

OPEN HEAVEN 5 MARCH 2025 DEVOTIONAL

TOPIC: WHEN YOUR FAITH IS NOT ENOUGH

MEMORISE

And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.

Mark 9:24

READ: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

- 2 And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.
- 3 And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.
- 4 Again he said unto me, Prophesy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.
- 5 Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

- 6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord.
- 7 So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.
- 8 And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.
- 9 Then said he unto me, Prophesy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.
- 10 So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.
- 11 Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts.
- 12 Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.
- 13 And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,
- 14 And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord.

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 5 MARCH 2025 MESSAGE

In today's Bible reading, Ezekiel found himself in a valley that was full of dry bones. When God asked him, "Can these bones live?" The prophet, considering the seemingly impossible situation before him, answered, "Lord, only You can tell." In other words, he was saying, "This is beyond my faith." God asked him to prophesy, and as he did, the dry bones came back to life.

Most ministers of God know that He can do all things. However, sometimes, the faith of even the greatest ministers can be terribly shaken.

Sometimes, God will ask me to do something, and despite my faith in Him, I will say, "Daddy, this is beyond my faith." He will ask me to prophesy all the same, and I will just obey and leave the fulfilment to Him.

When you hear a minister of God prophesy, and it is beyond your faith, please don't speak against the prophecy. Even if you don't believe the prophecy, control your mouth not to speak against it because the consequences may be severe. In 2 Kings 7:19-20, a top government official said it was impossible for Elisha's prophecy to be fulfilled; he saw the prophecy come to pass, but he died before he could partake of it.

In Mark 9:14-27, Jesus' disciples were unable to deliver a demon-possessed boy, and his father had lost hope. When Jesus arrived at the scene, the boy's father's request for compassion was filled with doubt. I know this because Jesus said, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Instead of sinking further in unbelief, the man cried out, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief," and he received his miracle.

When situations are beyond your faith, cry out to God for help to believe. He can increase your faith to help you cooperate with Him to birth the impossible. Don't hinder your miracle because of unbelief. God wants you to be willing to do whatever He demands, like the servants at the wedding in Cana (John 2:5-8).

Beloved, when God brings situations that are beyond your faith your way, He wants to glorify Himself. At such times, it is not about what your faith can do but what God can do with your obedience and whatever measure of faith you have.

KEY POINT

When a situation is beyond your faith, look to God and do whatever He commands.

BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

Joshua 1-4

HYMN 30: WHEN WE WALK WITH THE LORD

RCCG OPEN HEAVEN 5 MARCH 2025 COMMENTARY

1. The Crisis of Limited Faith

The Open Heaven devotional for today opens with Ezekiel's encounter in the valley of dry bones—a picture of **hopelessness and impossibility**. When God asked, "Can these bones live?" Ezekiel's response revealed raw honesty: "Only You know" (Ezekiel 37:3).

Key Insight:

- Even great men of God face moments where their faith wavers.
- God doesn't rebuke Ezekiel for his doubt; He commands him to prophesy anyway.

Lesson for Us:

- ? Your faith doesn't have to be perfect—just obedient.
- ? God often calls us to act despite our doubts (e.g., Peter walking on water, Matthew 14:28-31).

2. The Danger of Rejecting Prophetic Words

Today's devotional warns against **mocking or dismissing prophecies** we don't understand:

- The skeptical official in 2 Kings 7:19-20 saw Elisha's prophecy fulfilled but died before benefiting from it.
- Unbelief can block blessings (Matthew 13:58 Jesus "did not do many miracles in Nazareth due to their unbelief").

Application:

- ? Even if a word from God seems impossible, hold your peace (Habakkuk 2:3).
- ? Don't let your intellect override your faith (Proverbs 3:5-6).

3. The Prayer That Moves God: "Help My Unbelief!"

In Mark 9:24, the desperate father's cry models how to approach God when faith is weak:

- 1. Honesty: "I believe... but I'm struggling."
- 2. Humility: "I need Your help to trust You."

Why This Prayer Works:

- God responds to honest vulnerability (Psalm 51:17).
- He rewards those who earnestly seek Him (Hebrews 11:6).

Prayer:

"Lord, I choose to believe but strengthen my faith where it's lacking!"

4. Obedience > Perfect Faith

The servants at Cana (John 2:5-8) had **no idea** Jesus would turn water to wine but they obeyed anyway. Likewise:

- Ezekiel didn't feel faith, he just prophesied.
- The disciples failed to cast out a demon (Mark 9:18), but Jesus showed that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough (Matthew 17:20).

Key Principle:

- God doesn't need your great faith. He needs your willing obedience.
- Miracles happen when we cooperate with God's instructions, even if we don't fully understand.

Action Step:

? Is God asking you to do something "impossible"? Step out in obedience today!

5. The Ultimate Goal: God's Glory

God allows **impossible situations** because:

- They reveal His power (John 9:3 the blind man's condition was "so that the works of God might be displayed").
- They dismantle human pride (2 Corinthians 12:9 "My power is made perfect in weakness").

Encouragement:

- Your valley of dry bones is a setup for resurrection!
- Your "I can't" is God's opportunity to say, "But I CAN."

Final Thought: Faith Is a Journey

Like the father in Mark 9, you may oscillate between belief and doubt. But God honors the heart that cries:

"I'm holding onto You—even when my faith feels small."

"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." (Matthew 19:26)

Prayer:

"Lord, I surrender my doubts to You. Where my faith is weak, strengthen me. Help me obey even when I don't see the way. Let Your glory shine through my life, in Jesus' name. Amen."

Your obedience in the valley of dry bones will become someone else's testimony!

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