

# The Word and Breath of Life

*Promise: The Father speaks His Word and Breathes on us to give life*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:17-27, 38-53  
(Fifth Sunday in Lent, 3/29/20)

*If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you. — v. 11*

**Lead In** – God the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, has been given many titles, including: the Comforter, the Advocate, the Paraclete, and the Spirit of Truth. But one of the titles I like best is that of the Giver of Life. And I am reminded right away that at the very act of Creation, when the Father spoke things into existence by His Word, that the Spirit is mentioned as “hovering” or “brooding” over the waters. And living things were filled with the breath of God. By the way, breath accompanies the speaking of a word!

## I. Ezekiel’s Sensational Vision, Carried by the Spirit

- A. To a valley of very many, very dry bones...
- B. The spoken Word is powerful in its effect...
- C. When the Word became connected with “wind”...

## II. Lazarus’ Resuscitation Prelude to Resurrection

- A. Like very dry bones, in the tomb for four days!...
- B. We grieve at death, but not like others...
- C. Jesus word of command accompanied by breath!

## III. Greatest Hope Possible Because of Forgiveness

- A. We deserve nothing but punishment, now and...
- B. There are two principles we can live by...
- C. Faith as surrender when we understand our...

**Parting Shot** – So we might ask where the Resurrection Life first gave us spiritual birth? It came upon us and gave us birth just as in the Creation God spoke newness into existence and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And in our case the words were, “I baptized you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.” The voice sounded like the Pastor, but he was prophesying, and breath and water were bestowing birth and new life...

**Is 55:11** so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

**Dem Bones:** Toe bone connected to the foot... heel... ankle... shin... knee... // Dem bones, dem bones, dem dry bones 3xs, Now hear the words of the Lord.

**ruwach** Hbr for “breath”, “wind”, and “spirit”. **pneuma** Gr for “breath”, “wind”, and “spirit”.

**Ez 37:12-14** Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land.

Romans 8:1-11 ESV

*Life In the Spirit*

<sup>1</sup>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup>For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

**Jn 11:23-26** Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”

**1 Thes 4:13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

**Jn 11:43-44** When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out.” The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

**Ro 8:2** For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

**Ps 51:5** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

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