

# WHY WE NEED A SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

What is a Spiritual Awakening?

- Revival, visitation, 'Move of the Spirit', outpouring, etc

Do we need a Spiritual Awakening?

- Our country is slipping further and further away from its historic Judeo-Christian roots.

## 1. Old Testament Awakenings

Apostacy and Revival: 8 cycles of apostacy and revival in the book of Judges.

*Judges 2:10-11* When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel. <sup>11</sup> Then the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord, and served the Baals; **vs:15**...they were in great distress.

*Nehemiah 9:28* But after they had rest, they again did evil before You. Therefore You left them in the hand of their enemies, So that they had dominion over them; Yet when they returned and cried out to You, You heard from heaven; And many times You delivered them according to Your mercies,

- Spiritual apostasy leads to bondage, crime, immorality, evil actions, rebellion, injustice, etc
- Gideon and the Midianites

*Judges 8:28 Thus Midian was subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted their heads no more. And the country was quiet for forty years in the days of Gideon.*

- Spiritual Awakenings lead to peace, blessing

## **2. New Testament Revivals**

A new age is born. The church age began with an amazing spiritual outpouring

*Acts 2:1-4 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

*Acts 2:41 Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.*

*Acts 2:47 And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.*

*Acts 4:4* However, many of those who heard the word believed; and the number of the men came to be about five thousand.

*Acts 6:1* In those days the number of disciples was increasing...

*Acts 5:14* And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women,

*Acts 6:7* Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.

- The result of this outpouring was a great harvest of souls.

The church needed revival in two generations.

Jesus spoke directly to 7 churches

- This was 40 to 50 years after 2 generations
- Revelation 2 – 3*



- Ephesus - Smyrna - Pergamum - Thyatira - Sardis - Philadelphia - Laodicea.
- Words of commendation to all but Laodicea
- Words of warning, rebuke and correction to each church.

*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit has to say to the churches...*

Each church needed a Spiritual Awakening.  
Every generation needs a fresh visitation

### **3. Observations through Church history.**

The church became institutionalized.

- Apostacy, indulgences, etc - 'Salvation by works'

The reformation - 1517. The birth of the protestant reformation

#### **1500's and 1600's**

- Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, etc
- Salvation is by faith

#### **Great Spiritual Awakenings are costly.**

Great Awakenings: 1700' and 1800's

- George Whitefield, Johnathon Edwards, John and Charles Wesley, Charles Finney, etc

John Wesley prayed *“Oh, Lord, send us the old revival, without the defects, but if this cannot be, send it - with all its defects. We must have revival.”*

- William Carey (Father of modern Missions),

## **1900's**

- Billy Sunday, Smith Wigglesworth, Charles Spurgeon,
- Personal cost of prayer, discipline, fasting, etc
- Standing against 'the crowd' – being true to our convictions

**A. W. Tozer:** *“A revival changes the moral climate of a community”*

## **Australian revivals**

Australia has over 70 recorded revivals – Dr Stuart Piggin. *Kembla, NSW...*

Results of a revival...

**First**, payment of debts. Tradesmen report the settlement of accounts they had long regarded as bad.

**Second**, a pure language. It is said that in the Mount Keira pit an oath has scarcely been heard since the Mission.

**Third**, a fair day's work. The proprietor of one of the mines told me that the biggest day's output of coal they ever had, followed the Mission.

**Fourth**, attendance at Church. All the churches report greatly increased congregations and increase in the membership. (Colwell 1904:630)

## **The 20<sup>th</sup> century**

- Welsh Revival.  
Evan Roberts 1904-1905
- The Pentecostal movement.  
Azusa Street revival 1906

Signs, wonders, miracles, new churches,  
Controversy, persecution, excesses.

- Post war revivalists.  
Oral Roberts, Sadu Sundar Singh, Billy Graham, Reinhardt Bonnke, etc.
- The Jesus movement.  
God intervenes in the sexual revolution.
- Masses of young people are converted around the world

**Winkie Pratney:** *“Revival is what the Church first experiences, evangelism is then what she engages in.”*

Revival is periodic; evangelism is continuous”

The Charismatic movement.

The Holy Spirit visits historic denominations

- Reinhardt Bonnke, Dr Paul Yongi Cho, etc

## **4. What about today**

The First century church flourished in a culture of overt and open idolatry, immorality, corruption, crime, injustice, etc.

**Our country is in desperate need.**

- Our Beliefs, values and behaviour ignores God or is anti-God.
- Marriage, crime, injustice, sexual behaviour, corruption, etc.
- Many of our Pentecostal churches are ‘in name only’.

Many attenders have never encountered the Presence and Power of God.

## **5. How does a Spiritual Awakening take place?**

All true Spiritual Awakenings commence with God.

- God stirs the hearts of His people.
  - Dis-satisfaction with the status quo
  - Humility, repentance and contrition of heart
  - Desire – hunger and thirst

*Psalm 85:4-6 Restore us, O God of our salvation, and cause Your anger toward us to cease. <sup>5</sup> Will You be angry with us forever? Will You prolong Your anger to all generations? <sup>6</sup> Will You not revive us again, That Your people may rejoice in You? <sup>7</sup> Show us Your mercy, Lord, and grant us Your salvation.*

- Hunger for the scriptures.
- Prayer and fasting.

*Jeremiah 6:16 Thus says the LORD: “Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls.*

## **Signs of a true Spiritual Awakening.**

*Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.*

The presence and power of God is clearly experienced.

Confession of sin and wrongdoing - repentance, tears, sorrow, etc.

Restoration and reconciliation of broken fellowship.



Expressions of great joy, worship, singing, praising, exuberance, manifestations, etc.

A strong passion and desire to tell others – witnessing.

A fresh ingathering of new converts - many people saved.

Churches grow and new ones are established.

The community is affected - righteousness in society.

For further reading...

<https://dailydeclaration.org.au/2021/05/19/the-history-of-early-revival-in-australia/>

<https://partnersinprayer.org.au/early-evangelical-revivals-in-australia/>