of death in our lives. Glory to God!

DIVE DEEPER

God never intended for us to be left alone, fending off darkness without help. He wanted His children to be able to live differently. That is why He made the power of Jesus' resurrection available to us.

How can we activate God's resurrection power? Believe it. Expect it. Speak it. These three things work together to position our thought patterns to be ready for God to move on our behalf. When our belief, expectation, and words align with the truth that God wants to move in our lives, we open the door to see resurrection power at work.

There's one other important key: When you see the touch of death occur, when you see decline or separation happen in your relationships, finances, or vocational endeavors, don't ignore it. Acknowledge it. Resurrection cannot happen until death has occurred.

In many cases, the death that needs to be acknowledged is that our old nature carries with it the touch of death. When we choose to live by the standards of our old nature, we fight against the power of the resurrection. God's resurrection power is available to help us live as a new creation, so acknowledge that and put off the old nature. Say no to the desires of your flesh. To the extent you put off your old nature, you'll experience resurrection power.

READ MORE

1 Timothy 3:16 KJV

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

John 11:1–45 KJV

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick.

When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was. Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?

Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.

Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.

Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.

Then when Jesus came, he found that he had lain in the grave four days already. Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off: and many of the Jews came to Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother. Then Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met him: but Mary sat still in the house. Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee.

Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again.

Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee. As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him.

Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him. The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died.

When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled. And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see.

Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died?

Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

Ezekiel 37:1-10 KJV

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and He brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones. And He caused me to pass round about among them, and behold, there were very many [human bones] in the open valley or plain, and behold, they were very dry. And He said to me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, You know! Again He said to me, Prophecy to these bones and say to them, O you dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath and spirit to enter you, and you shall live; and I will lay sinews upon you and bring up flesh upon you and cover you with skin, and I will put breath and spirit in you, and you [dry bones] shall live; and you shall know, understand, and realize that I am the Lord [the Sovereign Ruler, Who calls forth loyalty and obedient service]. So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a [thundering] noise and behold, a shaking and trembling and a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And I looked and behold, there were sinews upon [the bones] and flesh came upon them and skin covered them over, but there was no breath or spirit in them. Then said He to me, Prophecy to the breath and spirit, son of man, and say to the breath and spirit, Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath and spirit, and breathe upon these slain that they may live. So I prophesied as He commanded me, and the breath and spirit came into [the bones], and they lived and stood up upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.

Romans 6:5–7 KJV

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.

Ephesians 4:22–24 KJV

That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

1. What is your favorite part of the Easter celebration? What stands out to you the most about Jesus' resurrection?
2. Where have you seen the touch of death in your life? How can you acknowledge it and let God breathe His life into the situation?
3. What are you expecting in your life right now? How can you cultivate even more expectation that God is going to move on your behalf?
4. How does disappointment become dangerous in our pursuit of expecting God's resurrection power? What can we do about it?
5. Why do our words matter when it comes to expecting God to move on our behalf? How can we prophesy (or speak) God's Word over our lives?