

Appendix

Another Great Awakening?

Is God trying to get our attention?

After the 911 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, there was a short time of serious prayer and repentance, then a return to normal greed that ultimately resulted in the current economic decline. However, there have been prior times when our nation seemed in jeopardy of ceasing to be a Christian nation, and, when God's people really prayed, there was a Great Awakening.

Following are comments on some of the prior Great Awakenings made by Dr. Edwin Orr, author of The Flaming Tongue, in his October 1976 message entitled "The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakenings":

Dr. A.T. Pearson once said, "There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer."

- I. FIRST GREAT AWAKENING (1734 -):
 - A. Voltaire in France proclaimed that "Christianity will be forgotten in 30 years time", influencing Americans as well.
 - B. JOHN ERSKINE of Scotland wrote a letter to Jonathan Edwards enclosing a copy of his pamphlet entitled "Pleading with the People of Scotland and Elsewhere to Unite in Prayer for a Revival of Religion".
 - C. JONATHAN EDWARDS responded by publishing his own book in 1747 entitled "A HUMBLE ATTEMPT TO PROVOKE (a) EXPLICIT AGREEMENT AND (b) VISIBLE UNION OF (c) ALL GOD'S PEOPLE TO UNITE IN (d) EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER FOR (e) THE REVIVAL OF RELIGION AND ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM". Many responded. George Whitefield proclaimed Christ at camp meetings. JOHN and CHARLES WESLEY founded the Methodist movement with prayer and preaching meetings throughout Great Britain and later, the U. S. with an emphasis on prayer and sanctification and holiness.
 - D. The First Great Awakening followed and provoked the Christian convictions that ultimately motivated many of those who founded our

country, as evangelism moved outside the clergy and the traditional churches to reach common people in open air meetings.

II. SECOND GREAT AWAKENING (1794-):

A. Moral Conditions Following the American Revolution:

1. Drunkenness was epidemic
2. Women were afraid to go out alone at night due to assaults
3. Bank robberies were “a daily occurrence”
4. Churches were stagnant and declining
 - a. Methodists were largest and losing members
 - b. Lutherans and Episcopalians considered combining due to lack of growth; the Protestant Episcopal bishop of NY quit functioning because he had nothing to do and took other employment
 - c. Baptists were 2d largest had “their most wintry season”
 - d. Congregationalists strongest in New England had no young people confirmed for 16 years
 - e. Presbyterians met in general assembly to deplore the ungodliness of the country
5. U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall wrote a letter to Bishop Madison of Virginia “The Church is too far gone ever to be redeemed”.
6. College and young people were especially uninterested in Christianity and even joined a widely publicized “filthy speech movement”:
 - a. Harvard – not one believer; forced President to resign
 - b. Princeton – two believers and only 5 not belong to “filthy speech movement”; burned down Nassar Hall and took a Bible out of a Presbyterian Church and burned it.
 - c. Williams College – mock communion
 - d. Dartmouth – anti-Christian plays
 - e. Christians met in secret like communist cells on campuses
7. Church historian Kenneth Scott Latourette wrote of that time that “It seemed as if Christianity were about to be ush-

ered out of the affairs of men. The churches had their backs to the wall”.

B. How did God respond to this situation and who did He use to do it? He used motivated Christians to provoke a “CONCERT OF PRAYER.”

1. At Hampton-Sidney College in 1787, five Christians praying in secret were rescued from a mob by University President Smith, who then invited them to begin praying in his office. By the early 1800s, half the students there professed Christ. A wave of campus revivals followed.

2. In 1792, a Union of Prayer in England included William Carey, Andrew Fuller, John Sutcliffe and others, which led to the Second Great Awakening there and great missionary work started the year after death of John Wesley.

C. In New England in 1794, Isaac Bacchus, a Baptist leader, sent out a plea for prayer to ministers of every Christian denomination in the U.S. to set aside the first Monday of every month to pray for revival and it was adopted widely by the following churches which knew they “had their backs to the wall”:

- a. Presbyterian synods of NY, NJ & PA
- b. Methodists via Bishop Frances Asbury
- c. Baptists
- d. Congregationalists
- e. Reformed
- f. Moravian
- g. Others

D. Revival came

- i. Connecticut first, then all of New England;
- ii. Kentucky led by James McGrady, the ugliest man around, who pastored 3 churches in Logan County in 1799 “weeping and moaning with the people of God” about “Sodom and Gomorrah” where the outlaws ruled the land. His people prayed:
 - 1. Concert of Prayer first Mondays
 - 2. Sunset Saturdays
 - 3. Sunrise on Sundays
- iii. Spirit of God fell on his church, then

