

THE THIRD SPIRITUAL AWAKENING (Part #1)

This lesson was sown in my heart in 1995 when I felt overwhelmed to reach 5000 young Christian people through the SEYC over the next 10 years with the message of Phil.1:20-21 - "According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

In 2006, we reached our goal through three summer camps (SEYC, Crossroad, and Family) and the Youth Leadership Conference.

In 2007, I feel overwhelmed with the purpose for the vision of 1995 – THIRD SPIRITUAL AWAKENING. Now I want to share with DSBC this challenge of the 21st. Century.

<p>Today's lesson will explain the history behind the Third Spiritual Awakening in America by the following four points.</p>

1. It began in the 16th and 17th century with the Reformation.

The Reformation is called the Great Spiritual Awakening. The great spiritual awakening of Protestantism had an enormous influence upon western civilization.

God raised up believers with a great desire for the truth of God inspired word and with a desire to reach the world with the gospel of grace salvation. It was spread across Europe by believers who were willing to commit their lives to Christ even unto death. Believers like Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Wycliff, and Knox.

They took the teaching of the New Testament to their lives and their lives to the world with its message. For example, Luther's life was dramatically changed by the teachings of the Book of Romans.

Two passages that impacted Luther's life and his life impacted the world were:

- (Rom.5:1) "Therefore having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."
- (Rom.1:16-17) "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jews first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'but the righteous man shall live by faith.'"

2. The First Spiritual Awakening occurred in America in the 18th century.

The message of these reformers spread to the colonies of America by missionary evangelism. Believers who were willing to commit their lives to Christ, even unto death. Believers like the Wesley brothers, Jonathan Edwards, and Whitefield had caught the spirit of the Great Spiritual Awakening.

It spread across the colonies with enormous conversions and desire for the study of the Scriptures, the word of God (1 Pet.2:2). This resulted in an emphasis upon the Scriptures over tradition, faith over works, spirituality over carnality, the Believer's priesthood over ecclesiastical priesthood and an emphasis upon teaching of the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

The First Spiritual Awakening of Protestantism had an enormous influence upon our founding fathers and the drafting of our constitution.

3. The Second Spiritual Awakening occurred in America in the 19th and 20th century.

It spread across the land through great evangelistic meetings which resulting in the planting of Protestant churches throughout the country and it didn't take long for these newly planted churches to spread the fire of missionary evangelism through their own community revivals and foreign mission outreaches..

This Second Spiritual Awakening was spread by Believers who were willing to commit their lives to Christ even unto death. Believers like Hudson Taylor, George Mueller, Charles Finney, D.L.Moody, B.B.Warfield, Billy Sunday, and Billy Graham. They brought a commitment to the great commission of Matt.28:16-20 and world evangelism.

Since the middle of the 20th century, the Pentecostal denomination has had the largest missionary activity of converts in the world in response to Matt.28:19-20. However, where missionary activity has remained strong there remains a great need for the disciplining of these converts with emphasis upon the Scriptures, sound Bible Doctrine and the teaching of how to function in the Christian Way of Life (CWL).

4. The Third Spiritual Awakening needs to occur in the 21st century.

It will only occur within those of us who are willing to commit every area of our lives to Christ, even unto to death.

I want to mention at least two common elements within America that create a need for a Spiritual Awakening.

- **One element is a spiritual vacuum that only Christ can fill.**
 - People have a form of godliness but not the power. (2 Tim.3:5) “Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these.”
 - Nicodemus was such a religious person (John 3:1-21). One of the most famous verses in the NT challenged Nicodemus (John 3:16).
- **A second common element is a secular vacuum that only Christ can fill.**
 - People try to fill their lives with worldly things that aren't necessarily seen as bad but are distractions from a life committed to walking and talking Jesus Christ.
 - Like scholarly worldly wisdom: (1 Cor.1:20-21) “Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.”

Saul of Tarsus was such a scholarly world person (Phil.3:3-9). Paul put it in perspective to living for Christ when he wrote: “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish in order that I may gain Christ.”

Write your first name on the blank lines. “_____ go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded _____; and lo, I am with _____ always, even to the end of the age.” (Matt.28:19-20)

God has called us to make disciples of all nations, not just to convert them.

If you are interested in becoming scripturally equipped to participate in this Third Spiritual Awakening, go to www.doctrinalstudies.com and register for the Third Spiritual Awakening Study Course.