

Awakenings



Text: John 5:24-29, Ezekiel 37:1-14

I. Physical Encephalitis Lethargica

- Oliver Sacks worked to discover a cure for encephalitis
- There is so much in this real-life story that corresponds to what God has been seeking for us from the very beginning
- Many people, even in the church building, remain dead in their sins

II. Spiritual Encephalitis Lethargica

- Many of only a “head” faith in Christ that never gets to the heart
- You can miss Heaven by just eighteen inches – the distance from your head to your heart
- Only true faith in Jesus will get you to Heaven
- Human works and human morality and service to the church are not the goals of a Christian life – it is getting to Heaven
- You can all know about someone in your head, but that's not the same as a personal experience where you actually meet that person face-to-face
- Our minds cannot transform us...but only our hearts can do that through the saving power of Christ
- **John 5:24**
- The Christian faith is about *experiencing* God through the Lord Jesus Christ *in your heart*
- Knowing about God leads to knowing God

III. Good News For Sufferers Of Spiritual Encephalitis Lethargica

- Like a good and compassionate doctor, God refuses to give up hope that you can be awakened to new life in Christ
- He comes to us in person
- He struggles with us
- When that happens, it is a transformation
- God is in the business of awakenings
- Salvation is a spiritual experience
- Ezekiel's experience – can bones come back to life? Yes!

IV. Conclusion

- Will you remain dead, or wake to the new life in Christ?