4. Camp meeting revivals swept Kentucky, Tennessee, then NC and SC, then the frontier

- E. Results of Revival: Reformation
 - h. Missionary Movements and Societies were born
 - i. Abolition of Slavery Movement was born
 - j. Popular Education was founded
 - k. 600 Colleges were founded

III. GREAT AWAKENING (1858 -)

- A. Country divided over issue of slavery
- B. Making money hand over fist, turning backs on God
- C. Jeremiah Lampher in Manhattan North Dutch Reform Church put out a call for prayer
 - a. 6 people out of 1,000,000 to first meeting
 - b. 14 next week
 - c. 23 next week
 - d. Decided to meet daily
 - e. Filled Dutch Reform Church
 - f. Filled Methodist Church on John Street
 - g. Filled Trinity Episcopal Church @ Wall St & Broadway
 - h. Feb 1858:
 - i. Every church & public bldg filled in downtown NY
 - ii. 6,100 praying at lunch time per Horace Greeley's newspaper reporter racing around in horse and buggy to count at Noon prayer time
 - i. Landslide of prayer began
 - i. 10,000/week converted in NYC
 - ii. Spread everywhere
 - iii. Dwight L Moody began in Chicago to evangelize young people and bring them to Plymouth Congregational Church
 - iv. Trinity Episcopal Church of Chicago
 - 1. 1857 had 121 members
 - 2. 1860 had 1400 members
 - v. Over 1,000,000 of 30,000,000 in US converted in 1 year
 - vi. Jumped the Atlantic
 - vii. Effect felt for 40 years

IV. GREAT AWAKENING IN 1900s (1904 -)

- A. People began to pray for another great awakening

- B. 1905 Prayer meetings & Bible studies at Yale included 25% of student body per KS Latourette
- C. Atlantic City only 50 adults left unconverted of 50,000 people
- D. Portland, OR – 240 department stores signed contract to close from 11am to 2pm for prayer so nobody would cheat and stay open while others prayed
- E. Began with Welch Revival in 1904
 - a. Evan Roberts praying for revival in Wales at age 26
 - b. Left college to go home and speak to his own church “I have a message for you from God” as follows:
 - i. Must confess any known sin to God
 - ii. Must put right any wrong done to man
 - iii. Must put away any doubtful habits from your life
 - iv. Must obey the Spirit promptly
 - v. Must confess your faith in Christ publicly
 - c. 17 people responded, so he was asked to speak repeatedly and it grew to daily meetings with people closing shops early to get a seat at the meetings, then people flocking from miles around, then it swept Wales and elsewhere
 - d. 100,000 converted in 5 months in Wales
 - e. Crime disappeared, police formed Christian quartets for lack of work
 - f. Drunkenness cut in half, taverns bankrupted
 - g. Coal miners stopped bad language and horses had to learn new words before the mines regained efficiency
 - h. Illegitimate birth rate dropped 44% in many countries
- F. Swept Europe including Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Germany, then Canada, U.S., Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, East Africa, Central Africa, West Africa, North Africa, Brazil, Mexico, Chile, and South America (The Flaming Tongue by J. Edwin Orr)
 - a. Norway passed special laws to allow laymen to administer Holy Communion because the demand exceeded what the clergy could provide
- G. U.S. Prayer Meetings Everywhere
- H. Denominations were born

V. WHAT IS THE “EXTRAORDINARY” PRAYER THAT WILL RESULT IN GOD “HEALING OUR LAND” AS PROMISED IN II Chronicles 7:14?

- A. Text: “If My people, who are called by My name, will
 - 1. humble themselves
 - 2. pray

3. seek My face
4. turn from their wicked ways

THEN "I will

5. hear from Heaven
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
9. And
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.
15. forgive their sins and heal their land HEAhh

B. Concerted Prayer: Jonathan Edwards, a leader of the First Great Awakening, which preceded the American Revolution, advocated

1. Explicit agreement, and
2. Visible union, of
3. All God's people
 - a. Recognize each other as brothers & sisters in Christ "across lines"
 - b. Agree to pray together
4. Extraordinary prayer occurs when God's people "set aside time" to pray for a spiritual awakening, e.g.,
 - a. Give up sleep to pray early in morning
 - b. Give up meals to pray at Noon
 - c. Prayer meetings late into the night
 - d. Purpose is not self-centered but God centered, i.e., "for a spiritual awakening" and "advancement of Christ's kingdom"

C. God has chosen to work through prayer

1. Matthew Henry: "When God intends great mercy for His people, He sets them praying."
2. Our job: to Pray