

MIDWEEK DEVOTIONAL, 8/30/23; by Jon Cardwell

READ: Ezekiel 1:22-2:10

HE SET ME ON MY FEET

And as He spoke to me, the Spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard Him speaking to me. Ezekiel 2:2

After Ezekiel had witnessed a vision of four living creatures (Ezek 1:4-21), he was then given a vision of God's throne and presence above the living creatures (Ezek 1:22-28). The vision and voice of God's majestic presence caused the prophet to fall upon His face (Ezek 1:28). God then commanded Ezekiel to stand on his feet, and in so doing, God would speak to him. The second verse is impossible to comprehend unless we receive it by the power, strength, and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. Moreover, it must be understood through the light of gospel truth in Jesus Christ. God was already speaking to Ezekiel, which speaks of God's amazing grace to hear the command, "*Son of man, stand on your feet.*" The next verse is a joyous one in Christ Jesus, for although this event took place before the Lord Jesus walked upon the planet, God's grace extended to Ezekiel based upon the complete and saturated righteousness of the Messiah to come. Since Adam's fall, there are enough corruptions remaining in our mortal flesh that we could never keep a single commandment of God without our works containing some kind of defect or schism. Nevertheless, if we've been called by God's grace, just like Ezekiel, we will find that God equips the called and enables those He commands. It is the power of the Holy Spirit which set Ezekiel upon his feet to receive further instructions from the LORD God.

This indicates the Lord's commands have not been eliminated because of grace through faith in Jesus Christ. When God speaks, we must obey. We must comply. We must heed. Yet, our obedience and compliance must come by the power of the Holy Spirit. If it comes not by the power of the Spirit, we have no business hearing anything further from the Lord.

Although we are set upon our feet by the Spirit's power, we are not issued a license for spiritual laziness; neither are we given permission for spiritual complacency. We are set on our feet so we may run the race of gospel faith (1 Cor 9:23-27).

"Stand up," said God to the prophet,
"And I will speak with you."
Yet by God's grace our feet are set
To hear God's words are true.

Questions to Meditate Upon:

1. Consider Ezek 1:26-28. How does this represent gospel truth as it reflects man's condition before salvation?
2. Consider Ezek 2:1. While the LORD God spoke to Ezekiel through a heavenly vision, how does God speak to us today? Think about what was said in this verse. Was the 1st part of God's sentence ("*stand on your feet*") a command or invitation? What can you say about the 2nd part of God's word, "*...and I will speak to you.*"? How is the gospel of Christ reflected in Ezek 2:1?
3. Consider Ezek 2:2. Why must the Holy Spirit enter into Ezekiel in order for him to hear God (*and I heard Him speaking to me*)? Didn't he hear God in the 1st verse? Read 1 Cor 2:14. How does this verse help us to understand how Ezekiel "*heard*" God speaking to him? How does this relate to us as sinners saved by grace?