**Friday 17th July -** Mike Orman, Worship Pastor

*Ezekiel 37:9-10 (For the full picture read Ezekiel 37:1-14)*

Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Come, breath, from the four winds and breathe into these slain, that they may live.'" So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

The scene at the start of this passage is like something out of a Hollywood movie - bones littering a dry, dusty valley with no sign of life left - the vultures have long since gone!

Verse 11 says, 'Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone, we are cut off.' I wonder if you've ever felt in a situation of hopelessness. It can be very debilitating. But God is the God of the impossible. He specialises in bringing hope to the hopeless and resurrection life where there has been death!

God instructs Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones - and they respond to the word and come together to form bodies. But they are still just corpses, there is no life in them. Then God tells Ezekiel prophesy to the breath 'and as breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet - a vast army.' (v10). Just as He was to do with the early church at Pentecost, the breath of God, the Holy Spirit, breathed life into those new believers, God raised this vast army to their feet and brought them to life.

I wonder if we find ourselves with a feeling of hopelessness, or feel 'cut off'? In what areas of our lives do we need God to breathe his life giving, resurrecting breath? Where do we want to see him pour out his Holy Spirit?

*Father, thank you that you are a life-giving God. Thank you, Jesus, that you offer us life in all its fullness. Where there are areas of our lives that seem hopeless, or where we have been praying from something and not seen an answer and given up hope, where we have given up on dreams you once gave us, we ask for a fresh outpouring of your life giving, miracle working Holy Spirit. We actively look today to see where you are working in our lives and the lives of those we meet today, and we give you thanks. Amen!*