

## Great Spiritual Awakening for America

A “spiritual awakening” is a socially-transforming spiritual movement that changes a culture which for America would transform “we the people” culture. This is a more profound spiritual movement than “a revival” which is a spiritual rebirth that transforms a person, a church or a community.

America has experienced 4 Great Spiritual Awakenings in our history: 1734, 1792, 1858 and 1904/05. Each Awakening created a movement that changed its culture and altered its history for great spiritual good.

The First Great Awakening began in 1734. The moral conditions in the colonies were dire, where not one in 20 people claimed to be Christian. Samuel Blair, a pastor of the day, said that religion lay as if it were dying and ready to expire its last breath of life. A fervent prayer movement arose which was joined by Jonathan Edwards who experienced the anointing and power of God, which shook his church and then the young nation. The result was a miraculous spiritual movement with over 80% of the colonial population becoming identified with a Christian church.

The Second Great Awakening began in 1792. After America’s War for Independence, social conditions became deplorable. Drunkenness was epidemic with 300,000 confirmed alcoholics out of 5 million. 15,000 died each year. Women were afraid to go out at night and bank robberies were a daily occurrence. Chief Justice John Marshall’s letter to James Madison stated that the church “was too far gone to ever be redeemed”. A poll taken at Harvard revealed not a single believer, at Princeton – two believers. Tom Paine claimed that Christianity will be forgotten in 30 years.

But he was mistaken. In 1784 a Baptist pastor named Isaac Backus gathered a group of ministers where they wrote a circular letter asking believers to pray for an awakening, and as a result prayer groups spread over New England. (One/Cry.com) In 1792, spiritual awakening broke out on college campuses, where hundreds were converted. And that year, William Carey began the modern mission organizations movement, plus a variety of mission organizations began as a result, all because a group prayed for the Power of God to extend the Kingdom of God in their Jerusalem and around the world.

The Third Great Awakening started in 1858. The Gold Rush of 1848 had crashed and fear of a civil war was increasing and fear was pervasive. September 23, 1857, a group of laymen led by businessman Jeremiah Lamphier in New York City began praying with six people which grew across the nation. Out of our national population of 30 million, more than a million were converted in a single year; 50,000 came to Christ every week. It continued into the Civil War where over 100,000 soldiers were converted, and it all happened because a group prayed for the Power of God to extend the Kingdom of God in their Jerusalem and the world.

The Fourth Great Awakening began in Wales in 1904 in the heart of a coal miner, Evan Roberts. He was convicted of his sins and turned to God in prayer and repentance. He began preaching to the young people in his church and prayer meetings broke out all over Wales. Coal mines shut down because the miners stopped using profanity and the mules no longer understood their commands. The Spiritual movement spread to America where the ministers in Atlantic City, NJ, reported out of 50,000 people only 50 adults were left unconverted to Christianity. In 1896 only 3000 students were engaged in missionary studies, by 1906, 11,000 students were enrolled; All because a group prayed for the power of Holy Spirit to extend the Kingdom of God in their Jerusalem and around the world.

What about us? Do we respond to Christ's call for repentance? If you question whether our people are experiencing moral decline, just focus on the news reported every day.

The root cause of our moral decline is the "post-modern movement" where our ethics are personal and subjective; you have no right to force "your truth" on anyone else. The result is a culture that has lost its moral foundations.

How do we change our culture of relativism? Ask Christ's Spirit to move in a powerful way through "we the people".

2 Chronicles 7:14, NLT: "Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land."

God promises to honor our sincere prayers. Will you commit to pray daily for the Spirit of God to transform you, your church, our community and our Nation?

In Christ,

Dr. Jones

