

The Great Awakening 1730 – 1770ish

In the 1741, Jonathan Edwards sermon "Sinners in the hands of an angry God" is considered a classic hellfire and brimstone address. He is pictured by many as an on fire preacher letting the church know God means business. **In reality, he read the Scriptures in a monotone voice. The pure power of the Word of God, his text was from Deuteronomy, did something extraordinary.** Men and women wept, shook, cried out in moans and shrieks and knelt on cold floors. They repented of their sins and committed themselves to God and joined the tide of the Great Awakening.

The Great Awakening did not come about by Edwards or any other preacher. It came about purely by the will of God and the power of the Holy Spirit. Between 25,000 to 50,000 people flooded New England churches. The Movement lasted about 20 years. 50 years later focus on Christianity weakened.

The Second Great Awakening 1795 - 1835

At the turn of the 19th century a Second Great Awakening began. Revival meetings in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Ohio spread like wildfire among different denominations. Thousands of people on the frontier heard the gospel message, repented and started living for Jesus. Charles Finney a former skeptic became an aggressive itinerant evangelist whose preaching drew many to faith in Jesus. (Lasted about 40 years)

Fulton Street Revival 1857 - 1859

In 1857, **the Fulton Street Revival began with five praying men led by Jeremiah Lanphier who hungered to see people come to Christ.** The next week twenty showed up. The following week forty. Then on October 14, the stock market crashed, there was financial panic. Banks closed, Men lost their jobs and homes. Families were hungry. People were desperate. **Soon three thousand men and women were crowding Lanphier's prayer meetings that were now daily meetings. Within six months, 10,000 people were meeting daily for prayer throughout New York city.** Prayer meetings spread to Chicago where 2,000 people showed up to ask God for souls in the Metropolitan Theater. They spread to Washington DC, to towns across the Midwest and the West Coast. For two years God used the laypeople's movement in a revival of prayer that brought tens of thousands of new believers and reinvigorated Christians into churches all over the country.

The Jesus Revolution 1960 and 1970s

The Jesus Movement in the 1960s and 1970s got mixed reviews. Some call the movement an awakening and a revival because thousands of young people were saved all over the United States and thousands of Christians were refreshed and revived in local churches. Some saw the Jesus Movement as a revival because Jimmy Carter the "born again" president was elected and the Moral Majority rose to prominence in the

1980s. Others see the Jesus Movement as no big deal. Just a cultural blip on the cultural radar. Some define the Jesus Revolution as God's Spirit clearly and spontaneously stirring in unusual ways among unusual people during the hippie era. Nobody knows what darkness and evil at work was restrained by this movement. One common thread among those who were awakened is they were desperate.

The Holy Spirit doesn't need a preacher to preach up a revival. Programs cannot bring a revival. He responds to desperate souls who want deliverance, hope, and love. The Holy Spirit of God will start something and we must respond in obedience to what God is already doing. God grants revival to those who are humble enough to know they need it, those who have a desperate hunger for Him.

When we reach the point where we are in a state of self-despair – a helpless understanding of the reality of sin and ones absolute inability to cur it – does anyone ever wholeheartedly to God. **This desperation is sometimes hard to come by in America because many feel their needs are already met and God is just an add-on to our already comfortable existence. People don't tend to seek God when they are comfortable. Pain and suffering amplify God's voice.**