

Dry Bones

Eri Kamata

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest."
(Ezekiel 37:1-3 RSV)

I thought that I had been just like dry bone before I was led to the praise of the *Kohitsuji no Mure Church*. I had an illness called chronic fatigue syndrome. Because of the illness, my hair fell out, my body was cold and I was nothing but skin and bone. My spirit was also like bone. I only saw the darkness, and my heart was filled with anxiety. In the praise the breath of the risen Lord was breathed into me, and remarkably I was healed and came to life. Undoubtedly, the breath of God, the wind of the Holy Spirit, blew into me.

When God created man, He put breath into his nostrils and formed man in His image. I believe the breath put into man was the love of God because "God is love." Given the breath of God's love, man became a living being. However, man sinned and strayed from God. Chased out of the Garden of Eden, man had to live apart from God. He was only left with the path to death, turning to bone. I do not think that we can truly live being separated from God. However, the Lord, who was pained over the bones, gave up His life on the Cross to let us return to God. And He was resurrected. The breath of the risen Lord is now descending from heaven as the *Hato praise*. It has also descended upon me.

I think the image of God was still hidden in me when I was bone. The Lord breathed the praise into me, saying, "Dry bone, hear the word of the Lord." Then, not only my body was healed, but also my spirit was woken up and I stood on my feet. I believe the truth was that when my spirit was woken up, my body too came to life. I returned to my true self which was the image seen by God when He first created me.

Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, son of man, and say to the breath, thus says the Lord GOD:

Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.

(Ezekiel 37:9-10 RSV)

"Prophecy to the breath," is a strange expression. The prophecy to the breath, I believe, is praise. When praise breathes upon us, the breath of the risen Lord will make us alive, and when we prophesy with His breath (praise) entrusted to us, those slain shall live.

Recently new praise songs were given to us: "The Wind of the Holy Spirit Blows" and "God Who Is from Everlasting to Everlasting." Both of them had the same tune in the first phrase. When I found it, I could not help thinking that it was not a coincidence but the will of God.

The praise song "The Wind of the Holy Spirit Blows" is subtitled "From the *Church of the Wind*," which I believe means that the life of the risen Lord shall blow from the *Church of the Wind* to the entire earth to give life to those whose spirit is dried up and to those who do not even know they are actually dried up.

Whenever I hear *Stand up* in the praise song "God Who Is from Everlasting to Everlasting," I feel happy thinking not only of the reconstruction of the walls of Jerusalem but also of the rebirth of Israelites.

Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.

(Nehemiah 9:5 NIV)

Israelites were captured by Babylon and the city walls of Jerusalem were totally ruined. Upon hearing this sad news, Nehemiah wept, fasted and prayed to God. He rebuilt the walls, and people repented and returned to God to worship Him. It was the moment when the spirit of Israelites stood up.

My spirit too is rejoicing when I sing the praise of that verse. It must be because my true wish is woken up. Created by God and called by His love, I wish to respond to His love. Receiving God's holy breath, we were entrusted with His will to build the *Church of the Wind*, just as Nehemiah rebuilt the city walls of Jerusalem. From the *Church of the Wind* we as an exceedingly great host will prophesy to the breath. We will praise God and say to the land,

“Stand up and praise the LORD your God, who is from everlasting to everlasting.”

The earth is on the verge of death. It may be just as it is written in Ezekiel, “There were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry.” When God created the earth, He said, “It was very good.” (Genesis 1:31 RSV) God still sees the image of the beautiful earth. Only what the Lord sees shall be done, because He was crucified on the Cross to reclaim the earth to its original image, and the Cross has already been completed.

Now the time has come for us, who were awaked by the breath of God’s love, to stand on our feet. Now is the time to rescue the earth with His breath (praise), and to pour His risen life upon all creation which are like dry bones. For that purpose, the *Church of the Wind* shall be built.

From the *Church of the Wind* the breath of the risen Lord will blow to the entire earth. And all creation shall return to God and praise Him.

I believe we will see the redemption of the Lord fulfilled on a global scale in the *Church of the Wind*.

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