



STUDY GUIDE

SERMON TOPIC :

“Too Many Answers and Not Enough Questions”

WEEK 2

1. READ

Pastor's Selected Scripture: Ezekiel 37 : 1 – 8 New King James Version (NKJV)

1 The hand of the Lord came upon me and 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. 2 Then He caused me to pass by them all around, and behold, there were very many in the open valley; and indeed they were very dry. 3 And He said to me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

So I answered, “O Lord God, You know.”

4 Again He said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, ‘O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: “Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. 6 I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you, cover you with skin and put breath in you; and you shall live. Then you shall know that I am the Lord.” ’ ”

7 So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and suddenly a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to bone. 8 Indeed, as I looked, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them over; but there was no breath in them.

Further Reading: Exodus 4 : 1 – 7 New International Version (NIV)

1 Moses answered, “What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, ‘The Lord did not appear to you’?”

2 Then the Lord said to him, “What is that in your hand?”
“A staff,” he replied.

3 The Lord said, “Throw it on the ground.”

Moses threw it on the ground and it became a snake, and he ran from it. 4 Then the Lord said to him, “Reach out your hand and take it by the tail.” So Moses reached out and took hold of the snake and it turned back into a staff in his hand. 5 “This,” said the Lord, “is so that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has appeared to you.”

6 Then the Lord said, “Put your hand inside your cloak.” So Moses put his hand into his cloak, and when he took it out, the skin was leprous—it had become as white as snow.

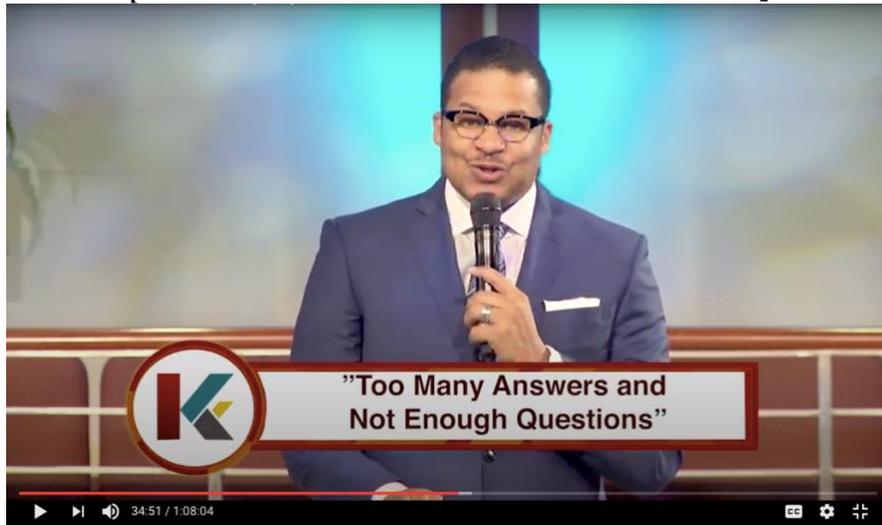
7 “Now put it back into your cloak,” he said. So Moses put his hand back into his cloak, and when he took it out, it was restored, like the rest of his flesh.



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2. REFLECT

[Click to view this week's sermon on YouTube]



As we continue on our journey through Pastor Watley's sermon series entitled "Question Everything," we have explored some of the essential questions that prominent biblical figures asked in times of uncertainty. Using these biblical examples, we've witnessed how central questions are to our spiritual growth and maturity.

However, as we learn the importance of asking questions, we must also pay attention to the types of questions we ask. In our lesson for week two entitled "Too Many Answers and Not Enough Questions," Pastor Watley illustrates the necessity of asking the right questions. According to philosopher Dr. Thomas Kuhn, "the answers you get depend on the questions you ask." Perhaps this is because some questions will not only challenge *what* you think, but they will also challenge *how* you think.

In our scripture for this week (Ezekiel 37:1-8), we find God asking Ezekiel a question that challenges his thinking. After taking him to a valley filled with dry bones, God asks Ezekiel, "Son of man, can these bones live?" Even though Ezekiel is surrounded by death and destruction, does he believe that life and abundance are possible outcomes of this grim situation? God's question forces Ezekiel to shift his focus. He cannot answer God's question by focusing on what he sees with his eyes. Instead, God's question requires Ezekiel to look past his current circumstances and focus on what he believes in his heart.

This is an important characteristic of God's questions: In the question, there's often redirection!



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In addition, God's questions often lead us to learn something new about ourselves in the process. Ezekiel's response to God reiterates his dependence on God. He replies, "O Lord God, You know," basically saying, "It's in your hands Lord." At this point Ezekiel probably had no idea what God was going to do, but I suspect that he didn't know God was going to use him to perform this miracle. Ezekiel was blissfully unaware that by God's spirit, he already had everything he needed to change his situation.

Based on Ezekiel's response of faith and surrender, God gives him step-by-step instructions on how to overcome this obstacle. God tells Ezekiel to speak directly to the bones in the name of the Lord. "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them, 'O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord! 5 Thus says the Lord God to these bones: "Surely I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live.'" God tells Ezekiel to speak life over the bones and they reassemble into bodies right before his eyes. Ezekiel learns that God's spirit gave him the power and the authority to do the impossible.

However, even though the bones and skin were assembled on the outside, without God's spirit they were unable to fully come alive. The situation was better, but it wasn't the fulfillment of God's promise. Instead of forgetting what God told him or giving up hope, Ezekiel waited for God to send further instruction. He waited for God to send another word. A few verses later, God moves again, and Ezekiel is able to witness the bones come alive. Ezekiel's faith reminds us to wait for God to send another word. How often do we stop short or give up right before God sends breakthrough? How often do we settle for a situation that's better, instead of waiting for God's best?

3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- What has God been saying or asking you during this season?
- How are you 'speaking life' over your own circumstances?

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Ezekiel didn't answer God's question with simply "Yes" or "No"?
- The passage doesn't say much about Ezekiel's reaction to the rattling bones and them coming to life. How do you think he reacted to this sight? How would you have reacted?